



**CLARKSVILLE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL SESSION
MARCH 31, 2020**

MINUTES

IN AN EFFORT TO FACILITATE THE RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19), THIS MEETING WAS CONDUCTED VIA GOOGLE MEETS FROM CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND LIVE STREAMED ON CITYOFCLARKSVILLE.COM.

CALL TO ORDER

A special session of the Clarksville City Council was called to order by Mayor Joe Pitts on Tuesday, March 31, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. This meeting was conducted via Google Meets from City Council Chambers, 106 Public Square, Clarksville, Tennessee.

A prayer was offered by Councilman Ron Erb.

ATTENDANCE

Members responded verbally to roll call and participation was recorded as follows:

PARTICIPATING: Richard Garrett (Ward 1), Vondell Richmond (Ward 2), Ron Erb (Ward 3), Tim Chandler (Ward 4), Valerie Guzman (Ward 5), Wanda Smith (Ward 6), Travis Holleman (Ward 7), David Allen, Mayor Pro Tem (Ward 8), Jeff Henley (Ward 9), Stacey Streetman (Ward 10), Gary Norris (Ward 11), Jeff Burkhart (Ward 12)

Mayor Joe Pitts, City Attorney Lance Baker, and City Clerk Sylvia Skinner, as well as SGT. Chuck Gill and representatives from the City Information Technology Department, were physically present in the Council Chambers. Several Department Heads were also connected to the meet.

APPROVAL OF ELECTRONIC MEETING

“In order to comply with the technical aspects of the Governor’s Executive Order regarding holding open meetings in a forum other than in the open and in public, this governing body determines that meeting electronically is necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens due to the COVID-19 outbreak.”

Councillady Streetman made a motion to approve conducting this meeting by electronic means. The motion was seconded by Councillady Guzman. A voice vote was taken; the motion passed without objection.

MAYORAL EXECUTIVE ORDER #003

RESOLUTION 51-2019-20 Approving Mayoral Executive Order No. 003 pertaining to the Novel Coronavirus and to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 disease

Councilman Erb made a motion to adopt this resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilman Burkhart.

Mayor Pitts said this order directs residents to shelter at home. He urged faith based gatherings to limit participation to ten people or less for the next seven days and discouraged church gatherings inside buildings.

City Attorney Lance Baker said Mayoral Executive Orders #001 and #002 were still in effect and extended through April 8 upon the adoption of this Order. He said this Order also incorporates the Tennessee Governor's Executive Orders #17, #21, and #22. Mr. Baker said this Order establishes restrictions which go beyond the Governor's Orders by directing residents to shelter at home except when engaging in essential activities. This Order stated that City Parks would remain open for individual activities, but playgrounds were closed. Organizations that served the homeless could continue operations as well as designated essential services with conditions. Restrictions on food services established by the previous orders remained in effect with no dine-in activities, only delivery or take out. Businesses offering essential services were encouraged to offer shopping hours for senior citizens only and to allow employees to work at home if possible. Businesses offering close contact services (i.e., nail and hair salons, barbers) were ordered to close to the public. Mr. Baker noted that employers were prohibited to require employees diagnosed with COVID-19 to work. The effective dates of this Order were 12:01 am April 1, 2020 through 12:01 am April 8, 2020.

In response to Councilman Richmond's question, Mr. Baker said local policing authority was granted by *Tennessee Code Annotated* and *City of Clarksville Charter and Code*. He said violations of this Order would be considered a Class A Misdemeanor for Failure To Comply with the Executive Order. Mayor Pitts said he was hoping for voluntary compliance. He said non-compliance could result in a civil citation or arrest for a Class A Misdemeanor.

Mr. Baker responded to Councilman Allen's question regarding the stay-at-home order saying residents may continue use of essential services including grocery stores and pharmacies.

In response to Councilman Allen's question, Mr. Baker restated that dine-in service in restaurants were prohibited. Mayor Pitts said the intent of the Order is to limit person-to-person contact to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. He reminded members that the Governor's Executive Order also closed non-essential businesses.

Mr. Baker responded to Councilman Holleman stating that city parks were open but playgrounds were closed. If necessary, juveniles would be charged with disorderly conduct.

Following Councillady Smith's question, Mayor Pitts said faith-based organizations (church congregations) were strongly discouraged to gather in buildings and said groups of more than ten people would be prohibited. Mr. Baker said this Order did not address a curfew for the public, but the City Code curfew still applied to minors.

The following vote on the motion was recorded:

AYE: Allen, Burkhart, Chandler, Erb, Garrett, Guzman, Henley, Holleman, Norris, Pitts, Richmond, Smith, Streetman

The motion to adopt this resolution unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

ADOPTED: May 7, 2020