



City Hall, Council Chambers
401 S. Johnstone Avenue
Bartlesville, OK 74003

**MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
BARTLESVILLE CITY COUNCIL
Monday, November 23, 2020
10:30 a.m.**

**Mayor Dale Copeland
918-338-4282**

MINUTES

(The Notice of Meeting and Agenda was posted November 18, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.)

City Council present were Mayor Dale Copeland, Vice Mayor Alan Gentges, Jim Curd, Jr. Trevor Dorsey and Paul Stuart.

City staff present were Mike Bailey, City Manager; Jess Kane, City Attorney; Jason Muninger, City Clerk/CFO; Kelli Williams, Chief Communications Officer; and Captain Kelley Thomas, Security.

- 1. Mayor Copeland called the Business Meeting of the Bartlesville City Council to order at 10:30 a.m.**
- 2. Roll call was conducted and a quorum established.**
- 3. The invocation was provided by Mayor Copeland.**
- 4. Citizens to be heard.**

Chelsie Wagoner spoke against the proposed mask requirement in City facilities.

- 5. Discuss and take possible action to adopt a Resolution authorizing a local public information campaign to increase awareness and compliance with CDC recommendations for reducing the spread of COVID-19; providing a budget for this campaign; requiring face coverings for persons within City owned facilities; and authorizing the City Manager to take certain actions related to City operations to protect the employees and customers of the City from COVID-19.**

Mr. Bailey provided a general update and status of total cases in Washington County. Mike Moore, CEO, Ascension St. John Jane Phillips, provided an update and status on COVID beds, patients, equipment and staffing. He encouraged citizens to take the pandemic seriously by washing hands, wearing masks in public, social distance, and to be sure to get a flu shot. Discussion between he and the City Council covered the disposition of hospital staff; that Jane Phillips is a transfer center taking patients from the center of Oklahoma to north into Kansas; that the ICU at 90% full at all times from all types of illness; that numbers of intake has increased over the last week which includes several from other communities; the availability of a vaccine in the near future; how the long term health care centers are better prepared now; the accuracy of testing; and how the hospital will begin rapid testing in the next week. The City Council expressed their appreciation of Mr. Moore, the hospital and the hospital staff.

Mr. Bailey provided an update to the impact of COVID upon City Operations with a total result of lost time totaling 2,340 days that includes actual employees testing positive, employees who have been exposed and must quarantine, and those out tending to children who were exposed and cannot attend school. He also provided current information from the CDC on the spread of COVID and the most current mitigation information. In the proposed resolution, Mr. Bailey requested the use of the remaining CARES Funds in the amount of \$23,388 to develop and distribute a public information campaign focusing on the three W's – Wear a mask, Watch your distance, and Wash your hands. In addition, the resolution will require face coverings inside City-owned facilities with the exception of children under the age of 10, those who have a medical exception, outdoor city facilities such as parks and Pathfinder, or to employees who work in an office or vehicle that is not occupied by other people.

Ms. Williams reported that the public information campaign will focus on the three W's as mentioned above. She put together an advisory board to assist with marketing the campaign that includes five people from the community whose expertise is communicating and marketing. The campaign will be launched on all social platforms, in City Beat and on the City's website. The advisory board will develop strategies and design for direct marketing, signage, flyers and utility bill information. They will also be working within the business community to assist in distributing information, as well as with the public health and medical experts. Ms. Williams concluded that the goal is to launch the campaign the second week in December.

Mr. Baily concluded his presentation by stating that the proposed resolution will reauthorize many of the actions already in place with his authority regarding any necessary restrictions with City operations. The resolution would go into effect at 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, November 24, 2020 and will remain in effect until March 1, 2021.

Discussion covered confirming that required face coverings do not include parks and Pathfinder; how local retail stores are again counting how many people are inside a facility at a time; urging local citizenry to wear masks to assist getting the numbers down and until a vaccine is made available; how Ms. Williams has kept the public informed and is continuing to do so; how the mask mandate for City facilities will not affect the Community Center, Bartlesville Development Authority location or the Bartlesville Redevelopment Trust Authority office, or the former Siemens building; insurance costs due to sick employees; how quarantined employees are being paid under Administrative Leave and can work from home depending on the job they must provide; how the Council is hopeful that additional compliance will decrease exposure to citizens and to the employees who provide essential services; how the funding is in place through the CARES Funding Act, a federal program; and how important it is to mitigate illness in order to not overwhelm our hospital and hospital staff so that care is available to not only COVID patients but those who need other medical procedures; and how the City's water and wastewater staff, if effected by illness, can operate under reduced staff.

Vice Mayor Gentges moved to approve the resolution as presented, seconded by Mr. Curd.

Voting Aye:	Mr. Stuart, Mr. Dorsey, Mr. Curd, Vice Mayor Gentges, Mayor Copeland
Voting Nay:	None
Motion:	Passed

6. City Manager and Staff Reports.

Mr. Bailey thanked the City Council for their flexibility in meeting at a different time than normal to discuss and address these important issues.

Thanksgiving holiday trash service will be as follows: Thursday pickup will be on Wednesday and Friday trash routes will run on Friday.

7. City Council Comments and Inquiries.

Mr. Dorsey thanked Ms. Wagoner and Mr. Moore for attending and speaking today. He also thanked his fellow councilmembers and Mr. Bailey for their diligence dealing with the pandemic issues.

Mr. Bailey expressed his congratulations to all of the councilmembers on their re-election to serve another two years on the City Council.


Mr. Stuart reminded citizens to take their cardboard to the Recycling Center.

Mayor Copeland encouraged everyone to get his or her flu shots.

He also encouraged citizens to sign up to receive City Beat. He feels that it is the best source of news not only for COVID information, but also for all information pertaining to the City. Sign-up can be found at cityofbartlesville.org on the home page.

8. There being no further business to address, Mayor Copeland adjourned the meeting at 11:44 a.m.


Dale W. Copeland, Mayor


Jason Muninger, City Clerk/CFO

