



SURFSIDE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS / TELECONFERENCE
115 US HIGHWAY 17 NORTH, SURFSIDE BEACH, SC 29575
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TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING Minutes
Tuesday, July 7, 2020, • 2:00 pm

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11 **1. CALL TO ORDER.** Mayor Hellyer called the special meeting to order at 2:00 pm. Mayor Hellyer,
12 Mayor Pro Tempore Scoles, Councilmembers Holder, and Keating were in attendance. Others
13 present Town Attorney Crosby, and Town Clerk Sheri Medina. Absent: Councilmembers Drake,
14 Dietrich, and Pellegrino.

15 **2. PUBLIC COMMENTS** Mayor Hellyer stated I am just going to make a statement.
16 During the course of planning this meeting, I have received twenty-seven emails pertaining to
17 wearing the masks in Surfside Beach. Of those, all of them were in favor of it, with the exception
18 of four emails that were not for it. So, I'm not going to read all the comments. It is very obvious
19 that several people that wrote to us are in favor of the mask ordinance. So, what we're going to
20 do is open this up for discussion.

21
22 **3. BUSINESS**

23
24 **A. FACE MASKS**

25
26 Councilmember Holder made a motion to implement a mask ordinance. Councilmember Scoles
27 seconded.

28
29 Councilmember Keating stated, as I said, I was not supportive of a mask Ordinance. Not that I
30 am opposed to wearing masks, I have one here in my pocket. But, it has also been found that
31 these ordinances are not enforceable. I think we've got more than enough ordinances on our
32 books that our police department cannot enforce. It causes quite a bit of angst, amongst the
33 town residents and visitors when we have ordinances that are enforced. I think this is just
34 another one on that list. The local municipalities that are passing these ordinances are making
35 them very distinctive and selective. It's like saying, seat belts are required in Fords and Chevys,
36 but not the others. I think that it's a little too specialized.

37
38 The virus is out there, and every individual need to take measures to protect themselves and be
39 considerate of others. Granted, not everybody is going to do that, but not everybody's going to
40 do it if there's a mandate either. I just feel that the mandates being selective are not
41 appropriate. The fact that they're unenforceable is not appropriate. The fact that for every expert
42 that's out there that says they're effective, there's an expert that says they're not. So, there's no
43 definitive benefit one way or the other. I think we should still strongly recommend the wearing of
44 masks when there's no assurance of social distancing in public situations where you or others
45 may be transmitting the virus. I think we're putting our police officers and the reputation of our
46 town once again on the firing line for more rules not being enforced.

47
48 Councilmember Holder stated I understand we're Cindy is coming from. As she said, this mask
49 Ordinance is not enforceable, and we don't want to be issuing tickets for it. But what it does,
50 people should be wearing masks, and they should be told if one of our police officers see
51 someone and asks them to please wear a mask. We want people to come here and have a good

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52 time, not intending to get tickets. And so, I do think we need one just now for that purpose.
53 We've heard from a lot our residents saying that they want a mask ordinance.
54

55 Councilmember Scoles stated my thoughts are, I wear a mask wherever I go, but me wearing a
56 mask is only protecting the person that is not social distancing from me. They need to wear a
57 mask to protect me when they come up to me in the grocery store, or lean over me. I had gone
58 to some of the restaurants in town, and not one staff person, not one cook, is wearing a mask,
59 and they breathe all over the food that I'm about to take home and consume. One of the things I
60 found out in North Carolina when it became mandatory, and I spoke to Chief Hofmann about this
61 earlier, and I'm not sure how it is going to be enforced, and I know it's going to be a nightmare
62 for the police department.
63

64 When North Carolina made it mandatory, the responsibility with back on that business owner;
65 posting that it was mandatory to wear masks to enter the property. If someone came in without
66 a mask on, they would politely ask them to wear one and reinforce that we have a mandatory
67 Mask Ordinance. If they refuse to leave the business owner called the police, the police came out
68 and say, if the owner is asking you to wear a mask, this is his property, and you're coming into
69 his place where you have to wear a mask or leave the property. I don't know how I enforceable
70 that is. I just think that everyone, in whether you take it seriously or think it's just the flu. You
71 still should be protecting their fellow citizens, residents, whoever, I mean, when I wear it and
72 protecting the person that I am coming in contact with. It is no protection for me.
73

