

**MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF AVON, OHIO HELD MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2020
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
AT 7:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Council Members: 1st Ward – Bob Butkowski; Council-at-Large – Brian Fischer; Council-at-Large – Tammy Holtzmeier; 2nd Ward - Dennis McBride; 3rd Ward-Tony Moore; 4th Ward — Scott Radcliffe; Council-at-Large – Craig Witherspoon; Mayor – Bryan Jensen; Law Director – John Gasior; Finance Director – William Logan; Clerk of Council – Barbara Brooks

ABSENT:

City Engineer – Ryan Cummins; Service Director – Mike Farmer; Planning and Economic Development Coordinator – Pam Fechter

STATEMENT FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT FISCHER REGARDING PROTOCOLS FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS AMID THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK AND THE STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED BY GOVERNOR DEWINE:

Council President Fischer advised we are living in some strange times and there are going to be some new protocols for Council Meetings during this crisis. Things may change and they may change quickly as updates are constantly coming from the Governor. He said they are encouraging people to refrain from attending meetings for their own health and the health of City officials. The recommended number of people allowed at a public gathering has dwindled from 50 to 10 people and they were going to have to decide protocols going forward. Mr. Fischer indicated there are signs posted on the door requesting people to practice social distancing if they decide to attend a public meeting. He said there are disinfecting wipes at the podium to wipe the microphone down after speaking. Mr. Fischer cautioned people if they come to a meeting and they show obvious signs of sickness they will be asked to leave for everyone’s safety. They are encouraging people if there is something of interest to them on the agenda, to please contact the Administration or a Council Member first as they may be able to answer their questions or concerns and emailed responses may be able to be read into the record. He said as they ask people to refrain from coming if they absolutely do not have to, he reminded them the audio recording is available upon request. Mr. Fischer advised they will be following the advice of health officials as well as the Governor and the Attorney General as they are constantly providing updates. Avon City Council will be relying heavily on Mr. Gasior for legal advice, interpretations, guidance and updates going forward. He said some rules may have to change based on what they are told from authorities.

1. [ORDINANCE NO. 28-20](#) – ADOPTING THE JANUARY 14, 2020 REVISION TO THE STANDARD CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS FOR THE CITY Planning Commission Referral
Second of Three Readings on Monday, March 23, 2020
A Public Hearing will be held at 7:25 p.m. on Monday, April 13, 2020

No comments were made.

2. [ORDINANCE NO. 29-20](#) – TO AMEND SECTIONS 1222.02, 1278.03, 1280.05 AND 1280.06 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY TO INCLUDE GARDEN CENTER ON THE SCHEDULE OF PERMITTED AND SPECIAL USES IN THE M-1 GENERAL INDUSTRIAL AND M-2 LIGHT INDUSTRIAL DISTRICTS Planning Commission Referral
Second of Three Readings on Monday, March 23, 2020
A Public Hearing will be held at 7:20 p.m. on Monday, April 13, 2020

Mr. Gasior advised as he mentioned at the last Work Session, they were still looking closely at the new definition and the need for that new definition and the Special Use and he was still working on that with Ms. Fechter. He said there is a designation in all of our different zoning districts of "FARM" and farm has a definition in Section 1222 and the definition of farm is so broad that it could include a garden center and they are going to try to work through that whole concept of farm and a more specific concept of a garden center to make sure they are on the right track. Mr. Gasior stated this is still a work in progress although on the third reading it may not change at all, but they were still looking at a few things.

Mr. McBride advised there were comments the last time this was discussed of entrances and exits being remote or not too close to an intersection.

Mr. Gasior felt that could be governed under existing code where the drive access is located in relation to any intersecting streets. Whatever the district guidelines call for is what would be applicable. In this case, if it is located in an Industrial District, they would look at Section 1278 and determine what the access drive rules are and follow them.

Mr. McBride advised that may be problematic for a retail operation in an Industrial District as traffic may be a little more limited. He felt that is one reason the Mayor has said they would look at it.

