

MINUTES

The Rural Hall Town Council held a special meeting on March 26, 2020 at 2:00 PM in the Town Hall Council Chambers. The following members were present: Mayor Timothy M. Flinchum - presiding; Mayor Pro Tem John N. McDermon; Councilwoman Susan H. Gordon; Councilman Ricky S. Plunkett; Councilman Jesse A. Stigall; Town Manager Megan M. Garner; and Town Clerk Dora K. Moore.

Families First Coronavirus Response Act – Manager Garner shared that the information related to COVID-19 and the Families First Coronavirus Response Act is almost overwhelming. Staff has developed a policy that, hopefully, matches up with the requirements. Bob Joyce with the School of Government has reviewed the policy and made one change. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act becomes effective April 1. Manager Garner explained in detail the Emergency FMLA and Paid Sick Leave Policy before the Council noting the policy reflects both parts of the Act. Legally, the Town could exempt emergency responders from both options. There are only two full-time emergency responders impacted by the school closures. If they were to request leave based upon the policy, Manager Garner does not feel it would have a drastic impact. However, should the emergency responders be impacted in other ways and need to request leave, the department could be greatly impacted at which time, the policy may need to be revisited. With the quickly changing regulations, Manager Garner requested Council approve the policy and permit staff to revise the policy as needed based upon federal requirements and additional guidance and report those changes to Council. Councilman Ricky S. Plunkett made a motion to approve the Emergency FMLA and Paid Sick Leave Policy as presented. Councilman Jesse A. Stigall seconded the motion. Councilman Ricky S. Plunkett amended his motion to further state that staff had permission to revise the policy based upon School of Government and federal guidance and to report the revisions to the Council. Councilman Jesse A. Stigall seconded the amended motion. Council approved the motion unanimously. (*Emergency FMLA and Paid Sick Leave Policy is included with the minutes.*)

Rules of Procedures Amendment – Manager Garner presented an amendment to the Town's Rules of Procedures to allow electronic meeting participation so business can proceed as usual during emergency situations. Council consensus was that the Mayor determines when an emergency warrants electronic meetings.

Addition to Part III. Open Meetings, Rule 3 Remote Participation in Council Meetings

However, in the event of a declared State of Emergency, it may not be possible or advisable for the Town Council to be physically present for a meeting. Remote participation is permissible during times when the Mayor has declared a State of Emergency for the Town of Rural Hall and the following conditions are met:

- 1). It is deemed necessary to meet and it is not feasible to cancel the meeting; and
- 2). It is impossible or unsafe to meet in person.

When the above stipulations have been satisfied, the Mayor may approve remote participation and those participating remotely shall be counted for the purpose of establishing a quorum. All Council Members participating remotely shall have access to all documents to be considered during the meeting and can vote on all matters allowed under this exception. Additionally, they must be fully heard, and if clear audio is not available, the Mayor may elect to disallow or discontinue the remote participation.

The Town Clerk will provide a mechanism for the public to listen to the meeting via electronic means.

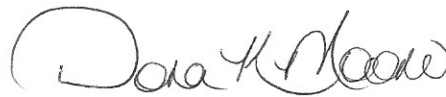
Mayor Pro Tem John N. McDermon made a motion approving the revised Rules of Procedures as presented. Councilman Jesse A. Stigall seconded the motion and motion passed unanimously. *(Revised Rules of Procedures is included with the minutes.)*

Town Operations – Manager Garner reported that other than the following, the Town continues business as usual.

- Staff knows they can self-quarantine and use paid leave.
- Bulk item has been suspended indefinitely.
- Town Hall closes to the public effective Friday, March 27 at 4 PM. Staff will still report to work.
- Covington Park playground closes effective Monday, March 30. The park will remain open.

Mayor Flinchum stated that, at this time, he has chosen to opt out of the Forsyth County stay-at-home order. It was noted that the City of King opted out of the Forsyth County order as well.

There being no further business, motion was made by Councilman Ricky S. Plunkett to adjourn at 2:57 PM.



Dora K. Moore
Town Clerk