74 Mr. Piper stated, just a couple of quick comments. One is if you're going to pass it Ordinance,
75 these would need to be definitive. There is a model policy that MASC has put out. I am
76 suggesting if you're going to pass this Ordinance that you don't make it, so broad, you need to
77 say where it applies. Whether it's for grocery stores or pharmacies or whatever, you need to
78 narrow the scope. Secondly, again, you have to state whether there will be a penalty attached to
79 it. You may want to do this by Resolution, where you're just encouraging people to wear the
80 mask. But again, I think the motions too broad. We do not want to conflict with what the
81 Attorney General has put out. I would narrow the scope or do it by Resolution. There are various
82 ways of doing this. Most cities that have done. Mr. Pieper also stated there are only a few that
83 have done it by Resolution. Most have done it by Ordinance. There are approximately 34
84 Municipalities that have passed an Ordinance.
85

86 Mayor Hellyer stated he wanted to hear from Chief Hofmann. I am sure that you have
87 communicated to other agencies and how they are enforcing this. What is your opinion?
88

89 Councilmember Scoles stated I am glad you asked that because I was going to ask the Council if
90 we decide to do this, that we put some kind parameters on what we want them to do when they
91 go out there. We want them to warn people, Citation people? I mean, how do we want our police
92 department to handle the situation? Instead of just leaving it up to Chief Hofmann and his
93 officers to decide when or how to enforce this.
94

95 Mayor Hellyer stated this is why I wanted to hear from Chief Hofmann.
96

97 Chief Hofmann stated, Mayor, Council, and citizens that are listening online. So, this is a concern
98 and thank you for asking me for my opinion. Rather than get into my opinion about whether
99 they should be worn or not is irrelevant. The police department's point of view is how we're
100 going to regulate and enforce whatever you pass. We will do whatever the Council wishes us to
101 do, and the big concern lies in, we've got to decide whether it's going to be a criminal or civil
102 penalty, and how is the police department is going to enforce it. We will do the will of Council. Do
103 you want the police department to dO? If we go to a complaint, and there will be complaints, we
104 have seen from previous orders related to this, that we have some residents who will proactively

105 go out, find a complaint and call the police? They expect us to go out and enforce it. And if we
106 don't, we have those residents who will be angry for lack of enforcement. Then we'll have angry
107 people that will be angry if we do enforce it. So, it's a challenge, but this pandemic is serious.
108 People are dying, so I understand the importance of it.
109

110 What we're going to see is that our media partners here today are waiting to see what you're
111 going to do. And in a few days, our media partners are going to FOIA us to see what we have
112 done. We've already seen other jurisdictions, Municipalities that are on fire right now because
113 Like Councilmember Keating stated, and I agree with you, it's a challenge to enforce. Then we're
114 going to have reports out that we've written zero tickets, which says we're not taking any effort
115 to control. So, it's a challenge.
116

117 I like what the administrator said. The Resolution may be a solution to address it and continue to
118 encourage people to used proper protective measures to protect their family's health. But
119 perhaps an ordinance will be required. So, if that is the choice and will of Council, I would just
120 ask the Council to give us some direction, moving forward because this will cause significant
121 challenges with how it's enforced. People will get tickets if we get out and enforce it. As
122 Councilmember Holder stated, we don't want our residents, tourist, and visitors to get tickets. If
123 that's the approach and feeling of council, then I would recommend this resolution. Because
124 complaints, these types of action, our police department, in general, have always taken the
125 approach that, if you do break the law, then you will probably get a ticket. I would be seeking
126 guidance from the wisdom of the Council for the police department.
127

128 Speaking with other agencies, there's a discussion that's going on right now. Some of these are
129 new, but what we are seeing is that, in general, it's an educational type approach to continuing
130 to educate. In a small agency, like ours, we're running short right now, for various reasons. It's
131 going to be a challenge for us to be able to hop from complaint to complaint. There will be other
132 things that will not be able to be enforced, that may be greater, immediate danger to public
133 safety, because we will be chasing down COVID mask complaints. So, that's just something to
134 think about, and of course, we will. We will do what you want.
135

136 Mayor Hellyer asked if a proclamation is issued instead of an Ordinance, is there any
137 enforcement? Chief Hofmann stated once Council issues a resolution, the police department, if
138 we see people without a mask, we will tell them that they need to put a mask on. But at the end
139 of the day, if they say no, there's no enforcing it. Perhaps that's the level of government
140 involvement that is appropriate. I don't know.
141

