



City of Fountain Inn
Special Called Council Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2020 - 5:30 PM - 200 N. Main Street, Council Chambers

The following members of City Council were in attendance: Mayor George Patrick (GP) McLeer, Jr., Mack Blackstone, Phil Clemmer, Anthony Cunningham, Anjeanette (AJ) Dearybury, John Mahony and Jay Thomason

Others Present: Shawn Bell, David Holmes, Naomi Reed and Sandra Woods

Due to COVID-19 guidelines, members of the public were not allowed to attend this meeting in person. The meeting was live streamed. Information concerning the live stream was posted on the city's website.

Call to Order – Mayor McLeer

Invocation – Councilmember Clemmer

Pledge of Allegiance

The purpose of the called meeting was to hear an update from the City Administrator on the city's response to COVID-19 and adopt E 2020-001.

Mayor McLeer opened the meeting thanking city staff, first responders, and council for being proactive in handling COVID-19. He also thanked the citizens and businesses of Fountain Inn for helping others and bringing our community together. He asked citizens to please listen to the guidelines put in place and heed every warning, so this virus does not spread in our community.

City Administrator, Shawn Bell updated Council on the city's response to COVID-19:

- Public Access to public facilities is being restricted to appointment only.
- Most city hall employees are working from home.
- Last night's Board of Zoning Appeals was canceled.
- Contractors needing to acquire permits are being asked to call city hall and process them over the phone or online.
- SC Supreme Court has ordered all court proceedings other than bond hearings canceled until June.
- All of our facilities and most of our vehicles have been professionally sanitized and will be treated once a month for the next three months.
- Fountain Inn Natural Gas has suspended all cutoffs for non-payment.

- All Fountain Inn Natural Gas payments are being paid over the phone, online or at the drive through.
- All of our recreational programs have been canceled until further notice including practice, games, and senior activities.
- The Ribbon Cutting Dedication Service for the Emanuel Sullivan Sports Complex has been postponed.
- Playgrounds and fields are currently open, but we are asking that there are only 10 people at a time on the playgrounds, however as of this afternoon the Governor's executive order mandated all law enforcement agencies to disperse gatherings over 3 people. Mr. Bell recommended closing parks facilities as of this evening.
- Public works continues to pick up recycling, trash, and yard debris. We are asking that residents bag all trash for the safety of our employees.
- We are not using inmates during the outbreak.
- The public can expect delays. The recycling route was not finished today. We are asking residents that were not picked up to leave containers out for pick up tomorrow.
- No permits for events will be issued by the city until further notice.
- A webcam has been purchased for future live stream council meetings and we are looking at a public comment solution for virtual council meetings.
- Mr. Bell stated that he is receiving updates from the Municipal Association, Appalachian Council of Governments, Duke Energy, Congressman Duncan's office, Bon Secours, International City/County Managers Association., Representative Mark Willis and many more
- Receives a daily situation report from Greenville County Emergency Management letting us know when new cases emerge in Greenville county
- The Police Department is monitoring senior citizens in our senior watch program.
- The Autism 5K rescheduled to April 25

Mr. Bell reviewed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and how it will affect our city employees.

Mr. Bell asked Council to consider how they wish to handle the business license renewals/penalties and Hospitality Tax due date and penalties.

The Easter Brunch and Citizens Police Academy have been canceled and the Mac Arnold Cornbread Festival has been postponed.

Discussion

E 2020-001 – An emergency Ordinance to set procedures for Council meetings as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; to allow council meetings to be conducted via teleconference; to discourage public attendance at council meetings; to direct the city administrator to provide public access to meetings via the internet; and various provisions relating thereto

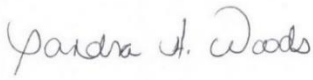
Council Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2020

Attorney Holmes reviewed the ordinance with Council. This ordinance is in force for 60 days and will expire on the 61st day. Council may come back at any time prior to the end of the 60 days to extend or change this ordinance.

Motion by Councilmember Thomason, second by Councilmember Dearybury to approve E 2020-001 on first and final reading. The motion carried unanimously 7/0.

There being no further business, Mayor McLeer asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Councilmember Clemmer, second by Councilmember Cunningham to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously 7/0.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra H. Woods".

Sandra H. Woods, CMC
Municipal Clerk