

MINUTES
Warrenton City Commission
Emergency Meeting – March 21, 2020
5:00 p.m.
Warrenton City Hall - Commission Chambers
225 S. Main
Warrenton, OR 97146

Mayor Balensifer called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioners Present: Mayor Henry Balensifer, Rick Newton, Tom Dyer, and Mark Baldwin, and Pam Ackley (via phone)

Staff Present: City Manager Linda Engbretson, Police Chief Mathew Workman, Police Officer Josh Hollaway, Police Sergeant Jim Pierce, Fire Chief Brian Alsbury, City Attorney Spencer Parsons (via phone), and City Recorder Dawne Shaw, Jennifer Purcell Governor's office (via phone).

Mayor Balensifer stated the purpose of the emergency meeting is to declare a State of Emergency in the City of Warrenton due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He explained the current situation; vacationers flooding the city despite the measures that have been put into place for social distancing by State and Federal. Mayor Balensifer continued to explain that the city has been in contact with legal to help navigate through these times. Mayor Balensifer asked for Spencer Parsons, City Attorney, to explain the City of Warrenton's Charter authority and the laws applicable under the State of Oregon's declared emergency. Mr. Parsons explained.

Mayor Balensifer read Resolution No. 2564 aloud for the record and public benefit.

Commissioner Newton asked for clarification on section 2. Mayor Balensifer clarified that we evoke the emergency clause within our municipal code and it enables us to bypass our bidding process so that we don't have to go through a lengthy process just to obtain necessities. Mr. Parsons noted the state public contracting rules allow the city to enter into discrete contracts on a case by case basis as long as there is a determination that it is addressing an emergency. This is just clarifying there is an emergency that may require more than one contract to be entered into, so it takes care of not having to have individual findings of an emergency each time the city enters into a contract because of COVID-19.

Commissioner Newton made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2564; A Resolution of the Warrenton City Commission Declaring a State of Emergency Because of the COVID-19 Outbreak. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Baldwin – aye; Balensifer – aye; Ackley – aye; Newton – aye; Dyer – aye

Mayor Balensifer noted Resolution 2564 is adopted and a State of Emergency is declared.

Mayor Balensifer read Resolution No. 2565; to ensure the Public Health and Safety of the Citizens of Warrenton and to Avoid Unnecessary Risks to Hospital Surge in Clatsop County. He noted Police Chief Workman is present to provide comment on enforcement. Chief Workman stated that what we have to

plan for is how long people have to vacate, and we will make sure that people are complying with the order. He noted he thinks it is good that the commission is giving individuals a small grace period to make plans to move on to wherever they need to go. He continued to note a violation of ORS Chapter 401 is a class C misdemeanor and is arrestable. He hopes it will not come to that, but the Warrenton Police Department is prepared to do what they need to do to enforce the emergency declaration. Mayor Balensifer noted that there will be many people leaving in a short time period. If for some reason there is a public safety issue Warrenton Police Department can manage that at their discretion, but the commission is providing a baseline for the Police Department to operate. Ms. Engbretson noted that she left one section off of the Resolution, camping on private property, except by Police Chief or local health authority. She stated it's currently addressed in our camping authority, but she does want to note the addition to this Resolution. Mayor Balensifer noted that section 7 will be moved to become section 8 and succession thereof will become 9 and 10. Section 7 will now read "as all recreational camping on private property will be prohibited except if permitted from Clatsop County Health Department or Warrenton Police Chief." Mr. Parsons noted that under the emergency declaration that just passed and the emergency operation plan (EOP) if there are other similar related issues that arise, the EOP allows the EOP Manager to evoke orders that can implement the same type of concepts that are off the radar right now. It is not necessary for the city manager to come back to the commission to address other issues as they come up. Commissioner Ackley asked for clarification on section 2, and if there could be modification for residential users. Mayor Balensifer clarified. Mr. Parsons confirmed. Mayor Balensifer noted he does not want the KOA to become a loophole for people to come and stay in Warrenton. Conversation continued. Commissioner Newton suggested defining a long-term resident as someone who registered ten days ago and no new long-term residents would be allowed. Commissioner Baldwin stated at a minimum; that should be the minimum. Commissioner Dyer noted he thinks Police Chief should have the discretion. Mr. Parsons noted that whatever language is going to be used for KOA should also be used for Campers West. Conversation continued. Mayor Balensifer asked for guidance on verbiage from Mr. Parsons. Mr. Parsons would propose a provision stating that all campgrounds shall be closed except to current residential users as of March 11, 2020 under 30 day or longer periods to stay in those parks. Mayor Balensifer stated we will use the same language for all parks. Conversation continued. Mayor Balensifer stated we will amend this Resolution No. 2565 to encompass that all sections related to campgrounds will note that campgrounds will close to all users except current residential users as of March 11, 2020 under a 30 day or longer contract except for employees and camp hosts. There was a consensus.

Commissioner Baldwin moved to amend Resolution No. 2565 to encompass all campgrounds, and campgrounds will be closed to all users except for current residential users as of March 11, 2020 under a 30 day or longer contract also exempting camp hosts and employees. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Baldwin – aye; Balensifer – aye; Ackley – aye; Newton – aye; Dyer – aye

Commissioner Baldwin moved to make the second amendment stating all camping on private property shall be prohibited without the approval of the Warrenton Police Chief and Public Health Authority.

Baldwin – aye; Balensifer – aye; Ackley – aye; Newton – aye; Dyer – aye

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Commissioner Newton made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2565 as amended; to Ensure the Public Health and Safety of the Citizens of Warrenton and to Avoid Unnecessary Risks to Hospital Surge in Clatsop County. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Baldwin – aye; Balensifer – aye; Ackley – aye; Newton – aye; Dyer – aye

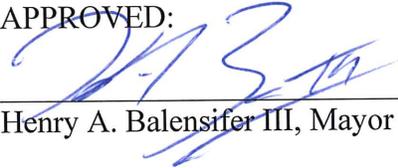
Mayor Balensifer noted that all resolutions are passed unanimously.

Ms. Engbretson stated that she hopes majority of folks affected by this will work cooperatively with the city to not tax our law enforcement and limited resources. She thanked local partners. Mayor Balensifer noted he has been in contact with the county commission and Senator Johnson – and we have their support. A brief conversation continued. Ms. Engbretson noted we will not be proceeding with utility shuts off for at least the next 30 days. She continued to note that if citizens can pay their bills she would encourage them to do so. Consensus was to halt utility shut offs for 30 days.

There being no further business, Mayor Balensifer adjourned the emergency meeting at 5:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lindsay Duarte, Deputy City Recorder.

APPROVED:


Henry A. Balensifer III, Mayor

ATTEST:


Dawne Shaw, CMC, City Recorder