142 Councilmember Scoles stated that if we make it an ordinance, then it has to be enforced, and
143 they have to be ticketed or cited. Chief Hofmann stated there would still be discretion there.
144 But, you pass an ordinance, and then at the same time, say well, we don't want you writing
145 tickets. Then why pass the Ordinance? That goes back to some of the frustration that
146 Councilmember Keating pointed out. It's challenging to have an ordinance on the books that you
147 are stating right out of the gate that you're not going to enforce, creates frustrations on all sides.
148 This is a challenging time for law enforcement.
149

150 Mayor Hellyer stated that it seems like the influx people that we have, coming into our town,
151 here on vacation, going to our beach, do you even think the Resolution would make them
152 comply?
153

154 Chief Hofmann stated, I think that some will. I think from what I've seen, and hopefully, this
155 Council knows that I am out my office a lot. Because I'm out and about there are places that I've
156 seen particular July 4 weekend, particularly bars, where we have locals and tourists going to
157 some of our local drinking establishment, shoulder to shoulder, to shoulder, to shoulder.

158 And those are going to be most likely places where people are going to exchange this virus. If
159 you pass an ordinance, that's probably going to exclude restaurants and bars. Otherwise, they
160 couldn't be in those establishments without a mask. So, where are we are, where we see, at
161 least from what I've seen, monitoring that the highest population of crowds, your Ordinances is
162 not going to be applicable. How do you write an Ordinance that states you have to wear a mask
163 in a bar or restaurant, but when you are seated then you can take it off?
164

165 Councilmember Scoles states that is what North Carolina did. You had to wear it into the
166 established, once you were in, you're eating and drinking, you can take your mask off, but you
167 still have to Social distance, which is not going to help.
168

169 Chief Hofmann stated that if you have been out and seen these establishments, they are packed.
170 It's challenging to address what you're trying to address, in the places where we see the highest
171 concentration because they are not going to be covered by Ordinance. I go into other local
172 businesses and grocery stores here. I see most people wearing masks, social distancing on their
173 own, responsible citizens looking out for one another. But then when you go into these other
174 types of establishment where socializing is the reason you are there, they're almost no one
175 wearing masks, and we're not going to be able to address that.
176

177 Mayor Hellyer stated I have some comments. I started the Mayoral Update on March 18, 2020.
178 On March 19, 2020, I started putting out statistics, not only the State but also Horry County and
179 the people that were affected. So on March 19 2020, I put out the State of South Carolina had 16
180 cases. There was one case in Horry County. This is just to give you a gage. In the second week
181 of May, we decided that based on that, we closed everything - Our businesses, our dining, our
182 bowling alley, our short-term rentals, and beach accesses. The numbers still grew. In the second
183 week of June, we decided that we were going to open up. At that time, in the State of South
184 Carolina, there were 7,653 cases, and in Horry County, there were 262 cases. I know we've
185 engaged throughout the number of people in town, that we have had a very good recovery from
186 the people that they weren't allowed to come here, and our businesses closed down. As a result
187 of that, as of yesterday, there were 44,000 cases in South Carolina and 4,715 in Horry County.
188 These numbers aren't going down. These numbers are continuing to go up. I will tell you that
189 the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control today announced 1,505 new
190 confirmed cases, and no new probable cases, and six additional confirmed deaths and one
191 probable death. There are currently 1260 hospital beds are occupied by patients who have either
192 tested positive or, or ongoing investigation from COVID 19. The hospital beds are not full. So, we
193 need to consider that. I am not an advocate about putting restrictions on individuals'
194 constitutional rights, but I am a firm believer in protecting people that do not have the ability to
195 protect themselves. I know that the residents of the town, we have a bunch of people who are
196 medically compromised. They do not need to come out and get exposed, because they're going
197 to the grocery store, to the farmer's market. They have the ability to not go to the beach and be
198 around most of our tourists, but everybody has to go to the grocery store, and everybody has to
199 go to the pharmacy if they're medically compromised. I am pushed on both sides of the issue.
200 I'm not sure if the Resolution is the way to go, and I'm not sure the Ordinance is the way to go
201 like this time. I am open to more discussion.
202

203 Councilmember Keating stated as I stated previously, I'm not in favor of laws that are difficult or
204 impossible to enforce or making choices not to enforce. I appreciate Mr. Pieper recommending
205 the Resolution that strongly advises any visitors and residents to our town wear your mask in
206 situations where you're not able to social distance. But, we also have to consider that we've also
207 increased testing by tenfold. So, of course, we're going to see additional results. I'm not
208 convinced by everything I read, and I read a lot of things on both sides of the equation that we
209 have empirical data that we're comparing against. When you test 10% of potential cases, and
210 you say, OK, I'll hit 60. And now, I'm going to test 300% of potential cases. Because every