Mr. Gasior said if they do this as a Special Use it would probably be open to making changes in that area where they would locate an access drive. He stated that Planning Commission and Council could make some changes from the bare minimum in the Code. Mr. Gasior advised even under this "farm" concept they may still be able to add the commercial farm building/accessory farm building as a Special Use in the Industrial District/Commercial District. He reiterated they were studying it and they have it in front of them and if any of them have comments, to feel free to call him.

Mr. Butkowski advised during the initial discussion there was some talk about doing a traffic study. He did not know if that traffic study would be done prior to that third reading in order to have those results for discussing how they could wrap all this up together in one entity at that point.

Mr. Gasior advised he did not know about the traffic study, but he knows there is someone interested in some property and if they want to develop that industrial property, they may to do a traffic study. He said this specific code section may have application to that property; it may not, but he thinks it is separate and apart from whether that traffic study is done.

Mr. Butkowski asked if the results of that traffic study would merit the difference between industrial use versus a retail use. He said an industrial facility at that location does not need as many access points as a retail space might require. Mr. Butkowski asked if they should wait until they get the results back from the traffic study to see how it might fit within the requests of the applicant for a Special Use.

Mr. Gasior advised he would discuss it with the Planning Coordinator because she is in direct contact with the applicant going forward with the traffic study and their intended plans. He said he is working on the Ordinance, a change in the Code. Mr. Gasior stated he has some idea of why this is being done, but he does not want to get out in front of anyone.

Mr. Butkowski stated they, as Council, might want to hold off on this until they get the traffic study back to see if it fits within the Special Use request.

Mr. Gasior advised for purposes of making this amendment to the Code, if Council votes on this amendment and make a garden center a Special Use in this specific district, that traffic study would only come into play as part of that Special Use. He stated Council will see an Ordinance to grant a Special Use for that particular property owner if it turns out to be a garden center someday. Mr. Gasior advised he does not know if Council necessarily needs a traffic study to act on this specific Ordinance the way it is currently written. He said there is such a broad

definition of farm and underneath farm there are two definitions of a commercial farm building and that takes you into another section of the Code. There is a lot of cross referencing, depending upon the label placed on something. Mr. Gasior stated this is designed to add a new definition of garden center and that will have cross references. He understands their concern for a traffic study to help, but he is not sure they can ask the applicant to do a traffic study to help the City draft a code section. Ultimately, whatever Council decides is going to require a Special Use permit. He added that as part of that Special Use that traffic study will come into play.

Mrs. Holtzmeier suggested they continue to drill down the definition of garden center being proposed and perhaps think about quantifying how many plants may be available for sale at any one time to provide a standard and ultimately remains the business' primary business practice.

Mr. Gasior advised they are looking into that and were thinking along the lines of a percentage of the property being devoted to that use. He said in Pettiti's case, even though they bring in the plants from outside the area, they dedicate a certain percentage of the property to growing a certain type of product. Mr. Gasior stated that would certainly be different than having a brick and mortar store where everything is pure retail and there was no garden center component.

Mayor Jensen advised the reason they are asking for the Special Use is so they have the ability to go back and ask for certain things like the traffic study to be done. He said typically when talking about a garden center it is separate from a farm. Mayor Jensen stated there was an issue awhile back on Detroit Road when someone wanted to have a roadside stand and call it a farm. He advised this proposed garden center would bring in a lot of their product, but it is not a temporary situation like a roadside stand. He said the term farm is very broad and under that definition, this business would be allowed in a residential area and that is what the City is trying to control. By specifying exactly what it is, the City would still have some control and the reason they are trying to come up with a definition that fits instead of lumping it into the definition of farm. Mayor Jensen stated they want to be careful in defining a garden center as it looks a bit different than the standard retail business and they do not want to jeopardize or harm their business, but they also do not want to give an unfair advantage.

Mr. Gasior said as a stark example, a garden center would not sell livestock, but a farm could have livestock. He stated they are trying to define the garden center so that it is something in the nature of plants and fertilizer and small equipment. Mr. Gasior advised they were really trying to take that garden center definition and make it specific and carve it out of that broad section of the Code called a farm.

