

EMERGENCY CALLED MEETING, MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF COVINGTON, GEORGIA, TELECONFERENCE, MARCH 19, 2020, 6:00 PM.

Mayor Steve Horton presided with Mayor Pro-Tem Susie Keck, Council members: Kenneth Morgan, Anthony Henderson, Fleeta Baggett, and Don T. Floyd, City Manager Scott Andrews, City Clerk Audra M. Gutierrez, and City Attorney Frank Turner, Jr. present. Council member Hawnethia Williams was absent.

A quorum was present at 6:10 by teleconference.

Mayor Horton discussed a resolution for the Council to consider which would prohibit gatherings:

6. That in accordance with section 2.52.040 of Chapter 2.52 of the Covington code of ordinances:

(a) Voluntary Shelter in Place: Beginning at 8:00 P.M. on Friday, March 20, 2020, and concluding at 5:00 A.M. on Tuesday, April 7, 2020, unless otherwise extended, a voluntary shelter in place policy is hereby implemented requesting the persons not loiter, wander, stroll, or play in any public place within the territorial limits of Covington, provided, however, that the provisions of this section shall not apply in the following instances:

- i. When a person is upon an emergency errand;
- ii. When a person is traveling to, or returning directly home from, lawful employment or otherwise engaged in lawful employment that makes it necessary to be in above referenced places during the proscribed period of time;
- iii. When a person is attending or traveling directly to or from an activity involving the exercise of First Amendment rights of free speech, freedom of assembly, or free exercise of religion;
- iv. When a person is engaged in interstate and intrastate vehicular travel through Covington, Georgia;
- v. When a person is walking, biking or running to or from their residence for recreational or fitness purposes; and
- vi. When a person is procuring food or medicine or seeking medical care.

(b) Prohibition on Gatherings: Beginning at 8:00 P.M. on Friday, March 20, 2020, and concluding at 5:00 A.M. on Tuesday, April 7, 2020, unless otherwise extended, all public assemblages, events, and gatherings within the territorial limits of the City of Covington of ten (10) or more people shall be prohibited, not including employee in

restaurants, bars, and/or entertainment establishments and exempting gatherings within buildings owned by the City of Covington or Newton County, Georgia.

(c) If a restaurant is licensed to sell beer and wine for on-premises consumption, such restaurant, during the effective dates of this Resolution only, shall be authorized to sell unopened bottles of beer or wine currently in inventory as of this date for take-out consumption off-premises.

(d) The due date and payment of alcohol excise taxes of restaurants licensed to sell alcoholic beverages pursuant to Article 3 of Chapter 5.12 of the Covington code of ordinances shall be delayed through and until June 30, 2020 and shall not be subject to penalties or interest. Any alcohol excise taxes of restaurants that accrue and are unpaid during the period until June 30, 2020 shall be paid to the City in six (6) equal installments in the months of July through December. All alcohol excise taxes of restaurants shall be due and payable in the normal procedure beginning July 1, 2020.

It was the consensus of the Council to change 6(a) Voluntary Shelter in Place time from 8 PM to 9 PM.

1. Motion made by Council member Keck, seconded by Council member Floyd to approve the adoption of a resolution prohibiting gatherings during a local State of Emergency related to COVID-19, and for other purposes, as presented with the change in time as noted above.

Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 6:42 PM.

Steve Horton, Mayor

Audra M. Gutierrez, City Clerk