211 human being can go in and get their test done. And we're doing antibody tests. We're not doing
212 the actual infective tests. I mean, there's just so many different perspectives on that. You know,
213 CDC says one thing, a month later, they say something else.
214

215 Now, as I said earlier, for every expert that says the mask will prevent the virus, there is another
216 one that says mask will not prevent it. Furthermore, they are causing additional health hazards
217 because they're being worn too long. It's kind of a catch 22 situation, which also leads to saying
218 that it needs to be an individual choice. It is not the place of government to take that choice out
219 of their constituency's hand. I believe the Resolution, the strong recommendation to all of our
220 businesses, all of our visitors, all of our residents too use masks when possible, keep social
221 distancing, do all things necessary, wash your hands, etcetera. All things you can to curb the
222 spread of the virus. But I don't think it's the place of government to step in and enforce them.
223 Are we going to have Officer Gambino go house to house and say when is the last time you wash
224 your hands? It's just it's the same kind of mentality. I am not in favor of an Ordinance being
225 passed. But I would support a resolution, for lack of a better word, make it a marketing
226 campaign, get some flyers out their post on that everywhere, and anywhere you possibly can.
227 You can do signage at beach accesses. Essentially, wear your masks, and you put some
228 characters, make it a marketing campaign.
229

230 Councilmember Scoles stated, if we go with the proclamation and we say that we're not
231 benefiting from that, then come back and maybe get a little stronger with an ordinance to
232 enforce it. How will our visitors that are coming into town know that we have this proclamation.
233

234 Mr. Pieper stated we are getting hundreds of questions a day. "We're coming in August; can you
235 tell us what it's going to be like? "That is a question daily. As Mrs. Keating said, a Resolution will
236 allow you to encourage businesses to participate, saying we want you to wear masks, but you
237 cannot make them, again, you can encourage people. She says a lot of people will. I see it more
238 and more every day. And if anything, if somebody isn't, at least they're not coughing all over
239 people. But again, it will be very, very difficult to enforce as I'm not against the resolution. We
240 will carry out whatever this Council desires, the same time I can tell you, as the Chief has said,
241 he will be bombarded with calls and chasing people who are not wearing masks. It's already
242 happening in our fellow cities.
243

244 Mayor Hellyer stated, Chief Hofmann, just to make it perfectly clear if we make an ordinance,
245 everybody here is saying ordinances are unenforceable. What is our liability to have an Ordinance
246 on the books that we do not enforce?
247

248 Chief Hofmann stated I don't even want to comment on the liability, that would probably be a
249 question for the town attorney. That is a concern that I have. If Council issues consensus and
250 says Chief, enforce the Ordinance; we aim to get the message across. We can go that route; it
251 just pulls us away from other things that we're working on. We found that particularly with the
252 beach access ordinance. People were violating it, and we did proactively issues citations related
253 to it. It created some ill will in the community, which, public safety comes before people being
254 happy, and so, that's just where we will seek your guidance. It will be problematic, creates some
255 anger and frustration in the community to enforce it, but we can, we have some books on the
256 officer out somewhere, and they see somebody without a mask on when they are supposed to, it
257 could be a \$25.00 citation, and so forth. It can be done
258

259 Mayor Hellyer stated I had worked with a committee that was put together during this crisis
260 called Welcome Back Horry County. I was on the Welcome Back committee. You can go to
261 grandstrandisopen.com, and look at what restaurants are participating. The restaurants take a
262 pledge, and businesses take a pledge. They will meet certain requirements, and then they take
263 the pledge and then go on record, and they're on the website as being a safe place to eat.

264 Residents in Surfside Beach that have gone on and taken the pledge that says you will wear a
265 face mask whenever you need to in public. It's strictly voluntary, I don't know what the results of
266 that. There are people every day that are taking the pledge. Restaurants also get a sticker that
267 they can put on restaurant doors. So, if you're going out, you know who has safe practices. I
268 think that if we go with the proclamation and don't go with Ordinance, then I would think that it's
269 going to have to go with a campaign or advertising, something to put it out to let our visitors
270 who comes into the town that's the way we want it done.

