

MINUTES  
JUNE 26, 2020  
SPECIAL EMERGENCY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
11:00 A.M.

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

Present: Jane S. Darby, Mayor, Crawford Moore, Mayor Pro Tempore, Jerome Kizer and Patti Smyer, Council Members, Councilmember Susan Hornsby joined the meeting via telephone; *Quorum of Council Present.*

Mayor Darby called the Special Emergency Council meeting to order. Councilwoman Smyer moved to go into Executive Session to discuss Emergency Ordinance No. 2020-21 related to protective masks during the COVID-19 pandemic. Mayor Pro Tem Moore seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Moore moved to exit Executive Session, seconded by Councilman Kizer and approved unanimously. Mayor Darby made the following statement:

Town Council had a long, detailed, and thoroughly discussed session looking at the logistics of Ordinances, looking at our community composition, looking at many different things regarding legislating the use of masks. Quite frankly, we are tired because everybody wants us to legislate human behavior. We cannot legislate morality. Why are some in our community determined to push everybody to the point of an Ordinance? What happened to personal responsibility? If folks keep pushing and keep using frivolous, I-don't-care attitude, the Town will have to require the use of masks. Our systems are going to be overwhelmed. Like I said, we're tired. We're tired of talking, tired of being closed down, tired of not being able to socialize, we're just flat tired of it. In June when we thought we were reaching some light at the end of the tunnel, everybody was overjoyed. It's not happening. In fact, the situation is getting worse. And the scary thing is, most of the new cases are in the 11 – 30 age group. Previously it was 50+. Almost half of the positive cases in South Carolina have occurred in the last two weeks. Does that sound like you're taking personal responsibility? No. It's very frustrating to ask you and appeal to your better nature and discover some people don't have one. We're asking you for our businesses, for our season, for our citizens, to please do your part. Masks up, wash hands, keep your fingers out of your nose and eyes, use hand sanitizer when you can, and when you are interacting with the public, for heaven's sake, wear a mask. I don't believe, and this Council doesn't believe it is reasonable to expect South Carolina to shut down again. But quite frankly, it's going to be up to you. The only way to avoid another shut down is taking personal responsibility and following the CDC guidelines. That goes for our businesses, our citizens, and our visitors. Know that we will take action if you are unwilling to practice some personal safety not only for yourself, but for others. If you're not wearing a mask, I would categorize you as selfish and irresponsible. We as leaders have to stand up for those who are trying to do the right thing and ask you one last time before we enact legislation and put it on the books, do the right thing.

Councilwoman Smyer stated, "I think that we are not doing the right thing if we do not pass an Ordinance. The fact that the numbers have risen so sharply in the past two weeks shows that people are not being responsible. They are not looking out for others and so I think that as leaders in this community, we should be passing an Ordinance that requires it."

Councilman Kizer said, "Thank you Mayor, for that, I think you said it all. I think that we should make our personal choices to wear a mask in our restaurants and retail stores and all places inside where you have a gathering of people. Please, when you're here on Edisto visiting and staying here for a while, please wear your mask in the businesses to help us. Thank you."

Mayor Pro Tem Moore stated, "If...the businesses themselves could lean forward on this a little bit and enact their own rules in their own stores, and get folks to protect themselves when they are in the businesses I think it would keep us from having to move forward. I think we have good folks out here and good business leaders and I think they're capable of taking the bull by the horns on this. They should be able to handle the business within themselves without us having to step in and do this."

Councilwoman Hornsby commented, "People, wear your masks or we will be forced to make you wear them."

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

*The media/public was notified of the date, time and location of the meeting on June 25, 2020.*

APPROVED BY TOWN COUNCIL



Deborah Hargis, Municipal Clerk  
July 9, 2020