

MINUTES
EMERGENCY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
March 20, 2020
2:00 p.m.

Town of Edisto Beach
Town Hall
2414 Murray Street
Edisto Beach, SC 29438

Present: Jane S. Darby, Mayor, Crawford Moore, Mayor Pro Tem, Jerome Kizer and Patti Smyer, Councilmembers. Susan Hornsby, Councilmember, joined via conference call. *Quorum of Council Present.*

The Emergency meeting was called to order by Mayor Darby to discuss Ordinance 2020-08, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

Item 1 of the Ordinance concerns operating procedures of Town Council meetings. Councilwoman Smyer moved to approve item 1, to temporarily suspend the normal operating procedures of Town Council meetings and allow for the Mayor and Councilmembers to remotely participate in voting and operational procedures by telephone or other means of electronic communication provided that the provisions of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act are complied with. Councilman Kizer seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Item 2 of the Ordinance is dealing with deadlines. Councilman Kizer moved to approve all deadlines imposed by Town Ordinance, applicable to the municipality or applicant be suspended until June 1, 2020 and the penalties and fines be waived. Town Administrator Hill told those in attendance that the fees included in this section of the Ordinance include the March, April and May Hospitality fees. Mayor Pro Tem Moore seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Item 3 of the Ordinance was addressed next. Councilwoman Smyer moved to approve the authorization of the Town Administrator to develop and enact a plan in order to ensure continuity in the delivery of governments services in light of the COVID-10 outbreak. Mayor Pro Tem Moore seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Item 4: "The Town Administrator is authorized to cancel and revoke any special events permits issued prior to the date of this ordinance for events taking place until April 30, 2020." Councilman Kizer moved to approve this section of the Ordinance, seconded by Councilwoman Smyer and unanimously approved.

Mayor Pro Tem Moore moved to approve Item 5, all public gatherings of any type, whether organized or otherwise, of greater than 10 persons are prohibited. Councilman Kizer seconded the motion. Councilman Kizer moved to amend the motion to specify that item 5 have a beginning time of March 21, 2020 at 8:00 a.m., seconded by Councilwoman Smyer and approved unanimously. Mayor Darby called for the vote on the amended motion and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Item 6: "Suspend in accordance with the Town's Code any existing procurement-related ordinances 'if strict compliance with the provisions thereof would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency.'" Councilwoman Smyer moved to approve Item 6, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Moore and approved unanimously.

Item 7, addressing access to the Town of Edisto Beach was next on the agenda. Councilwoman Smyer moved to approve the item that includes restricting access to the Town of Edisto Beach for fourteen days beginning March 21, 2020 at 7:00 a.m. with eight exceptions, noted in the attached Ordinance from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Moore seconded the motion. Police Chief George Brothers told Council that Isle of Palms distributes window stickers to property owners that reduces the interaction with officers at the checkpoint. Mayor Darby called for the vote and Item 7 was unanimously approved.

Item 8 states, "As is necessary to slow the outbreak of COVID-19, the Town Administrator is authorized to implement additional restrictive requirements, upon notice to Council." Councilman Kizer moved to approve the motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Moore and approved unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Moore moved to approve Item 9, "Any violation of any rule or regulation issued and set forth herein shall be punishable under Chapter 1 Section 6, General Penalties – Code of Ordinances of the Town of Edisto Beach." Councilwoman Smyer seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Mayor Pro Tem Moore moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Smyer and unanimously approved.

The public/media was notified of the location, date and time of the emergency meeting on Friday, March 20, 2020.

APPROVED BY TOWN COUNCIL


Deborah Hargis, Municipal Clerk
April 9, 2020

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE 2020-08

WHEREAS, Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among humans through respiratory transmission and other potential methods, and presents symptoms similar to those of influenza;

WHEREAS, in December of 2019, a new and substantial outbreak of COVID-19 emerged in Wuhan, China, and has since spread rapidly to 117 countries and territories throughout the World, including the United States, and more specifically Broward County and 18 other counties in the State of Florida;

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic;

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is predicting that it is likely that widespread transmission of COVID-19 will also occur in the United States;

WHEREAS, no vaccine or drug is currently available to cure or combat COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the Town of Edisto Beach is threatened by COVID-19 because of the apparent ability of the virus to spread rapidly among humans, and COVID-19 thereby constitutes a clear and present threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens and visitors of the Town of Edisto Beach;

WHEREAS, the CDC has issued guidelines for "community mitigation strategies" to limit the spread of COVID-19, including recommendations for social distancing, which has proven to be an effective method for containing COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the Town of Edisto Beach is working with other government agencies in an effort to prevent the spread of disease;

WHEREAS, Governor Henry McMaster issued an executive order that closed all dine-in services at restaurants and bars beginning on Wednesday, March 18, and limiting all business to to-go/take out services only;

WHEREAS, Section 5-7-250 of the South Carolina Code of Laws empowers Council to enact emergency ordinances affecting life, health, or safety; and

WHEREAS, in light of the foregoing, the Town of Edisto Beach deems it proper and necessary to adopt this emergency ordinance in order to, among other things:

(a) allow Town Council and any appointed Board or Commission to meet by telephone or other means of electronic communication provided that the provisions of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act are complied with.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Edisto Beach, in Council assembled, that:


1. The Town of Edisto temporarily suspends the normal operating procedures of Town Council meetings and hereby allows for the Mayor and Councilmembers to remotely participate in voting and operational procedures by telephone or other means of electronic communication provided that the provisions of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act are complied with.
2. All deadlines imposed by Town Ordinance, applicable to the municipality or applicant, shall be suspended until June 1, 2020 and waive penalties and fines.
3. The Town Administrator is authorized to develop and enact a plan in order to ensure continuity in the delivery of government services in light of the COVID-19 outbreak.
4. The Town Administrator is authorized to cancel and revoke any special events permits issued prior to the date of this ordinance for events taking place until April 30, 2020.
5. All public gatherings of any type, whether organized or otherwise, of greater than 10 persons are prohibited.
6. Suspend in accordance with the Town's Code any existing procurement-related ordinances "if strict compliance with the provisions thereof would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency".
7. Access to the Town of Edisto Beach will be restricted for the next fourteen (14) days beginning March 21, 2020 at 7:00 a.m. to the following: (1) residents of the island with a current proof of residency; (2) service workers; (3) holders of a current short term rental contract readily visible on or near the vehicle; (4) relatives and/or friends of residents only in presence of a current resident in a vehicle; (6) delivery personnel, including but not limited to pharmacy, FedEx, UPS, Amazon, USPS; (7) any delivery of essential medical services, including caregivers; and (8) employees of local business, including but not limited to, grocery stores, restaurants, contractors, Short Term Rentals and property managers. Access will be restricted subject to the above from 7am to 7pm during this period.

8. As is necessary to slow the outbreak of COVID-19, Town Administrator is authorized to implement additional restrictive requirements, upon notice to Council.
9. Any violation of any rule or regulation issued and set forth herein shall be punishable under Chapter 1 Section 6, General Penalties-Code of Ordinances of the Town of Edisto Beach.

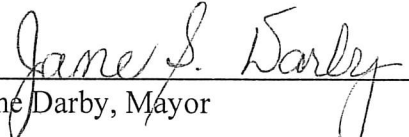
Enacted this 20th day of March, 2020, by Town Council of the Town of Edisto Beach, South Carolina.

This ordinance shall take effect immediately.

Attest:



Iris Hill, Town Administrator



Jane Darby, Mayor