

**DeFuniak Springs City Council
Special Remote Meeting Minutes
April 6, 2020**

Mayor Campbell called the meeting to order remotely at 4:02 p.m. as the Zoom session host.

Mayor Bob Campbell asked each Councilmember to state their name as participants in the remote Zoom session: Mayor Pro-Tem Robert McKnight (Seat 2); Councilmember Todd Bierbaum (Seat 1); Councilmember Kevin Crystal (Seat 3); Councilmember Henry D. Ennis (Seat 4), and Councilmember Wayne Graham (Seat 5). A quorum was declared present at the remote meeting utilizing Zoom as the meeting platform.

Mayor Bob Campbell mentioned Clay Adkinson, City Attorney was also participating in the remote meeting.

City Staff present in the Chambers: Mell Smigielski, City Manager; Maryanne Schrader, City Clerk, James Hurley, Jr., City Marshal and Jesse Deckard, IT Administrator.

Mayor Bob Campbell went over the ground rules and proper protocol regarding a remote meeting and asked everyone to keep background noise down.

Mell Smigielski, City Manager introduced the remote meeting platform and updated the Council on the steps taken to protect the citizens. He mentioned the City has closed all parks with the exception of Chipley Park, cancelled events of more than ten persons, closed the City Hall building to walk-in traffic, and commented that staff is practicing social distancing and utilizing proper protection using gloves and masks. The essential personnel have been designated and some employees are working from home. Some departments have initiated alternating weekly shifts to limit exposure to other employees, and all employees who are at home are "On Call". Employees at home are working on budget goals and objectives and training while they are at home.

Mell Smigielski, City Manager stated the purpose of the meeting is for the Council to pass Resolution 2020-02. Governor DeSantis passed the Executive Order allowing for virtual meetings, thus ensuring our quorum requirements and meeting in a public place are suspended, and as a home rule city, we can adopt the rules by reference. The resolution does not waive the requirement to operate in the Sunshine, however.

City Attorney Clay Adkinson explained the resolution provides relief to relax the requirements of the in-person quorum requirement and provides for public participation. He added today's meeting is a dry run to hear feedback from the public. He said this resolution will give us a template going forward, for the next thirty days, and if it runs efficiently, it will provide for some of our Boards to conduct urgent business. It will also depend on whether the "Stay at Home" extends into May.

Mayor Bob Campbell asked Council for a motion regarding the need to pass a resolution adopting the Governor's Executive Order 20-69 for Suspension of Charter and Ordinance restrictions to allow holding of "virtual" meetings using Communications Media Technology thereby addressing meeting procedures and requirements beginning 4:00 p.m. 4/06/2020 until rescinded.

Motion by Councilmember W. Graham and seconded by Councilmember T. Bierbaum for the adoption of the Governor’s Executive Order 20-69 for Suspension of Charter and Ordinance restrictions to allow holding of “virtual” meetings using Communications Media Technology thereby addressing meeting procedures and requirements beginning 4:00 p.m. 4/06/2020 until rescinded.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember T. Bierbaum: Aye; Councilmember K. Crystal: Aye, Councilmember R. McKnight: Aye, Councilmember H. Ennis: Aye: Councilmember W. Graham: Aye. Ayes: 5, Nays 0. All ayes. Motion carried.

City Attorney Clay Adkinson explained at the next meeting, the staff has taken steps on personnel policies on sick leave, family medical leave and other day to day operations, which Council will be ratifying.

Mayor Campbell asked for comments from the Council or public regarding the resolution on the remote meeting.

Mayor Campbell asked staff if any emails or phone calls came in during the meeting and was told none were received.

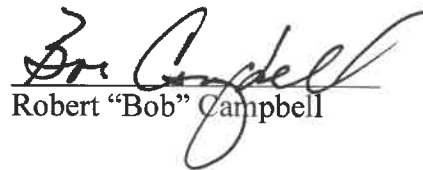
Public Comments: Resident Mindy Henderson voiced concern about the meeting memo and she read that the public can only comment after the meeting. She suggested the calls could be muted and opened during public comment and voiced concern the Mayor did not ask for comments before the vote.

Citizen Anthony Vallee mentioned the “Raise Hand” tool could be used to be acknowledged and give input. Mayor Campbell replied that some people are on phones, so are unable to raise the hand tool. He apologized, if the rules were misunderstood. Citizen Anthony Vallee added the ordinance wording may be confusing.

City Attorney Clay Adkinson said the procedure can be adjusted for the next meeting, so the Public Comments can be added to the beginning.

Mayor Campbell thanked the Council for being patient and adjourned the meeting at 4:24 p.m.

Approved:


Robert “Bob” Campbell

Attest:


Maryanne Schrader, City Clerk

