

MINUTES OF THE EMERGENCY MEETING FOR THE CITY BOAT RAMP, UTILITIES, AND MEETING FORMAT BECAUSE OF THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) OF THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS FOR THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA, HELD AT 2775 GARRISON AVENUE, March 30, 2020 AT 12 NOON.

The following were present: Mayor Buzzett, Commissioners Ashbrook, Hoffman, Langston, and Lowry. City Manager Jim Anderson, City Clerk Charlotte Pierce, and Attorney Clinton McCahill were also present.

The Purpose of the meeting was to discuss the operation of the City Boat Ramp, Utilities, and future Meetings Format.

Call to Order

Agenda

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Boat Ramp

A lengthy discussion was held about the operation of the City Boat Ramp. Commissioners exchanged ideas concerning their thoughts on what was best for the community.

Mark Howze shared his thoughts on the issue with the Commission and questioned why the boat ramp would be closed and still allow pickle ball and tennis courts, as well as and the golf course, to remain open.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Langston, to close the City Boat Ramp for two weeks and readdress the issue then. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Utilities

Because of the loss of local jobs, uncertainty of an upturn in the economy, and community unmet needs, a Motion was made by Commissioner Hoffman, second by Commissioner Ashbrook, to waive City late fees and reconnection fees for April and not cut anyone off until April 30, 2020. All in favor, Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting Format

City Manager Jim Anderson reviewed Executive Order 20-69 from Governor DeSantis allowing meetings to be conducted by telephone to prevent large numbers from gathering for meetings. Currently, the Ward Ridge Building is not equipped for digital technology and services would have to be provided to the building. City Staff is currently with Consolidated Communications to upgrade the building.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Lowry, to approve future meetings be held via Zoom. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Citizens to be Heard

There was no one from the Public in attendance.

Discussion Items by Commissioners

Commissioner Lowry asked if the City had been contacted by anyone from the Census Bureau.

Commissioner Langston requested that Attorney Albritton review the Golf Cart Ordinance concerning motorized vehicles.

Chief Herring noted that there has been changes to the Florida Statutes for the VTV/ATV vehicles. The changes are more restrictive and does not allow for the vehicles on City streets.

The Chief also asked for clarification concerning the Highland View Boat Ramp, beaches, and Clifford Sims Park. Clifford Sims Park is to be left open unless there are issues and discretion will be used then. He noted that repeat violators are being given a Notice to Appear rather than a misdemeanor charge.

Mayor Buzzett encouraged citizens to reply on local experts for COVID-19 information and encouraged everyone to verify information given to them before repeating it. He also asked about having a City employee in the Fire Station to help residents file their Census Report.

Mayor Buzzett adjourned the meeting at 1:15 P.M.

Approved this 7th day of April 2020.



Rex Buzzett, Mayor

4/7/20

Date



Charlotte M. Pierce, City Clerk

4/7/20

Date