Mr. McBride advised he has had some past experience with running a building department where there was a big horse arena on a thousand acre farm and they questioned whether it was truly designated as an agricultural building and exempt from other regulations or did it fall under the basic building code. He felt there was a fine line there. Mr. McBride stated they commonly use the term Special Use, particularly in Avon's Code, and a lot of Avon's Special Uses are Conditional Uses. He said the applicant jumps through hoop A, B and C and then they automatically are granted the Special Use; the City/Council has no discretion. Mr. McBride said Council votes on it, but if the applicant jumps through those three hoops of that Code section, they have to say yes, or they could be sued and would lose. He advised he wanted to make sure if this is going to be a Special Use that it is a true Special Use and is 100% discretionary from the City's standpoint. Mr. McBride stated by discretionary he means that there would not be these hard-lined hoops to jump through and automatic approvals and that is his cautionary comment.

Mr. Gasior advised to Mr. McBride's point, if they read section 1280.02 or 1280.03 those are the issues that are discussed in Special Use. In addition to the black and white hoops that are identified in the Code, those two sections talk about other reasonable restrictions that can be placed upon the use. That is where it is up to the Planning Commission and City Council to identify what those other reasonable restrictions might be. He said if they do not add anything then all they are left with are those black and white hoops.

2a. [ORDINANCE NO. 31-20 – DETERMINING TO PROCEED WITH CITY IMPROVEMENTS TO ELIZABETH AVENUE, JOSEPH STREET, PUTH DRIVE AND DETROIT ROAD BY THE](#)

CONSTRUCTION OF AN APPROXIMATELY 6,100 FOOT SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM ALONG ELIZABETH AVENUE, PUTH DRIVE, JOSEPH STREET AND DETROIT ROAD BETWEEN ADDRESSES 34008 AND 34901, TOGETHER WITH ALL NECESSARY APPURTENANCES AND RELATED IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. Gasior

Mr. Gasior advised recently Council adopted the report of the Equalization Board and the next step in the process of moving forward on the Joseph Street, Puth Drive, Elizabeth Avenue and Detroit Road project is for Council to act on this Ordinance to Proceed. He said it is a statutory requirement and that is why it is being presented and the City cannot go out to bid and award the bid for this project without the Ordinance to Proceed.

3. RESOLUTION NO. R-11-20 – TO APPROVE WITH MODIFICATION THE NEW APPLICATION MADE BY KENNETH M. URIG, JR. TO HAVE CERTAIN LAND OWNED BY HIM LOCATED AT 35113 RIEGELSBERGER ROAD, PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 10-04-00-024-101-098, CONSISTING OF .79 ACRES AND LAND LOCATED ON JAYCOX ROAD PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 10-04-00-024-101-029, CONSISTING OF 2.68 ACRES DESIGNATED AS BEING LOCATED WITHIN AN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

Mr. Gasior

A Public Hearing will be held at 7:25 p.m. on Monday, March 23, 2020

Mr. Gasior advised these applications are generally received early in the year and this is no different except that it is a new application for the agricultural exemption and the County Auditor's office is where most of the work is completed for these applications. He said Council approving the application is another hurdle the applicant must meet. Mr. Gasior stated the Resolution has all the pertinent information that is straight forward and calls for Council's approval before the applicant can get relief on their real estate taxes.

4. RESOLUTION NO. R-12-20 – IN SUPPORT OF AND AFFIRMING AN APPLICATION MADE THROUGH THE AFG (ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT) REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS GRANT APPLICATION 2019

Mr. Logan

Mr. Logan advised the first Whereas clause of this Resolution briefly describes what these projects are about. He said Assistant Fire Chief Emling has been working on this for quite a while in conjunction with four other cities on the eastern side of Lorain County.

