

MINUTES

A Phone/Video Conference Emergency Joint Meeting using Zoom was held by Walterboro City Council and Colleton County Council on Monday, June 29, 2020. The purpose of the meeting was to consider an emergency ordinance requiring that face coverings or masks be worn in public in Walterboro and Colleton County during the Covid-19 Public Health Emergency, effective Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 6:00 A.M.

There being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 12:10 P.M. by Mayor Bill Young and County Council Chairman Steve Murdaugh, presiding jointly for the meeting.

Joined in the meeting were:

City Council Members: Mayor Bill Young, City Council Members Judy Bridge, James Broderick, Greg Pryor, and Ladson Fishburne. (Council Members Carl Brown and Paul Siegel were absent).

Colleton County Council Members: Chairman Steven Murdaugh, Dr. Joseph F. Flowers, Gene Whetsell, Art Williams, and Phillip M. Taylor, Sr.

Others joined in meeting were: City Manager Jeff Molinari, Assistant City Manager Hank Amundson, County Administrator Kevin Griffin, City Attorney George Cone, Attorney Brown McLeod, County Attorney Sean Thornton, and Sheriff Charles Ghent.

Viewing the meeting were: City Clerk Betty Hudson, Deborah D. Rodriguez, representatives from two television stations and approximately 25 persons.

The Mayor announced that Council Members Brown and Siegel were unable to attend the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Ordinance # 2020-06, An Emergency Ordinance Requiring That Face Coverings or Masks Be Worn in Public in the City of Walterboro During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency and Recovery (Action by City Council)**

Mayor Young then made a motion to adopt Ordinance # 2020-06, An Emergency Ordinance Requiring that Face Coverings or Masks Be Worn in Public in the City of Walterboro During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency and Recovery. Council Member Broderick seconded the motion. During the discussion of the motion, the Mayor gave a brief summary of the proposed ordinance as follows:

1. This ordinance is due to the increasing numbers of Covid cases in our state and county and with all the information available to us, it is necessary and appropriate for us to present this ordinance for adoption.
2. The City takes these steps In order to protect preserve and promote the general health, safety, and welfare and the peace and order of the city of Walterboro. This is an emergency ordinance requiring that face masks or coverings be worn in public in the City of Walterboro during the Covid -19 Public health Emergency. City governments are empowered by state law to enact such ordinances.

I'll attempt to summarize the ordinance for the purpose of this meeting but the ordinance in its entirety will be available on the city web site after adoption.

MINUTES/Page II

3. The ordinance requires that face masks or coverings be worn in all public places and public buildings.
4. The ordinance requires all persons entering a commercial establishment in the city, to wear a face covering while inside the establishment.
5. All restaurants, retail stores, salons, barber shops, and pharmacies in the city must require their employees to wear a face covering at all times while having face to face interaction with the public.
6. A person who fails to comply with the face mask ordinance will be guilty of a civil infraction punishable by a fine of not more than \$25.
7. Persons in positions of authority for commercial enterprises who violate this ordinance will be guilty of a civil infraction punishable by a fine of not more than \$100.00. Each day of continuing violation will be considered a separate and distinct offense.
8. Repeated violations by a person who owns, manages, operates or otherwise controls a business may, subject to this ordinance, and subject to all procedural protections set forth in the city code, result in the suspension of an occupancy permit or business license where the repeated violations occurred.
9. Every effort will, however, be made to bring the business into voluntary compliance prior to the issuance of any citation.

Face Coverings are **not** required in the following circumstances:

1. In personal vehicles, when a person is alone in enclosed spaces.
2. During outdoor physical activity provided the active person maintains a minimum of six feet from other people at all times, when a person is alone or only with other household members.
3. While actively eating, drinking, or smoking.
4. The ordinance will go into effect at 6:00 a.m. On Wednesday, July 1st and will end 61 days after it goes into effect in accordance with state law.

Mayor Young then asked if there was more discussion. No further discussion was held by City Council. The motion to approve Ordinance # 2020-06 then passed with a vote of 5/0 by Walterboro City Council, with Mayor Young, Council Members Broderick, Bridge, Pryor and Fishburne voting in favor. None opposed. Motion carried. Council Members Brown and Siegel were absent and did not vote. (Note: Only First Reading of an Emergency Ordinance is required).

2. **Ordinance # 20-O-05, An Emergency Ordinance Requiring that Face Coverings or Masks be Worn in Public in the City of Walterboro and the Unincorporated Areas of Colleton County During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency and Recovery (Action by County Council)**

County Council Chairman Steven Murdaugh then said, for the County, we have a similar Emergency Ordinance. He then read the title of Ordinance # 20-O-05: An Emergency Ordinance Requiring that Face Coverings or Masks be Worn in Public in the

Walterboro City Council
Virtual Joint Meeting with County Council
(Using Zoom)
June 29, 2020

MINUTES/Page III

City of Walterboro and the Unincorporated Areas of Colleton County During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency and Recovery.

Chairman Murdaugh stated that the ordinance is very similar to the one just outlined by the Mayor, with the exception that you would insert the word "County" in the areas where the word "City" is listed. So, I will not go back through this in detail, he said. The ordinances are very identical. Chairman Murdaugh then entertained a motion for adoption of Ordinance # 20-O-05.

A motion was made by County Councilman Taylor to adopt Ordinance # 20-O-05, and seconded by County Council Member Whetsell. With no further discussion, Chairman Murdaugh called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 5/0 as follows: Vice Chairman Taylor (Yes); Councilman Flowers (Yes); Councilman Whetsell (Yes); Councilman Williams (Yes); and Chairman Murdaugh (Yes). None opposed. (Note: Only First Reading of an Emergency Ordinance is required).

A copy of the City of Walterboro's Emergency Ordinance # 2020-06 and the Colleton County Emergency Ordinance # 20-O-05 are attached in its entirety as part of these minutes.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by City Council Member Bridge and seconded by Council Member Broderick. All in favor, None opposed. Motion carried. Council Members Brown and Siegel were absent and did not vote.

A motion to adjourn was also made by County Councilman Taylor, seconded by County Councilman Whetsell. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:16 P.M. The notice of this meeting, call-in phone number, webinar I.D. and link to view the video were distributed with the agenda packets, to all local media, posted on the City Hall bulletin boards and on the City's website at least twenty-four hours prior to meeting time.

Respectfully,

Betty J. Hudson
City Clerk

APPROVED: August 4, 2020