

# MINUTES

## KEY COLONY BEACH

### CITY COMMISSION EMERGENCY MEETING

Friday March 20, 2020 1:00 p.m.

City Hall Auditorium

**1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call:** The regular meeting of the Key Colony Beach City Commission was called to order by Mayor DeNeale at 1:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

*Present:* Mayor John DeNeale, Vice Mayor Ron Sutton, Secretary/Treasurer Patti Trefry, Commissioner April Tracy and Commissioner Kimmeron Lisle. *Also Present:* City Administrator Christopher Moonis, City Clerk Rebecca Todd, Executive Assistant Saara Staten, City Attorney Tom Wright, Police Chief DiGiovanni, Building Official Gerard Roussin, Building Inspector Greg Lawton, Officer Buxton and Officer Reeve.

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**2. Coronavirus Response with potential action items/decisions:** Mayor DeNeale reported the Monroe County Emergency Management Directive issued March 19, 2020 states “Effective Sunday March 22, 2020 at 6 p.m., all hotels, short term vacation rentals (defined as less than 28 days), and other transient rentals include marinas, RV parks, and time shares shall cease renting to tourists for 14 days. This ban shall not apply to rentals to transitory military personnel, first responders, health care workers, construction workers actively engaged in projects in the County, and other engaged informal business in the Florida Keys”. Attorney Wright stated it does not apply to secondary homeowners. Chief DiGiovanni requested direction on actions to be taken by the Police Department when encountering visitors not adhering to the directive. Attorney Wright suggested issuance of a daily citation to the homeowner. Concern was expressed for elderly persons who rely on family outside of the state for transportation home or have other extenuating circumstances. Chief DiGiovanni stated the police department has ability to use discretion in writing citations. Mayor DeNeale stated the limited hospitals and healthcare providers do not have the resources to handle the residents in the county in the event of an outbreak. Therefore it is in the best interest for visitors to return home where they have access to their primary care physician and other medical facilities.

Mayor DeNeale asked for consideration regarding park closures. Chief DiGiovanni stated his officer observed a full parking lot at Sunset Beach Park the previous evening with excess of 200 people in the park. Mayor DeNeale stated he wants to keep people active but there are other ways for people to stay active and safe. Commissioner Trefry stated she would be agreeable with leaving the parks open to residents if they practice social distancing, however she is concerned other park closures in the county may draw additional traffic and overwhelm the facilities. City Administrator Moonis stated golf course manager Daryl Rice has been performing regular sanitation of the golf course and no persons are permitted in the building.

**MOTION:** Motion made by Mayor DeNeale, seconded by Vice Mayor Sutton to close all parks in Key Colony Beach effective Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 12:00 p.m. until April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**ON THE MOTION:** Roll Call Vote. Unanimous approval.

Mayor DeNeale stated the Governor's Executive Order regarding restaurants is to allow them to operate at fifty percent capacity however the City of Key West has adopted an order for restaurants to only offer delivery and carry-out service. Vice Mayor Sutton stated because our community is so small it may not be necessary to enforce further restrictions at this time. Commissioner Tracy stated her concern with many of the restaurants approach to the pandemic. Chief DiGiovanni stated they can report restaurants not conforming with Governor's Executive Order to DBPR and EOC for enforcement.

**MOTION:** Motion made by Commissioner Tracy, seconded by Commissioner Trefry to concur with the Monroe County Emergency Directive 20-02 and instruct restaurants to follow the instructions in the Governor's Executive Order.

**ON THE MOTION:** Roll Call Vote. Unanimous approval.

Mayor DeNeale reported on efforts to advise the community of the new directive including email blasting press releases. The Commission instructed City Clerk Todd to email all the property managers regarding the Monroe County Emergency Directive 20-02 and its applicability to their rental units.

**MOTION:** Motion made by Mayor DeNeale, seconded by Vice Mayor Sutton to continue Key Colony Beach's State of Emergency effective 1:43 March 20, 2020.

**ON THE MOTION:** Roll Call Vote. Unanimous approval.

3. **City Services:** City Administrator Moonis suggested the City follow the footsteps of other municipalities to offer virtual services. His recommendation is to have staff in the office to serve the public telephonically and electronically but close the office to the public physically. In office staffing is staggered to distance ourselves in our office space. All of City Hall employees are prepared to work from home if necessary, except the new receptionist, Holly Rosado. The Building Department is already practicing social distancing and providing virtual services. Building Official Roussin stated he has appreciated not having the public directly sitting in their office and that it's been much easier to keep clean. Chief DiGiovanni stated the Police Department is hosting all their meetings telephonically and if two officers must be in the trailer at the same time, they are opening windows and regularly cleaning workspaces before and after shifts. Chief DiGiovanni stated they have purchased ring doorbells to install at the Police Department. Building Official Roussin stated Public Works employees are not riding in the same vehicle together. Commission Meetings will be held in Marble Hall however a Zoom meeting will be available for staff that would like to attend virtually.

Commissioners expressed concerned regarding the Monroe County Emergency Directive allowing leases over 28 days to be exempt from evacuation. It has been noted current renters are extending their leases although not permitted under the order to circumvent the order. It could be expected more leases could be signed by Saturday for 28 days or more providing for another influx of visitors. These actions will not alleviate the stress on the

county's healthcare system and social services. Commissioner Tracy expressed concern for some residents who have been here for months and may have extenuating circumstances. The Commission agreed discretion can be used on a case by case basis. Due to the concerns discussed the Commission instructed Attorney Wright and City Administrator Moonis to draft Key Colony Beach's Emergency Order to provide more specific direction in addition to Monroe County's Emergency Order and scheduled a City Commission Meeting for its presentation at 2:00 March 21st.

The meeting adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Rebecca Todd*

Rebecca Todd  
City Clerk