Assistant Fire Chief Emling advised this request is for a grant to be used for radio improvements to Safety Services and communications within the Department. He said with VHF being narrow banded twice so far, they were running into overlapping situations where the clarity is just not there. Mr. Emling stated as an example if there is a firefighter who needs help, this system is designed to help provide clarity to an individual's situation. He said this agreement is initiated by the five cities: Avon, Avon Lake, North Ridgeville, Sheffield Village and Sheffield Lake. He said Avon Lake Fire Department is the lead contact for this grant application and they are the ones who have received the implementation of the application for the grant requirements. The other four cities will also benefit if the grant is awarded so they will all share equally in the equipment needed with a ten percent co-pay.

Mr. Logan inquired as to the likelihood of the five cities getting that million dollars with this grant application.

Mr. Emling said it was hard to speculate at this point; however, the federal government, when they award these types of grants, give greater consideration for a grant that encompasses more than just our City. He advised with this regional grant having five cities involved that all work together, they are hoping for better placement in the pecking order for the grant to be awarded. Mr. Emling stated with this type of grant and the money they are seeking, he felt they have a good chance of it being awarded. He said they hired a grant writer and their success rate is 98% and he believes they have a good chance of being awarded this grant. However, with the coronavirus taking up the federal governments' time, they might not see this until next year.

Mr. McBride advised he knows they have done their due diligence along with Avon Lake, North Ridgeville, Sheffield Village and Sheffield Lake but he asked if there is enough radio capacity as the population continues to grow in this area and radio traffic continues to climb or will they have to split off in ten years or less.

Mr. Emling advised if they look at the current situation with their VHF channel it is just jammed. He said their bandwidth has been cut in half and then cut in half again and now they have everyone bleeding over into them and there is no safety forces channeling which they thought would come in the year 2000, but that never occurred. Mr. Emling stated they are trying to split hairs on these channels, and he bought the last four channels assigned to Lorain County with a 700-megahertz range. Those four channels will give them approximately 300+ other channels. He said the benefit of this type of a frequency is that those 300+ channels will be available to not only Avon's Fire Department, but the Police can get onboard, Schools can get onboard, Utilities can get onboard; everyone can get onboard because they will have so many channels. Mr. Emling stated they wanted the 700MHZ because it is not politically driven, and funding will not dry up based on the political climate. He said this way they have the hardware, the radio, their own channels and will be good for quite a long time.

Mr. McBride inquired if Avon Lake is the ideal location to be the host as they are north of the other four cities.

Assistant Chief Emling advised Avon's water tower at Mills Road and S.R. 83 will be utilized as well as Avon Lake's water tower at Avondale and Walker Road and that should give them the operating capacity of 98% coverage throughout the five cities. He said Avon Lake is identified as the lead in the grant application and there can only be one applicant.

Mr. Butkowski asked if they are awarded this grant and were able to upgrade the current equipment would the current radios and accessories still work with the new system or would they have to upgrade all that as well.

Mr. Emling advised they would have to upgrade. He said the radios purchased in the past five years were bought as a dual frequency type of radio, so they can have the VHF on one part of the radio and a UHF channeling on the other. Mr. Emling stated to get up and running they will need to reprogram the radios at approximately \$50 per radio. He said the portable radios will be the ones lagging and will need upgraded.

Mr. Butkowski asked if the Police and Utilities Departments also need to get new equipment.

Mr. Emling advised the Police Department will not, but the Utilities Department will as well as schools or anyone else that joins. He added that the Fire Department will still need to operate both bands.

Mr. Butkowski asked if the Police Department will also need that dual capability.

Mr. Emling advised he could not speak for the Police Department. He said the Fire Department is currently operating at 800MHZ and there is a subscription fee per radio. Mr. Emling suggested there might be some reprogramming issues if other departments come on their bandwidth.

5. [RESOLUTION NO. R-13-20 – TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO TAKE ANY AND ALL ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS DEEMED NECESSARY IN THE HANDLING OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS AS IT PERTAINS TO CITY OPERATIONS](#) Mayor Jensen

To Be Addressed at a Special Meeting Immediately Following this Work Session

Mayor Jensen advised he met with the Senior Center Coordinator and she and her staff will be making calls out to each senior citizen on their list to check on people as well as putting together care packages.

