

Moscow City Council



Special Meeting ~Minutes~

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Laurie M. Hopkins
City Clerk

208.883.7015

Tuesday, April 28, 2020

4:00 PM

**Council Chambers
206 E. Third St.**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. All those present for the meeting participated by video.

PRESENT: Mayor Bill Lambert, Art Bettge, Sandra Kelly, Maureen Laflin, Brandy Sullivan, Gina Taruscio, Anne Zabala

STAFF: Gary J. Riedner, Mia Bautista, Bill Belknap, Jen Pfiffner, Tyler Palmer, Zack Ellis, Laurie M. Hopkins

OTHERS: Carol Moehrle, Director of Public Health - Idaho North Central District

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Lambert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. COVID-19 Response Review and Discussion (ACTION ITEM) - Gary J. Riedner

Residents and businesses of the City of Moscow continue to comply with Governor Brad Little's Order to Self-Isolate through April 30, 2020, issued by Idaho Department of Health and Welfare Director Dave Jeppeson as amended on April 15, 2020, and the Public Health Emergency Orders 20-01 and 20-02, issued by Mayor Bill Lambert and extended to May 5, 2020 by the Moscow City Council through Resolutions 2020-06 and 2020-07.

On April 23, 2020, Governor Little held a press conference and issued his "Idaho Rebounds Guidelines for Opening Up Idaho", which describes the current stage of the State's COVID-19 response, referencing the current Order to Self-Isolate. The plan then describes four distinct stages which provide a protocol for opening the economy for the state. Each stage is dependent upon the criteria of the previous stage being met, and sets targets for reopening and/or regulation of different types of activities in order to provide a return to economic activities, while protecting the public from the spread of COVID-19. Each stage of the plan will be re-evaluated every two weeks "against criteria to determine feasibility to advance from one stage to the next". The plan also states that the dates are estimated targets.

The City of Moscow's Public Health Emergency Orders are in place until expiration on May 5, 2020, unless modified, extended or terminated by the City Council through adoption of a Resolution to that effect. At the time the Mayor issued Public Health Emergency Orders 20-01 and 20-02, and those Orders were extended by the Moscow City Council through Resolutions 2020-06 and 2020-07, the Governor had not issued the Order to Self-Isolate, which was issued on March 25, 2020, and was effective until 11:59 pm on April 15, 2020, unless extended or modified. On April 15, 2020, the Order to Self-Isolate was extended until 11:59 pm on April 30. Stage 1 of the Governor's Idaho Rebounds Guidelines for Opening Up Idaho starts on May 1, 2020 and Stage 4 is expected to complete on June 26, 2020.

In light of the issuance by Governor Little of the Idaho Rebounds plan, the City Council may elect to review and modify, terminate or extend its current Resolutions 2020-06 and 2020-07.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Review Governor Little's Rebound Idaho plan and determine whether to modify, extend, or terminate Resolutions 2020-06 and 2020-07; or to leave such Resolutions to expire on May 5, 2020; or take such other action deemed appropriate.

Riedner introduced the item as written above. The guidelines issued by the governor are currently only guidelines and are not enforceable. Further guidance will be given by the governor Thursday. Staff is now recommending tabling this issue to a special meeting to take place April 30 at 5:00 p.m. By that time the governor will have issued the additional order and council can make a decision to terminate, modify, or leave the current emergency orders alone. Carol Moehrle thanked the Mayor and the Council for their leadership early in the COVID situation. The stages go through the end of June with gatherings rolling out slowly and social distancing lasting quite awhile. Moehrle described the four stages. Plans are submitted to the local health department unless that business has a licensing entity through the state, which then the local health department is only a guide to assist opening safely.

If Idaho opens and then has to close again, Laflin is concerned that going backwards will be difficult to implement. Moehrle agrees, if there is only guidance, she anticipates businesses "foregoing" the guidance. Laflin suggested the health department create some advertisements for promoting wearing masks.

Bettge commented the protocols in the four-stage recovery says "no significant increase". Significant is difficult to define as one person in Latah County would be 20% but in Nez Perce County it would be less than 2%. How is the word significant being judged and should it be based on entire state or regionally? Bettge's other concern is availability of testing. Moehrle agreed there are a few words not defined in the stages nor are there any metrics set. For her, significant would be a cluster, not one person. Latah County does not have any community spread in the five cases to date. The State of Idaho follows the CDC recommendation for testing and reality is there is not enough testing in most states. Sullivan asked about county to county consideration. Moehrle said for now the governor's approach is state-wide. Nez Perce is being looked at very closely by public health but because it is a senior facility, the risk is slow. Restaurants, daycares and schools have a checklist of items to include in their plans to turn into public health. If there is a licensing entity for the business, there is no plan required. The health department is there for guidance and is posting some suggestions such as limiting interactions, masks, temperatures, etc. Kelly asked what the next step would be if a business had an approved plan but was not following the guidelines. Moehrle said for daycares, there is a formal complaint process. Taruscio asked about enforcement when it is guidance. Moehrle agreed guidance is not enforceable. Bautista agrees guidance is guidance and police force shouldn't be used when it isn't enforceable.

Riedner said the Governor will have a conference call with the Mayor's of Idaho Wednesday and a press conference Thursday where further information will be given. The Governor did talk with the AARP today where he indicated further discussion will take place, which you can presume will be regarding enforcement. Staff proposes a 5:00 p.m. special meeting Thursday. Sullivan moved to table the meeting until 5:00 p.m. Thursday, April 30, 2020. Seconded by Taruscio. Laflin said she has a concern that phase one begins on May 1 which allows no time for businesses to prepare. Sullivan

added that she did not realize Rebound Idaho is not an order or enforceable and that changes a lot. If the governor makes an order Thursday, the council is right where we thought we would be. Riedner said staff expected an order but the phases are guidelines. Council's emergency order is still in effect until Monday. Delaying a vote on the current resolution until Thursday puts the council in the same position they are in now. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

Discussion ensued regarding the time of the meeting on Thursday.

2. Update on City Operations Due to COVID-19 Response (ACTION ITEM) - Gary J. Riedner

City Staff will discuss preliminary plans and updates relating to continuity of City operations as a result of Governor Little's Rebound Idaho plan and City Council direction regarding its Resolutions 2020-06 and 2020-07, extending Mayor Lambert's Public Health Emergency Orders 20-01 and 20-02.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Receive updates and provide staff direction.

Riedner said there have been many questions about the city reopening and specific items such as playgrounds and such. Playgrounds would not be available to open under the governor's order until Thursday night. However, the staged guidance doesn't allow them to open until the first stage. Youth activities is not defined very well in the guidelines but protocols should be issued Thursday by the governor's office. Staff is looking into how to open youth activities and playgrounds legally as the guidelines say social distancing must continue. The city attorney and Parks and Recreation department is currently working on the issue. The swimming pool is another discussion where staff is exploring ways to open if directed to. Staff has been working on a soft opening of City facilities, also a phased approach. Ideas included in this phased approach is requiring masks be worn in City Hall, cleaning routines, minimizing employees in the same office, social distancing, shields for desks, continuing at-home work for some employees, and online services as much as possible. Anticipation for soft reopening on May 6 for City Hall. By end of June, City should be back to the new normal.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

ATTEST:


Laurie M. Hopkins, City Clerk




Bill Lambert, Mayor