

**DeFuniak Springs City Council**  
**Special Meeting by Communications Media Technology Minutes**  
**May 5, 2020**

Mayor Campbell called the meeting to order remotely at 9:00 a.m. as the Zoom session host.

Mayor Bob Campbell apologized regarding the technical difficulties yesterday that caused the meeting to be rescheduled for this morning. Mayor Campbell asked City Manager M. Smigielski to ask 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.

Mayor Campbell noted the City Staff present in the Chambers: Mell Smigielski, City Manager; Maryanne Schrader, City Clerk; Jim Gierlinski, Assistant Public Works Director; Public Information Officer, Chris Mitchell and Jesse Deckard, IT Administrator.

Mell Smigielski, City Manager stated the purpose of the meeting is regarding the re-opening of City Parks and Recreation Facilities, in a manner and timetable consistent with available resources and health guidelines, including appropriate signage to encourage social distancing.

**Motion** by Councilmember T. Bierbaum and seconded by Councilmember K. Crystal Authorizing the City Manager to begin the re-opening of City Parks and Recreation Facilities.

Councilmember R. McKnight explained he had requested the special meeting and had written his motion as printed on the agenda. Councilmember T. Bierbaum was amendable to the amendment of his motion and Councilmember K. Crystal concurred.

**Motion** by Councilmember McKnight and seconded by Councilmember T. Bierbaum Authorizing the City Manager to begin the re-opening of City Parks and Recreation Facilities in a manner and timetable consistent with available resources and health guidelines, including appropriate signage to encourage social distancing, as amended.

Councilmember R. McKnight explained that the best practice as we open the parks is to have signage to encourage social distancing. He purposely left out rental facilities as they are indoor activities, so we are not ready to open closed-area facilities yet. He believes this is the safest approach.

Mayor Campbell said he hopes the rental facilities opening is taken up at the Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. He explained the city manager has concerns about opening our restroom facilities because of sanitation issues. Mayor Campbell gave an example of an out of state traveler, as to why we should make restroom facilities available.

Councilmember K. Crystal said he spoke to Holly Hope, the director of the Walton County Health Department, and wanted to bring their discussion to the Council for consideration.

Councilmember R. McKnight called a Point of Order.

Councilmember K. Crystal explained his comment speaks directly to the motion, so Mayor Campbell told him to continue. The health department will be doing three to four community drives for people who are asymptomatic, and they have received funding for the testing. The results will take two to four days to come back. The testing will be done in the city from May 14-30<sup>th</sup>. He thinks the results are important to whether we leave things open. He added there has been a rise in the past week or so in people that are being diagnosed. A lot of those people are in long-term care facilities. He wanted to make sure that is given consideration.

Mayor Campbell said Mell will reel the re-openings in, if he hears bad results. City Manager M. Smigielski said he drove by the parks yesterday afternoon, and some have yet to be mowed or are being mowed. He will discuss which parks will be opened. He has spoken to staff about the bathroom facilities, but they are a petri dish for germs on the handles, and we do not have the staff to clean them properly. He preferred not to open them.

Councilmember K. Crystal requested that the pictures of Vortex Springs in Ponce de Leon from last weekend he sent prior to the meeting be displayed to indicate that people are not social distancing. He stated the city will need to be prepared that our parks will be full, and we do not have the police force to keep people apart.

Councilmember R. McKnight encouraged signage to remind people that they need to practice social distancing. He is concerned that we may have situations that could get out of hand.

Councilmember R. McKnight called for the question.

Mayor asked for public comment.

Citizen Dan Cosen said the county has done an excellent job opening all the bathrooms. He requested the bathrooms stay open, as the County has opened their facilities countywide. He added the signage would be on the city's dime. The mantra "wash your hands and practice social distancing" is aired all day, so he believes signage is an unnecessary expense.

Mayor asked for any other comment.

Councilmember W. Graham said if we do not open bathrooms, we should not open all.

Councilmember T. Bierbaum agreed it should be all or nothing. He does not expect to sanitize bathrooms after every use, if we can provide our employees adequate protection to periodically clean them. It is up to the individual whether they should go out or shelter themselves. We should not turn city government into a police state.

Councilmember R. McKnight called for the question.

Councilmember K. Crystal said the motion gives the City Manager authority to make the decision and agreed that park facilities should open entirely or keep everything closed. The city hall is still closed, and added we need to trust the city manager's judgement.

After guidance from City Attorney Clay Adkinson, Mayor Campbell closed public comment and City Manager M. Smigielski reread the motion prior to the vote - Motion authorizing the City Manager to begin the re-opening of City Parks and Recreation Facilities in a manner and timetable consistent with available resources and health guidelines, including appropriate signage to encourage social distancing, as amended.

**Roll Call Vote:** Councilmember T. Bierbaum: Aye; Councilmember K. Crystal: Aye, Councilmember R. McKnight: Aye, Councilmember H. Ennis: Aye: Councilmember W. Graham: Nay. Ayes: 4, Nays 1. Motion carried.

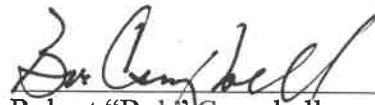
**Motion** by Councilmember T. Bierbaum to direct staff including legal to work with DBPR on businesses that can be reopened. Mayor Campbell asked that it be placed on the agenda for Monday, May 11th.

City Attorney Clay Adkinson advised Council that unless the Council is against permitting staff to work with the state, staff is currently looking at this issue. He added Staff will get guidance from the State to bring something back to the Council. We cannot take the motion presented by Councilmember T. Bierbaum up, as it is not on the agenda. Mayor said he will get back with legal.

In response to Councilmember R. McKnight, City Attorney Clay Adkinson said no other topics can be voted on at a Special meeting, however, ancillary subjects can be discussed without any action. He added the Sunshine law does not change during states of emergency.

Mayor Campbell adjourned the meeting at 9:31 a.m.

Approved:

  
Robert "Bob" Campbell

Attest:

  
Maryanne Schrader, City Clerk