Mayor Jensen said the lessee of the Jameson House is currently going through a hardship and he plans to provide relief for a month or two on their rent.

Mayor Jensen stated they fumigated all the playgrounds and the children should be safer from any virus that might have been on playgrounds and the treatment is supposed to last about 90 days, but they were still looking at continuing to do it on a regular basis.

Mayor Jensen said he would like to see if there is any way they can help some of the small businesses in the City of Avon. He advised they are getting a group together to discuss ideas and he was not sure what that help is going to look like at this point and would only be on an emergency basis.

Mayor Jensen advised when listening to Governor DeWine today, Ohio is not even in the middle of the worst part of this pandemic yet. He said he is asking for Council to allow him to make decisions where he feels best suited to help with regards to the senior citizens, the children and the small businesses.

Mayor Jensen stated there are a lot of young people the City has committed to providing them jobs over the summer and what that will look like as far as allowing them to make some income before they head back to school in the fall.

Mayor Jensen advised he will keep Council informed every step of the way on money that is being spent. He said if at some point Council is not happy with how he is spending the money, they could discuss stopping his authority to do so. Mayor Jensen reiterated that it would only be for things related to the COVID-19 and would not be anything outside of that reason. He stated if any Council Member has any suggestions as to how the City can help the community to please let him know. Mayor Jensen explained the Lion's Club reached out to him and said they would help put care packages together for our senior citizens. He said our drivers for transportation of the senior citizens will be utilized to deliver the care packages to the front doorsteps. Mayor Jensen confirmed no employees would be going inside someone's home. He said they would also be hiring people to take phone calls to talk with the senior citizens to see how they are doing. Mayor Jensen stated they will also be reaching out to the library to see if there are books that could be distributed to senior citizens to help them pass their time. He believes that at some point the State is going to shut everything down and they want to be prepared.

Mr. Gasior advised a couple of the other things that need mentioned are the upcoming government meetings. He said there may be the possibility of having to cancel the April meeting of the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Gasior stated the Planning Commission meeting is coming up and are all a part of the Administrative side of the local government and part of this Resolution would give the Mayor the authority to postpone or cancel those meetings. He said this past weekend, the Council President, Mayor Jensen and himself were discussing tonight's meeting and Council meetings to follow and what they would look like. Mr. Gasior advised based on those conversations he felt it was important to add to Section One of this Resolution the following language for consideration at the Special Meeting following this Work Session, "*Finally, the Council President is authorized to cancel, postpone and/or reschedule any meeting of City Council or its various committees to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Avon and to safely and efficiently conduct the business of the City*". He felt it is important that the Council President also be able to act on the spur of the moment to cancel or reschedule meetings that come up. Mr. Gasior stated one thing discussed earlier today in an email from the Ohio Municipal League and the Ohio Association of Municipal Attorneys is the idea of how to hold public meetings during this pandemic. He advised one thing that the State Auditor is absolutely clear on is that if they are going to hold a government public meeting, the voting body must be present. Mr. Gasior stated there cannot be telephonic meetings or skype meetings and the like. He said the voting body cannot be counted as present electronically but must be personally present. Mr. Gasior advised the State is providing some leeway when it comes to calling meetings as there is normally a 24-hour notice rule, but exceptions are being made under these circumstances. He stated as Mayor Jensen pointed out, there may be something for which he needs to obtain funding and they could call an emergency meeting to appropriate the necessary funds and it appears the 24-hour rule is being suspended and he indicated there are other changes under ORC 5502.24. Mr. Gasior reiterated he would like to add that sentence to the legislation to also allow the Council President to act on the spur of the moment to call or cancel meetings as needed. He added we could be at the very beginning of this crisis and said from watching the Governor's statement this afternoon it was mentioned that they were looking at a peak date of May 1st and it is a very serious health issue. Mr. Gasior advised he would provide the corrected copy to all the parties for their signatures tomorrow assuming it passes at the Special Meeting.

