

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING PROCEEDINGS

The Plankinton City Council met in special session on Thursday, March 26, 2020, at the Aurora County Ag. Building. Meeting was called to address the Corona Virus Pandemic plan of action.

Mayor Staller called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Members present: Pam Vissia, Susan Steele, Brad Kehn, Terry Schuldt, Jason Schurz, and Jim Hinckley. City Employee: Eileen Sorsen. Visitors were J.P. Studeny from SD Mail, Melissa Davis from Aurora County Clinic, and Jody Kehn.

Motion by Kehn to approve the Agenda, as read. Seconded by Schuldt. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Mayor started out by saying "are we doing enough for City during Covid-19?" There is lots of info from SDML and City Attorney, James Taylor. County Commissioner, Paul Munsen, had a tele-conference with the State. He said some cities may be setting themselves up for lawsuits with their Ordinances/Resolutions.

Melissa Davis stated that as of today, there is one positive case of Corona Virus in Aurora County that she knows about. Sanford Health & the State Dept. of Health says family quarantine is best. She says the businesses have stepped up. Hinckley asked if we will get word out if someone in Aurora County tests positive. Plankinton itself is not separated out, and the Clinic is bound by HIPAA. Also, she pointed out that wherever you reside is where your result comes in, even if you test elsewhere.

Kehn: Heard on the radio that the flu has a 1 to 1 ratio in contamination, but the Corona Virus is a 1 to 8 ratio. And, we (the City) should not have to worry about being sued if we limit usual business practices. "We all need to self-quarantine".

Mayor stated "we can't force people to stay home, but we can suggest". It is a compliance issue. The CDC and State are suggesting this, and we come under Governor Noem's Executive Order. As for our City population, all don't read or have access to Social Media. He hopes we can get something "out there" for all.

Vissia: Ron's Market has a plan for the owners to stagger their hours, if need be.

Mayor Staller: The County Commissioners have tightened up the Courthouse.

Kehn: The elderly in our area need to understand how serious this is, and they need to stay isolated. Common sense is needed, and Melissa Davis said we just need to give them guidance. Kehn would like to see curbside drop off and pick up.

Mayor Staller: We can pass the drafted emergency resolution that our City lawyer, Mr. Jim Taylor, wrote. And, we as a community should buy gift certificates, or carry out meals from our local businesses.

Steele: Feels that our business community has been good about changing to take-out. It is a hardship, but they are being pro-active. The feedback she has is they are all concerned about their employees and customers.

J.P. Studeny: Asked if the City is going to do anything about the businesses light bills, etc. Mayor Staller said it will be discussed at April 6 regular meeting. We may take delayed payments, or budget. The City has to pay our bills, also. But, we definitely don't want to put anyone out of business or turn off citizens utilities. He encourages businesses to go to www.Covid.SD.gov for information.

Vissia: As someone who works downtown, the foot traffic is way down, but she wants the businesses to take every precaution. We need to follow State guidelines.

Kehn: Commends the steps the businesses have taken, and does not want to shut down the businesses. What does it hurt to have a Resolution guideline?

Council: The whole Council feels the community will do the work if we have guidelines for them. It is getting closer to home. We believe in our community, and we will get through this.

Steele: If you read the Governor's guideline, it says "we should" do certain things, and Mr. Taylor's resolution reinforces those guidelines. It talks about social distancing and limiting store customers to ten people. Our businesses are voluntarily following protocol, and we are appreciative to all people and businesses for doing so.

Kehn: I feel we should be responsible as City leaders, and have a Resolution to back the State's and County's recommendations.

J.P. Studeny: Said the County passed an ordinance, and the City and County can go under rules. The County has already checked, and they supersede local city's resolutions. The County wants people to understand that there is an urgency to enforce the law.

Schuldt: Coffee Cup has local people working there, and he is worried about how they take care of all the distant people they come in contact with, and if they use disinfecting practices. The pumps are the worst thing to touch. J. P. said the County is enforcing their rules, as they are not in city limits.

Jody Kehn: The people need direction, and don't realize just how serious this is. We can do a lot as a community to stop this, such as stopping social gathering, etc. Brad Kehn said what we can do as a City to help out is avoid groups and everyone needs to practice social isolation.

Steele: Asked Melissa Davis about testing. The Dept. of Health has been slow, and they are having better luck at Sanford Health. But the Clinic keeps calling the tested patients to see how they are doing, even if they don't have results.

Hinckley: The City wants due diligence with a resolution, as other area cities have done. The Council needs to do our part to get the information out there. We should follow our attorney's resolution, and we are glad most people are already in compliance. The County will take care of enforcement if we have to.

Vissia: We need to have a resolution to give guidelines. We care about the community.

Schurz: The resolution is well written.

