

CITY COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING

MINUTES

March 18, 2020

6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

GOOD OF THE ORDER

PRESENT:

Al Johnson, Mayor
Doug Izzo, Commissioner
Ward Friszolowski, Commissioner
Melinda Pletcher, Commissioner

ABSENT:

Terri Finnerty, Vice Mayor

ALSO PRESENT:

Alex Rey, City Manager
Andrew Dickman, City Attorney (Telephonic)
Rebecca Haynes, City Clerk
Mike Clarke, Public Works Director
Sarah Laracuente, Public Information Officer

1. Approval of Resolution 2020-04, ratifying the Proclamation Declaring a State of Local Emergency

Commissioner Friszolowski moved to approve Resolution 2020-04, a resolution of the City Commission of the City of St. Pete Beach, Florida, authorizing and confirming the Declaration Proclaiming a State of Local Emergency in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the community and property, both public and private, from the hazard of the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pletcher and unanimously approved by an individual roll call vote.

At the request of Commissioner Izzo, City Attorney Andrew Dickman clarified some of the powers of the City Manager vs. the County and Governor during states of emergency.

Alex Rey, City Manager, gave a summary of city operations and services during the State of Emergency. Mr. Rey reported on collaboration and information sharing between the County Manager and municipalities and gave an update on restaurant, bar, and beach rules during this period.

Mr. Rey and the Commissioners discussed closing beach parking lots and Pass-a-Grille street parking vs. closing beaches, should Clearwater Beach close tomorrow. This would protect the hotel and resident beach access and prevent overcrowding and potential virus spread.

Mr. Rey reported to the Commission that he and staff are working on a process to grant temporary use changes to accommodate businesses to keep them viable during the emergency period, for example, temporary outdoor seating to keep patrons adequately spaced.

The Commission discussed some community resources that are available during this state of emergency, including bridge loans for businesses; some are listed at tampabaybeaches.com/coronavirus.

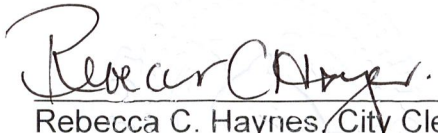
Mr. Rey stated that Tuesday's Commission meeting should be kept short and he is arranging for people to submit questions online in order to keep the number of people present within health guidelines.

City Clerk Rebecca Haynes reported that the Supervisor of Elections will meet as the Canvassing Board and certify the election results on March 27th. Mr. Rey stated that the new Commissioner can be officially sworn in to begin performing his duties and have a ceremonial swearing in after the coronavirus restrictions have been lifted.

2. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Attest:


Rebecca C. Haynes, City Clerk


Alan Johnson, Mayor

Minutes approved on: 4/14/2020