

**CITY OF NORTH MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA
NORTH MYRTLE BEACH CITY HALL
SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Friday, March 26, 2021, 1:30 PM**

Minutes

1. ROLL CALL:

Mayor Hatley called the meeting to order and asked the Clerk to call the roll.

Marilyn Hatley
JO Baldwin
Fred Coyne
Nicole Fontana
Hank Thomas
Terry White

A quorum was established.

2. BUSINESS:

A. Declaration of Extended State of Emergency

B. Extension of Emergency Ordinance

Mayor Hatley read the ordinance by title and called for a motion. The motion to approve was made by Councilman Coyne and seconded by Councilwoman Fontana. Councilman Thomas stated he would be okay not to extend the State of Emergency. Mike Mahaney, City Manager, stated the State of Emergency needed to be extended if the mask ordinance would be extended. Councilman Thomas believed more people had become vaccinated and would like to follow Governor McMaster's guidelines. Manager Mahaney stated there were 55,000 positive cases and people aged 55 and over felt more comfortable going into places with a face covering. He stated restaurants were a different issue. The Council and staff continued to discuss the State of Emergency. Councilman White and Councilman Baldwin were in agreement with Councilman Thomas. Councilwoman Fontana and Councilman Coyne stated they would like to see the State of Emergency extended one more time to try to save the summer and give additional time for more residents to become vaccinated. Mayor Hatley stated the county and Surfside did not have a face mask ordinance and the Governor lifted the face mask ordinance on restaurants, as well as other restrictions. Mayor Hatley stated the Governor's policies were good guideline on what to do. She stated the City could try not extending the State of Emergency, but send a message to encourage the use of face masks and to social distance.

Brent Russell, 5413 Pheasant Drive, North Myrtle Beach, stated he was a resident and restaurant owner and agreed that the business owners should be able to make the decision if they would wear a mask or not. The business owners were smart enough to make the right decision.

Having no further comment from the Council or public, Mayor Hatley called for a vote. Councilman Coyne amended the motion to include Item B and was seconded by Councilwoman Fontana. The motion to approve failed 2-4. Mayor Hatley, Councilman White, Councilman Baldwin, and Councilman Thomas voted nay.

C. Amend Ordinance #20-31 regarding face covering

Mayor Hatley read the ordinance by title and called for a motion. The motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Fontana and seconded by Councilman Coyne. Mayor Hatley inquired if the

new federal funding for cities required a State of Emergency to be in place. Randy Wright, Director of Finance, stated with the Restore America Act, a State of Emergency was not required. However, the funding amounts had not been determined. FEMA would require a State of Emergency, but the City would not need FEMA services. Mr. Wright explained how state and municipal funding would work and it was still in the process of being worked out, but the City would not need a State of Emergency. Mayor Hatley stated she did not want to harm the City in receiving any federal funding by not extending the State of Emergency.

Having no further comment from the Council or public, Mayor Hatley called for a vote. The motion to approve failed 2-4. Mayor Hatley, Councilman White, Councilman Baldwin, and Councilman Thomas voted nay. Mayor Hatley stated she would like to consider passing a Resolution to encourage the use of face coverings and social distancing at the next meeting.

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Mayor called for a motion to go into Executive Session for a discussion on a property acquisition. The motion was made by Councilwoman Fontana and seconded by Councilman Baldwin. The motion passed 6-0. The Council returned to Chambers at 2:08 PM. The Mayor announced that no votes were taken at the session.

Mayor Hatley adjourned the meeting at 2:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison K. Galbreath, Clerk to Council

MARILYN HATLEY, MAYOR

Minutes approved and adopted this 5th day of April 2021.