Mrs. Holtzmeier asked in discussions with those groups if there has been any talk about relaxing the number for a quorum required for a meeting.

Mr. Gasior advised no. He said there has not been that discussion specifically and he does not know that will happen. Mr. Gasior stated considering that they are waiving the 24-hour notice rule, he felt they are trying to make it as easy as possible for local governments to meet with a quorum to act. He clarified he has not seen any discussion that local governments can act with 3 out of 7 members.

Mr. Witherspoon asked how that meets with the rules of Council, if there was a conflict.

Mr. Gasior advised that is the reason this Resolution is being presented to take care of the rules of Council during this period of emergency. He said most of this legislation references the Governor's state of emergency and once that emergency is lifted then all of this goes by the wayside.

Mr. Witherspoon advised the Charter has this body locked into the exact meeting times, but if he feels this Resolution covers that requirement then he was in support of its passage.

Mr. Gasior advised yes, and he believes that is all they can really do right now. He felt it is better to go with this Resolution instead of trying to change the Code for a specific event, even though it could be months long. He added that as long as the state of emergency is still present, he believes the Mayor and the Council President have to be relied upon to make those types of decisions at the spur of the moment. Mr. Gasior explained that Council is really suspending the rules of Council here for that reason.

Mr. McBride commented that he would love to know the rationale that they cannot Skype into a meeting of the Board of Zoning Appeals or other similar bodies when work has to continue to get done. Mr. McBride said he realizes that times are changing and he felt the State of Ohio was a little behind the times, although he was sure it was well grounded in rules, but moving forward it would be nice to know the reasoning behind what prohibits them from video conferencing. He mentioned the applicant for a BZA meeting should be allowed to Skype in for a meeting based on the technology available today.

Mr. Gasior clarified he does not know there would be a problem with the applicant Skyping into a meeting, but the voting members of the public body would have to be personally present at the meetings at least as the law states right now. He indicated that things are changing very rapidly in this time of crisis. Mr. Gasior felt they were at a point now where 10 people or less are supposed to be gathered at a meeting, which on Friday that number was at 100 people and things were changing by the hour. He advised it may come to the point where they will be able to participate by phone, but right now the voting body must be present in-person at the meeting in order to count for the quorum.

Mr. McBride advised the Governor announced the election was canceled for tomorrow, but he was looking at an article online that says, "Court Denies Ohio Governor's Request to Delay Primary".

Mr. Butkowski advised the Columbus Dispatch is announcing that the Judge said it would be a terrible precedent for a judge to step in twelve hours before polls open to rewrite the election code.

6. REPORTS AND COMMENTS

MAYOR JENSEN advised beginning tomorrow morning all City buildings besides the Police and Fire Department will be closed to the public. He said they were still going to operate within the departments, and he spoke with all the department heads regarding this action. Mayor Jensen stated phone numbers would be posted outside the building for people to call in and they are going to try to continue to keep operational while keeping the employees safe for as long as they can. He expects the Governor to make more announcements that may eventually close the City down. Mayor Jensen felt this is the most prudent way to keep operations going. He said in talking with the Building Department, they are still going to be doing inspections and new construction. Mayor Jensen stated with some of the remodeling requests they would be receiving the documentation but would try not to enter into anyone's home putting City employees at risk. He said the Water Department and Street Department will still be operational as much as possible. Mayor Jensen emphasized any employee who does not feel well is asked to stay home and by limiting exposure to the public they feel it is a protective barrier to keep the City operational longer and he believes the employees feel more comfortable with that solution. He said they were asking that documents be emailed if at all possible. Mayor Jensen advised they are emphasizing the washing of hands and other safe practices. He said sports equipment will be set outside the door for pickup as those might be ongoing in smaller groups.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

MR. BUTKOWSKI, WARD 1 reminded everyone to be safe and follow the warning signs for this virus.

MRS. HOLTZMEIER, AT LARGE advised she hopes when they are able to look back on all of this that they can say they did what they could, as early as they could and they were smart in the decisions. She said she is praying for those on the front lines of this pandemic and hopes that everyone stays safe and healthy.

