

**City of Hood River
City Council – Special Meeting
March 27, 2020**

Council: Mayor Kate McBride, Mark Zanmiller, Megan Saunders, Tim Counihan, Jessica Metta, Erick Haynie, Gladys Rivera

Staff: City Manager Rachael Fuller, City Attorney Dan Kearns, Finance Director/ACM Will Norris, Fire Chief Leonard Damian, Police Chief Neal Holste

Absent:

I OPEN SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor McBride called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

II ROLL CALL

III OPENING STATEMENTS

Councilor Rivera – Insert statement

Quiero tomar un momento para para y agradecer todo el trabajo de nuestra comunidad. Gracias a Rachael, y empleados de la ciudad. Gracias a los que están trabajando en nuestros hospital en nuestras clínicas, los que están trabajando en nuestras tiendas. Los dueños y trabajadores de negocios chicos, y especialmente a los trabajadores en nuestros campos.

Para más información sobre el Coronavirus mejor reconocido como COVID-19 visite el Citio de internet de la ciudad:

Cityofhoodriver.gov

O getreadygorge.com sobre recursos disponibles en nuestra área.

IV RESOLUTION PLACING RESTRICTIONS TRANSIENT LODGING FACILITIES, R. FULLER

Councilor McBride's statement:

"The recent ban on hotel stays in the City of Hood River are designed to assist all of us in clamping down on recreational tourism and associated overnight stays as we work together to manage the containment and mitigation of COVID-19 in our community. We understand through communication with many local operators during the past 24-hours and with the Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association (ORLA) that lodging operators will play an important role in the weeks ahead. The ban is intended specifically for leisure travel, which is inappropriate at this time. We stand by our partners in making sure appropriate shelter is made available for essential workers still in the field, emergency situations, sheltering of vulnerable populations and sheltering of those quarantined because of COVID-19 exposure, and other accommodation needs which will result from our collective work in fighting COVID-19. We ask that you train your front-line staff to identify legitimate reasons for an overnight stay and also to be diligent about

identifying and turning away anyone wishing to stay due to leisure activities. The City will designate an employee to answer questions from lodgers related to this order.”

Mayor McBride stated this is a statement to set the tone for what this restriction is about. It is about leisure travel; it is not about other types of travel that people need to do to help fight COVID-19. Mayor McBride would like to outline how the City wants to implement the order that is already in place, without having to rewrite it. Talk about implementation and what it means.

Fuller stated again the purpose of this item is to ratify the order of the Mayor and to provide clarity to staff and the community regarding Council's intent, so the policy can be effectively and efficiently implemented. At Mayor McBride's direction, the leisure travel ban was put into place under the City's Emergency Declaration; authority to ensure the health and safety of the community.

Councilor Zanmiller would like it to be more of a partnership with the lodging facilities, rather than having it be an order. .

Mayor McBride asked Fuller and Kearns to respond to Councilor Zanmiller's comment.

Fuller stated if the statement read by the Mayor encompasses the intent of the order, the City would simply would send it to the lodging partners and work with them on implementation. She has had several discussion with lodgers over the past few days. She believes with some clarity from the City Council, they remain strong partners in all of the efforts to combat COVID-19.

Kearns stated the way the declaration is worded it is mandatory and sets the basic requirements; that is the way you draft code. Council has the authority to do this under State law and emergency operations ordinance. It is a clear statement and it has all of the hotel and motel operators' attention; they will start to figure out how to implement it. He is not looking for any police citations for violations, nor does he anticipate having any, but it sets the ground rules for what has to happen. These are the basic requirements of what Council wants to happen at the end of the day. When you write regulations such as this, they have to be in mandatory terms. How it's implemented can be softer than how it appears in the declaration. These are rules that most communities have adopted. The cause of this response throughout the State was due to the massive numbers of recreational users. That is what the City is trying to stop.

Council discussed.

Fuller added in regards to Providence and the homeless shelter, the City is actively engaged in both of those efforts through the EOC in coordination with public health. The City is very much aware of the collaborative efforts that are happening between the nonprofit community, community health, hospitals and the lodgers that have proactively stepped up to meet those needs during this time.

Mayor McBride stated Council does not take doing this lightly. Any of the restrictions put on for any business in the City and closure of public areas are very hard decisions to make. They are trying to keep as many people safe as they can.

Fuller stated City staff will send Mayor McBride's opening statement to the lodging community which summarizes what Council has discussed. Staff will assign an employee to answer questions regarding the restrictions.

Councilor Saunders asked that the language in the statement be revised. Instead of using “leisurely” change it to “nonessential travel.” Council agreed to use both “leisurely and none essential travel.”

Motion: I move to adopt the Resolution 2020-05 in respect to the declaration directing the City Manager to close public parks, recreation sights, transient lodging facilities and campgrounds to prevent aggregation of people and reduce the spread of the Corona virus and further that and direct the City Manager to circulate the Mayors statement to the lodging facilities.

First: Councilor Haynie
Second: Councilor Saunders
Discussion: None
Vote: Motion passed (roll called)
Ayes: McBride, Zanmiller, Saunders, Counihan, Metta, Haynie
Nays: None
Abstentions: None
Excused: None

V. RESOLUTION EXPLICITLY AUTHORIZING USE OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONSTRUCTION EXCISE TAX FUNDS FOR LAND ACQUISITION AND RELATED DEBT SERVICE

Norris stated this a housekeeping item, that is time sensitive. It is important to get this interpretation memorialized as they build the FY2020/21 proposed budget. This specifically notes that the Construction Excise Tax can be used for the debt service incurred for the purchase of Rand Road. The City Council adopted a 1% CET in 2017 by ordinance to fund affordable housing development. The ordinance set apportionment formulas for the CET revenue for three purposes, local affordable housing programs, developer incentives, and required remittances to the State of Oregon Housing and Community Services Department.

Staff is looking to memorialize a self-interpretation of the ordinance to say CET can be used for land acquisition and for related debt service. This is so the City will have the option to pay back a portion of the debt service for Rand Road, that was financed using an accumulated CET dollars. Resolution 2020-06 was crafted making that explicit interpretation.

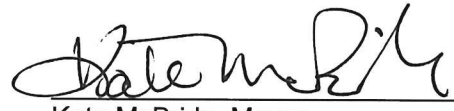
Motion: I move to adopt Resolution 2020-06 with the modifications Councilor Saunders noted.

First: Councilor Counihan
Second: Councilor Metta
Discussion: None
Vote: Motion passed (roll called)
Ayes: McBride, Zanmiller, Saunders, Counihan, Metta, Haynie
Nays: None
Abstentions: None
Excused: None

VI. ADJOURN – Adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:50 p.m.



Jennifer Gray, City Recorder



Kate McBride, Mayor

Approved by City Council on April 13, 2020