

MINUTES

KEY COLONY BEACH CITY COMMISSION EMERGENCY MEETING

Thursday March 16, 2020 9:30 a.m.

City Hall Auditorium

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call: The Emergency Meeting of the Key Colony Beach City Commission was called to order by Mayor DeNeale at 9:30 a.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, Fire Chief Johnson, Building Official Gerard Roussin and Building Inspector Greg Lawton.

Public – 2

General Update

Mayor DeNeale reported the updated CDC recommendations of not gathering more than 50 people in one location/event while also recommending minimizing the disruptions to daily life to the extent possible. Under the Governor's Executive Order, they have suspended effect of any statutory rule or order that would in any way prevent, injure, or delay mitigation responses or recovery action to cope with this emergency.

Chief DiGiovanni stated his Police Department received a call the previous night from a resident in Key Colony Beach with complaints of flu like symptoms, cough, fever, etc. The Police Department contacted the Fire Department immediately to decide who should call on the resident, if any, to minimize the exposure of our first responders. The Fire Department spoke with the resident's caretaker from outside of her front door. The resident was directed to go to the hospital but to advise the hospital first. Fire Rescue entered the home with full gear (e.g. oxygen tanks, mask, etc.) to assist the caregiver in taking the resident to the hospital. Fire Chief Johnson stated the Fire Department did assist her in getting to the hospital and they are working closely with her medical director in trying to transport her to Miami. Fire Chief Johnson stated it takes approximately 72-96 hours to get results back from the lab in Miami which then gets forwarded the CDC for confirmation. The COVID-19 test is a simple swab of the nose and the throat; it is not painful. They have not developed a rapid test kit for the coronavirus.

City Attorney Wright stated there is evidence of people who are A-symptomatic spreading the virus rapidly without knowledge. City Administrator Moonis stated he wants the Commission to consider declaring a Local State of Emergency. If in the future, we need assistance through the County or the State through the EOC process to meet whatever unmet needs we may have, it will be easier if we have declared a Local State of Emergency. City Hall is currently setting up all employees to work from home if needed. The Property Managers Class and weekly Farmer's Market have been cancelled. Building Official Roussin assured the Commission the Building Department and Public Works are diligently searching for supplies

(e.g. antibacterial wipes, sanitizers, etc.). There are approximately 2 weeks of cleaning supplies in stock. An order is estimated to arrive Friday from Key West Chemical of sanitizers, antibacterial hand soaps, paper products, etc. Chief DiGiovanni ordered disposable suits and face masks for the Police Department. Public Works has added to their schedules an hourly cleaning of common surfaces and handles throughout the City. The Commission instructed Building Department to keep Marble Hall locked.

MOTION: Motion made by Vice Mayor Sutton, seconded by Commissioner Trefry to declare a Local State of Emergency for the City of Key Colony Beach pertaining to the outbreak of COVID-19 effective 9:45 a.m March 16, 2020.

ON THE MOTION: Roll Call Vote. Unanimous approval.

2. **St. Patrick's Day Parade:** Mayor DeNeale stated we annually host an outdoor parade celebrating St. Patrick's Day with a few hundred people spread across 10 blocks. Vice Mayor Sutton stated he does not want to be too cautious and put a sense of fear in the public. Vice Mayor Sutton believes the event should not be cancelled. Commissioner Tracy stated she feels a sense of responsibility to the rest of the country to support the CDC's recommendation to cancel events larger than 50 people to protect our residents to the best of our ability. Commissioner Trefry stated this is the time for leadership. People are already seeing events cancelled or postponed and will not be alarmed if the parade is cancelled. It is better to make a tough decision now rather than regretting it in a few weeks. Commissioner Trefry recommends erring on the side of caution and following the CDC's recommendations. Commissioner Lisle stated the average age of Key Colony Beach residents is 63 and as a community we need to do the best we can to prevent the spread. City Attorney Wright reported an article released by CNN reporting on the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic. During that time, a lot of cities had war bond parades planned. St. Louis cancelled their parade and Philadelphia did not. As a result, 700 people died in St. Louis and 16,000 people died in Philadelphia. Many believe the parade in Philadelphia spread the Spanish Flu immensely.

MOTION: Motion made by Commissioner Trefry, seconded by Commissioner Lisle to cancel the 2020 St. Patrick's Day Parade.

ON THE MOTION: Roll Call Vote. John DeNeale – yes. Ron Sutton – no. Patti Trefry – yes. April Tracy – yes. Kimmeron Lisle – yes.

3. **Coronavirus Update:** Mayor DeNeale asked City Attorney Wright if a declaration of a local state of emergency waives our public meeting requirements. Attorney Wright stated he will contact the County Attorney and seek guidance. Mayor DeNeale instructed staff to contact the Chairperson of the Committees and Boards to strongly suggest for them not to meet unless necessary.

Mayor DeNeale inquired whether the exercise classes should continue with sanitizing after each class or cancel. Commissioner Trefry stated she does not mind continuing the classes if we can keep it clean per CDC guidelines. Commissioner Lisle stated now is the time to

be overcautious with our cleaning supplies rather than a few weeks from now suffering a shortage because of not canceling. City Attorney Wright stated his wife has participated in the exercise classes for years since it has begun and after discussion, she will not be participating in the exercise classes until the pandemic spread slows down.

MOTION: Motion made by Commissioner Lisle, seconded by Commissioner Trefry to cancel the exercises classes held in Marble Hall.

ON THE MOTION: Roll Call Vote. John DeNeale – yes. Ron Sutton – yes. Patti Trefry – yes. April Tracy – no. Kimmeron Lisle – yes.

MOTION: Motion made by Mayor DeNeale, seconded by Vice Mayor Sutton to cancel all events in Marble Hall until further notice, with exception to Commission Meetings.

ON THE MOTION: Roll Call Vote. Unanimous approval.

Attorney Wright recommended a possible change in policy to prevent unnecessary interaction with the public in city facilities. Mayor DeNeale requested an addition to the city website advising residents not to visit city buildings unless necessary and for them to call the department first for telephonic assistance. Mayor DeNeale instructed staff to formulate changes to the policy and present them to the Commission.

Citizen Comments: Kathryn McCullough, Coordinator of Concerts in the Park, stated the Concerts in the Park have been cancelled until further notice.

The meeting adjourned at 10:19 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Todd

Rebecca Todd
City Clerk