MR. MCBRIDE, WARD 2 advised Mrs. Holtzmeier's husband is one of those on the front lines as well as a lot of police and fire and a number of other people they personally know. He said it really hit home for him when he was at the Chamber luncheon last Thursday when Dr. Starck from Cleveland Clinic, Avon came into and basically scolded them all for being gathered at the luncheon meeting and said the event should have been canceled and then she immediately left. Mr. McBride said he does not know the answers, but China was not looking so crazy at this point and suggested that maybe lock down was the way to handle this pandemic in order to get through it and stop the spread. He hoped to see them all next week.

MR. MOORE, WARD 3 advised his wife is a nurse and regarding this virus he asked everyone to stay vigilant with washing their hands and to be smart and be careful.

MR. RADCLIFFE, WARD 4 wished everyone safety and God bless.

MR. WITHERSPOON, AT LARGE asked if the Planning Commission meeting is still planned for Wednesday of this week.

Mayor Jensen advised the Planning Commission meeting is still planned for this week. He said they will distance the members from each other and there are only two items on the agenda as they postponed everything that is not crucial or might be controversial to keep the numbers low at the meetings. Mayor Jensen stated they would wait until a later date to reschedule some of the agenda items that are being postponed so people can express their concerns on those items when it would be appropriate.

MR. FISCHER, AT LARGE advised they want to stay open, but they are encouraging people not to come in as the City has to function and has to move forward. He thanked the other members of Council and members of the media who are present tonight as they were all putting themselves at risk because they have to and the media has to get the word out to the people. Mr. Fischer said they do not want to compromise anyone's health or safety. He stated in talking with the Mayor and Mr. Gasior they are going to try to keep the agendas down to only essential items to keep the City running. Mr. Fischer said as Mr. Gasior noted, this is changing rapidly. He advised he is worried about our safety forces and believes we need to keep a close eye on their health as they could lose a whole shift quickly and it might have to become a regional thing if necessary. Mr. Fischer stated whoever the new Safety Director is going to be, will be jumping in head-first. Stay safe everyone.

DIRECTORS/ADMINISTRATION:

MR. CUMMINS, CITY ENGINEER was absent.

MR. FARMER, SERVICE DIRECTOR was absent.

MS. FECHTER, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/PLANNING COORDINATOR was absent.

MR. GASIOR, LAW DIRECTOR advised this is uncharted territory and it changes literally hour by hour. He said that a lot of what those on the front lines, the doctors and nurses, are being asked to do is designed to protect them so that they can continue to do their jobs and limit their exposures. Mr. Gasior stated if we are at the very beginning of this pandemic, he does not see any reason why we should not be staying home and self-quarantining as much as possible. He said he is going to avoid as much contact as possible, but he is available by phone and email to Council or the Mayor if they need anything. Mr. Gasior advised today alone they had some issues with the rental agreements for the Avon Isle and all those people who have booked their event and what is going to be done. He said there is also Mayor's Court that had to be dealt with over the course of the last week and how that is going to be handled going forward, which then implicates the whole way the Police

Department is going to be operating. He advised it is complicated and everyone is trying to do the best they can, but it is uncharted territory. Mr. Gasior stated to Mrs. Holtzmeier's point, he hopes that when this is over, and they can look back, that they will be proud of what they did.

MR. LOGAN, FINANCE DIRECTOR advised they might expect that they are not going to be selling the refunding bonds this week as everything is very volatile. He said the good news is that all the necessary legislation related to that advance refunding and the City's credit rating is out so, when the time is right, they will "pull that trigger" on roughly \$34 million of advance refunding bonds.

Mr. Logan asked everyone to support their local businesses as much as possible.

AUDIENCE:

No comments were made from the audience members.

7. ADJOURN: 8:20 P.M.

There being no further business the Work Session of Council was adjourned.

PASSED: _____

SIGNED BY: _____
Brian Fischer, Council President

ATTEST: _____
Barbara Brooks, Clerk of Council