Steele: She wondered about the 60-day time period listed on the draft. Mayor Staller said maybe we should write "60 days, unless rescinded earlier", on the draft resolution.

Kehn: Do we need to fence off our parks? We need to say that we can't maintain them to keep them Covid Virus free. Families are going there at their own risk. Signs need to be put up at the parks. The Council decided to fence in the parks as much as possible with our remaining barricades, and "Park Closed" signs (in English and Spanish) will be posted on all four sides of the City's parks, until further notice.

The Emergency Resolution #03-27-20 can be made effective immediately. Kehn made a motion to adopt the Emergency Resolution #03-27-20, effective March 27, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. Seconded by Vissia. Roll call vote: Steele- aye; Vissia- aye; Schuldt- aye; Kehn- aye; Schurz- aye; Hinckley- aye. Motion carried.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION# 03-27-20
PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES DEEMED NECESSARY DUE TO CORONA
VIRUS

WHEREAS, the City of Plankinton has the general authority to promote the health, safety, morals, and general welfare of the community and suppress the spread of illness and disease; and

WHEREAS, a broad and pervasive outbreak of COVID-19, a disease caused by the novel coronavirus, has been confirmed in more than 100 countries, including the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization and the United States Department of Health & Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have declared the outbreak of COVID-19 a public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a severe respiratory disease transmitted by person-to-person contact, or by contact with surfaces contaminated by the novel corona virus and can result in serious illness requiring hospitalization, admission to an intensive care unit, and ultimately death; and

WHEREAS, cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in various locations in South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, all relevant public health authorities recommend social distancing and other appropriate public health and hygiene measures to slow the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 2020-08 was issued by the Governor of the State of South Dakota on March 23, 2020, recommending, among other things, that all citizens should practice social distancing; that all enclosed retail businesses that promote public gatherings including, but not limited to, bars, restaurants, breweries, cafes, casinos, coffee shops, recreational or athletic facilities, health clubs, or entertainment venues should suspend or modify business practices as recommended by relevant public health authorities; and

WHEREAS, the failure of citizens of the City of Plankinton to practice appropriate social distancing and undertake other appropriate public health and hygiene measures as recommended by relevant public health authorities will result in community spread of novel corona virus and instances of COVID-19 with the potential to overwhelm the capacity of the City's, Aurora County's, and the State of South Dakota's health care providers:

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Plankinton that:

1. Effective March 27th, 2020, commencing at 6:00 p.m., all restaurants, food courts, coffee houses, bars, breweries, distilleries, wineries, clubs, cafes and other similar places of

public accommodation offering food and beverages for on-site consumption, including any alcohol licensees with on-sale privileges, should implement procedures to ensure social distancing and operate in compliance with federal and state public health guideline, relative to reduction and prevention of the spread of COVID-19, including, but not limited to, closing to on-site/on-sale patrons and only providing take-out, delivery, curbside service, and/or drive-thru service.


2. Effective March 27th, 2020, commencing at 6:00 p.m., all places of congregate gathering, halls, recreational facilities, public pools, health clubs, athletic facilities, theaters [including movie theaters and music or entertainment venues], arcades, bingo halls, bowling alleys, indoor climbing facilities, skating rinks, trampoline parks, and other similar recreational or entertainment facilities and other places of social gathering, public accommodation, or group gathering should either (a) close or (b) limit occupancy to ten (10) or fewer individuals and, in the case of (b), require (c) that all attendees practice procedures ensuring social distancing in compliance with federal and state public health guidelines relative to reduction and prevention of the spread of COVID-19.
3. Effective March 27th, 2020, commencing at 6:00p.m., all places of public accommodation which offer food, beverages, and health and hygiene items for off-site consumption or use, including grocery stores, markets, retail stores that offer food, convenience stores, pharmacies, drug stores, and food pantries, other than any portion of such business which would be subject to the requirements of paragraph I., above, should limit occupancy to ten (10) or fewer individuals and require that all patrons practice procedures ensuring social distancing in compliance with federal and state public health guidelines relative to reduction and prevention of the spread of COVID-19.
4. This resolution shall remain in effect for a period of sixty (60) days (unless rescinded earlier), at which time it shall be automatically repealed unless specifically readopted for an additional period of time by the City Council.

Dated this 27th day of March, 2020.

CITY OF PLANKINTON


Mayor

ATTEST:


Finance Officer

(SEAL)

Mayor Staller: Stated that the next regular Council meeting will have fewer items discussed, and we will probably hold it at the Sr. Center, as it is a larger area for social distancing.

Hinckley: Big thank you to Melissa Davis and the Clinic staff for all you are doing for our City.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Signed: John J. Staller, Mayor _____

Attest: Eileen Sorsen, Finance Officer _____