

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 16, 2020
CHINCOTEAGUE TOWN COUNCIL EMERGENCY MEETING
Council Chambers

Council Members Present:

J. Arthur Leonard, Mayor
Christopher D. Bott, Vice Mayor
Denise P. Bowden, Councilwoman via phone.
William T. McComb, Jr. Councilman
Ellen W. Richardson, Councilwoman
Gene W. Taylor, Councilman

Council Members Absent:

Matthew Reed, Councilman

Staff Present:

Mr. Michael T. Tolbert, Town Manager
Mr. Bryan Rush, Emergency Management Coordinator
Mr. Robby Fisher, Police Chief
Mr. Harvey Spurlock, Public Works Director
Mr. Tyler Greenley, Police Captain

1. Call to Order

Mayor Leonard called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. in accordance with § 2.2-3707.D. of the Code of Virginia, (*Notice, reasonable under the circumstance, of special, emergency, or continued meetings shall be given contemporaneously with the notice provided to the members of the public body conducting the meeting*) to discuss matters related to the existing State of Emergency and discuss the recent Executive Order issued by Governor Northam.

2. State of Emergency

Mayor Leonard advised they have events coming up that will be affected by the Order. He stated that they have to decide how to handle the Town with the new mandates. He stated that outdoor gatherings have been reduced to 25 which would shut down the tree lighting ceremony and the parade.

Emergency Management Coordinator Rush reported that there is only 25 people allowed to gather together.

Christmas Parade: He discussed the parade with Chamber Executive Director Shotwell. He suggested having a drive-thru. He stated that as long as they space groups of 25 or less who would stay in their designated sections. He added that this was just an idea for the parade.

Tree Lighting Ceremony: He spoke with Mrs. Ruthann Mason, who is heading up the ceremony. They have decided they will not have a ceremony. They want the Town to go ahead and light the tree.

Holiday Market: He spoke with Mr. Alex Hubb and based on the Governor's Executive Order this can move forward. The plan is to remind of social distancing, hand sanitizer stations, extra tables to separate the vendor from the customer. He feels this can move forward.

Emergency Management Coordinator Rush commented that the biggest change is the group gatherings. He added that religious ceremonies; weddings and funerals are still allowed; churches are still allowed to continue as they have been. However, receptions can have no more than 25 people. The only change with restaurants and bars is that they can no longer serve alcohol after 10:00 p.m. He stated that the only change in masks are that children 5 years and older must wear a mask in public. The Commonwealth is rising to 7.3% daily positive cases. He gave some further statistics within the state. He warned that this could get worse. He commented further about the parade keeping family units together. He doesn't feel the Holiday Market is any different than going to the grocery store.

Councilwoman Bowden feels the Chamber needs the Town's support no matter what they choose. She agrees that they should just turn the Christmas lights on.

Councilman McComb expressed his concerns about people congregating.

Councilwoman Bowden commented that because of logistics it should be cancelled. However, she wants to support the Chamber in their decision.

Councilman Taylor commented that there are some great ideas. He doesn't want to take everything away from people.

Councilman McComb interjected that they have to look at public safety.

Chief Fisher reported on the plans of the Flag Football Tournament Fundraiser. They will contact the coaches with the rules and procedures.

There were brief comments.

Chief Fisher gave a suggestion for the parade offering the officers to be staged at the parking lots to keep people moving.

Vice Mayor Bott advised they are working on it now and trying to work out the problems. They will have the data tomorrow.

Councilwoman Bowden feels they need to make these sacrifices so they can get back to normal operations for next year. She feels that people will still come, just on a smaller scale. She added that small sacrifices now are for big rewards for later. She feels they should take every precaution. She added that whatever they decide is good with her.

3. Adjournment

Councilman McComb motioned, seconded by Vice Mayor Bott to adjourn. All present were in favor and the motion was carried.

J. Arthur Leonard, Mayor

Michael T. Tolbert, Town Manager

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