

FORT PIERRE CITY COUNCIL
APPROVED MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
Monday, November 23, 2020

The Special meeting of the Fort Pierre City Council was held at the SD Municipal League conference room and called to order by Mayor Hanson at 5:00 pm. Members in attendance for Roll Call were Bernhard, Cronin, Kenzy, Rathbun, Ricketts, and Weisgram. Officials in attendance were Cromwell, Hahn, and Tibbs. Meeting was held via Zoom and in-person all motions are recorded as roll call votes.

Approval of Agenda. Ricketts moved and Weisgram seconded to approve the agenda. Motion passed on roll call vote with Bernhard, Cronin, Kenzy, Rathbun, Ricketts, and Weisgram all voting aye.

Conflict of Interest Declarations. No Conflict of Interest was declared.

Reports. 1.) Hanson reported to council that the Tree Lighting & Cowboy Christmas has been changed to 12/4/20. 2.) Hanson informed council the Street and Utility Committee had met and discussed projects for 2021. 3.) Hahn reported the Bad River Pedestrian Bridge lighting has been delayed due to lights, controls, and programming instruction not being available at this time due to Covid concerns on behalf of the vendor. 4.) Hahn informed council that work is underway on the Missouri River Bridge. 5.) Rathbun asked about the status of the sewer line issue on Center Lane. Hahn reported a temporary fix is being done until a design is completed for future repairs.

Res 2020-22 Covid-19. The following resolution was presented:
RESOLUTION NO. 2020-22

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA, OUTLINING THE EXPECTATIONS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF FORT PIERRE TO TAKE ACTION TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF THE VIRUS THAT CAUSES COVID-19.

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has declared a public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, on April 9, 2020, the Mayor and City Council of Fort Pierre approved Ordinance No. 1041, an Emergency Ordinance to Address a Public Health Crisis by Implementing Certain Measures which have been Deemed Necessary to Slow the Community Spread of the Virus Responsible for the COVID-19 Disease; and

WHEREAS, said Ordinance No. 1041 expired sixty days later, on June 8, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the number of confirmed active cases of COVID-19 in Stanley County has risen dramatically in the last three months, and continues to rise daily; and

WHEREAS, the CDC recommends certain actions for the mitigation of transmission of COVID-19, including, but not limited to, social distancing measures, wearing a mask in certain settings, and utilizing proper cleaning measures; and

WHEREAS, SDCL 9-29-1 and SDCL 9-32-1 confer upon municipalities the power to do what may be necessary or expedient for the promotion of health and safety of the community, or for the suppression of disease; and

WHEREAS, we are entering the holiday season and must avoid activities that are higher risk for transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, it is the strong desire of the Mayor and members of the City Council to promote any action that will allow Fort Pierre businesses to remain open and thrive; our schools to safely educate our children and youth; our churches to conduct services; for other community events to safely take place; and most importantly, for the welfare and protection of our most vulnerable population.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF FORT PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA:

The Mayor and City Council hereby declare that all people in Fort Pierre who are able to wear a mask are requested to wear one indoors, outdoors, and in vehicles whenever it is not possible to maintain six feet distance from any other non-cohabitant person, except while eating or drinking. No penalty for non-compliance will be assessed, nor will the City be responsible for enforcement at this time. This resolution will take effect immediately upon passage and will automatically expire at the first meeting of the City Council in the year 2021, unless extended.

11/23/2020

Hanson began the discussion with council by explaining while there were proponents for a mask mandate the enforcement of such a mandate would be almost impossible for law enforcement. The resolution was a compromise and would still let the importance of wearing masks to help slow the spread of the disease be recognized. She informed council she had received many emails, phone calls, and texts on the subject and felt overall that 9 out of 10 were in favor of wearing masks to slow the spread. Weisgram expressed he had been contacted and the opinions were split were split, but he felt the resolution was a good reminder to all the need to be diligent. Bernhard felt that we need to be compassionate and considerate of others and wear a mask at the proper times, but shouldn't need a government directive to do the right thing. Rathbun felt that as a business owner they were already doing most of the suggestions in the resolution and others were doing the same. Kenzy was against a mandate, but felt this was a request for the benefit of everyone. Ricketts thought this was a good request as there were some situations that a mandate could add issues. Cronin had been contacted by business owners that were not in favor of the mandate. He felt people are doing what needs to be done in the situation. Cronin asked if approving the resolution it would help the City qualify for more funding options. Hanson explained to Cronin that we get the CARES funding currently and she was not aware of any other funding. Bernhard recommended striking the words "indoors, outdoors, and in vehicles" from the last paragraph. Weisgram moved and Kenzy seconded to remove the words "indoors, outdoors, and in vehicles" and accept Resolution 2020-22 Covid-19 as amended. Motion passed on roll call vote with Cronin, Kenzy, Rathbun, Ricketts, and Weisgram voting aye. Bernhard voted nay.

Adjournment. Mayor Hanson adjourned the meeting at 5:16 pm.

Gloria Hanson, Mayor

ATTEST:
(SEAL)

Roxanne Heezen, Finance Officer