

The Town of James Island held a special meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 3, 2020 by Zoom. The following Councilmembers were present: Boles, Mignano, Milliken, Mullinax, and Mayor Woolsey, who presided. Also, Town Administrator, Ashley Kellahan, Town Attorney, Bonum S. Wilson, and Town Clerk, Frances Simmons. A quorum was present to conduct business.

This meeting was held in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of James Island. Information was provided to the public for participation.

Public Comment: No member of the public signed in to speak virtually. 24 emails were received in support and 12 in opposition. Copies of emails maintained for the record.

Extension of Emergency Ordinance: E-07-2020: Emergency Ordinance Providing for Required Face Coverings in Public Places due to the COVID-19 Virus, and Exceptions Thereto: Mayor Woolsey moved to extend Ordinance E-07-2020 to October 25; Councilman Boles seconded. Mayor Woolsey corrected to extend to October 15 and it was granted without objection.

Councilwoman Mignano commented that some of our citizens are not happy about extending the face mask ordinance. She understands how difficult and frustrating wearing masks has been for everyone and she has been back and forth with it. She said with the Labor Day holiday approaching and schools reopening, perhaps extending the ordinance one more month would be the prudent thing to do.

Councilman Milliken said it is a good idea to extend the ordinance into October but he wonders if it might be better to consider going to the November meeting because we would be past the election cycle getting us into November just before Thanksgiving. He said it seems we have to keep extending emergency ordinances and, with no vaccine on the horizon it seems that is probably going to be the deal maker for us to be able to get rid of masks. He would like to consider an alternative to the date, a day 77, which would be November 19 to save time and staff resources rather than as soon as October 15. Mayor Woolsey gave explanation that it would expire roughly November 3 in 60 days, and we would have to extend it at a special meeting. He explained that emergency ordinances could be less than 60 days, but not more than 60. Councilman Milliken withdrew his request.

Councilwoman Mignano commented that we should let the numbers dictate because if the numbers fall before then, it becomes a non-necessity and as quickly as we can get rid of this, the better, as long as everyone is safe and healthy. Mayor Woolsey said it is possible that Council could revisit the ordinance before October 15. He said if we want to act at the September meeting to rescind it we could, but if we do nothing the ordinance continues to October 15. There was no further discussion.

Vote

Councilman Boles	Yes
Councilwoman Mignano	Yes
Councilman Milliken	Yes
Councilman Mullinax	Yes
Mayor Woolsey	Yes
Passed Unanimously	

There being no further business to come before the body, the meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Frances Simmons, Town Clerk