



## Richland County Council

### SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

July 2, 2020 – 6:00 PM

Zoom Meeting

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Paul Livingston, Chair; Joyce Dickerson, Bill Malinowski, Jim Manning, Yvonne McBride, Allison Terracio, Chakisse Newton, Calvin Jackson and Dalhi Myers

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Michelle Onley, Kimberly Williams-Roberts, Ashley Powell, Leonardo Brown, Brad Farrar, Dale Welch, Angela Weathersby, Ashiya Myers, Miranda Spivey, Stacey Hamm, Michael Niermeier, Michael Byrd, John Thompson and Brittney Hoyle-Terry

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mr. Livingston called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 PM.
2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA** – Ms. McBride moved, seconded by Ms. Dickerson, to adopt the agenda as published.

In Favor: Dickerson, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Manning, Jackson, Myers and Newton

Opposed: Malinowski

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Livingston stated, for the record, he sent out a letter that listed the Councilmembers that were interested in this meeting, and Ms. Myers name was inadvertently admitted.

3. **An Emergency Ordinance Requiring the Wearing of Face Masks to Help Alleviate the Spread of COVID-19** – Mr. Livingston stated there has been concerns expressed regarding the increase in the COVID-19 cases in the community. We do not want the County to have to shut its economy down again because of the increase. We were informed by an epidemiologist, at a previous meeting, about the importance of face masks and social distancing, which was the impetus for this meeting. He stated there was a draft ordinance provided for Council's review, which is similar to the ordinance approved by the City of Columbia.

Ms. McBride moved, seconded by Ms. Terracio, to adopt the proposed emergency ordinance requiring the wearing of face masks to help alleviate the spread of COVID-19.

Ms. Dickerson inquired if there is a way to educate the citizens on where they can obtain masks, and/or make them available to the citizens.

Mr. Livingston responded, with the CARES Act, the County could potentially purchase masks for distribution. There are community groups and organizations that are also willing to donate masks.

Ms. Terracio stated she echoed Ms. Dickerson's concerns, and she would like to ensure there are supplies readily available for citizens who may not be able to obtain them. She inquired if there is a proposed date for this to go into effect.

Ms. McBride responded she would like to see it go into effect immediately, but given some of the concerns expressed, she would suggest it become effective on July 6<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Terracio inquired as to what plans have been made to advertise the ordinance.

Mr. Brown responded, besides the polling staff put out for consideration, if Council approves this ordinance, we will immediately send out information to the media, as well as post information on social media platforms. In addition, we will communicate with the television providers.

Mr. Jackson inquired if we have determined a period of time this ordinance will be in effect, before we review and revisit the data.

Mr. Livingston responded the ordinance will be in effect for 61 days.

Ms. Myers stated she fully supports the ordinance. She notes the ordinance has civil fines and penalties. She reminded her colleagues that failure to maintain your grass has more severe penalties than this ordinance. Failure to maintain your grass will not land anyone in the hospital, or potentially kill anyone. When we are thinking through where we place this on the continuum, she would like to be sure the enforcement mechanism takes into account the other enforcement mechanisms we already have in place.

Ms. Dickerson called for the question, seconded by Ms. Newton.

In Favor: Dickerson, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Manning, Jackson, Myers and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

In Favor: Dickerson, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Manning, Jackson, Myers and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Dickerson moved, seconded by Ms. McBride, to reconsider this item.

Opposed: Dickerson, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Manning, Jackson, Myers and Newton

The motion for reconsideration failed.

4. **ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:30 PM