271
272 Councilmember Scoles asked if we go with the proclamation, can we provide businesses with a
273 copy of that, to maybe post outside their business on a door, that will make people aware that
274 we're asking that you wear masks, so maybe that will make some of our visitors coming in, like
275 next week aware. Put it on the website, so if visitors search, they can see we have a resolution
276 suggesting they wear a mask. Maybe that would be more encouraging. I don't know if that's
277 beneficial. That's just an idea or suggestion.

278
279 Councilmember Keating stated, as I said, undertake a marketing campaign, just make a flyer. I
280 don't think anybody's going to read a resolution, a lot of words on paper, no too many people are
281 going to pay attention to that. But if we make some kind of flyer that says Surfside Beach
282 encourages everyone to wear their masks in these situations, but make it more of an attention
283 grab. I'm sure we could hand out flyers to rental companies and ask them to put them in their
284 rentals, businesses close to the beach access, put them on our webpage, Facebook page, and
285 repost that every third day or something. I think this could be a marketing campaign, and this
286 could be done for very little money, and we just get that word out with some attention-grabbing
287 kind of document. Not an official legalese document.

288
289 Councilmember Scoles stated I think then that's a good idea. I think if we can just put it out
290 there because every week we're changing ever get new people, they're not looking at our
291 website. They are just excited to be getting here and being on vacation.

292
293 Mayor Hellyer stated we do have the ability to readdress this at any time.

294
295 Councilmember Holder amended the motion to have a resolution that states the suggestion of
296 wearing a mask when in public places. They are not required on the beach, but public places
297 such as grocery stores, restaurants, and bars until they receive their food or drink.
298 Councilmember Scoles seconded.

299
300 Like we said before, if we're going to make restrictions, they are going to have to be specific. I
301 agree that I would think that, if I'm in a retail business or grocery store or a pharmacy, I should
302 wear a mask, unless I'm eating. It should be strongly encouraging that retails business
303 employees should wear a mask.

304
305 Councilmember Scoles asked about restaurants?

306
307 Mayor Hellyer stated the restaurant personnel should be wearing face masks. The people coming
308 into the restaurants should be wearing face masks until they receive their food.

309
310 Councilmember Scoles stated because I've noticed a lot of restaurant personnel wait staff that
311 are not wearing face masks.

312
313 Councilmember Keating stated I am struggling with the concept of, a strongly recommended
314 Resolution that the Town of Surfside Beach encourages all of its residents, businesses, and its
315 visitors to wear facemasks. I think we could phrase it broader, when social distancing may not be
316 prudent. We're not trying to be so specific that in this situation, we encourage you to wear

317 masks. We're trying to say our philosophy for our businesses and our residents and our visitors is
318 to protect themselves and others, wear your facemask in certain situations where that social
319 distancing is not possible or where you are in constant contact with a group of people or those
320 kinds of situations as to not being so overly prescribed, not to say if you're at a restaurant or a
321 retail establishment or if you're in overnight accommodations because I did get a question. Well,
322 what if I'm going inside and sitting at my daughter's karate lesson? Now that wasn't on the list,
323 so I guess you don't have to. We don't want that question. We want to encourage people to take
324 their accountability, and in all situations that we may find ourselves to wear the mask. I don't
325 think a resolution needs to be prescribed. It's just a recommendation to ever one to take that
326 personal accountability. That's what we want everybody to do.

327
328 Mayor Hellyer stated, the thing that we need to do is we need to let people know, and our
329 visitors know, this is something that we want to be done, this is something that we need to do to
330 try to control this.

331
332 Councilmember Scoles stated, what concerns me is if I was on vacation and coming here, and I
333 want to run into a business or a restaurant, and my wait staff is within a foot of me, serving me
334 or retail person where I'm at the cash registers, not wearing a mask. I don't take it seriously, and
335 they're saying, well, they're not wearing one, so I am not going to wear one. That's the only
336 reason I was saying; there needs to be some kind of guidelines, as far as wait staff, retail stores,
337 and things like that because people are going to look at them and say, Well, it's no big deal so
338 why do I have to wear one? It's not like we're not taking it seriously or just make it a
339 recommendation.

340
341 Mayor Hellyer stated so, let's step back now and look, what are our resolution is going to entail.
342 Will it have grocery stores? Retail?

343
344 Councilmember Keating stated I am still against specifying particular situations. I go back to the
345 situation where safety belts those are required, but only in Fords and Chevys. The virus is out
346 there. If the situation dictates that everyone will be better protected by wearing a facemask,
347 then so be it. The minute you start individualizing and being specific, it must be in a grocery
348 store, it must be in a pharmacy, must be in the restaurant, or retail. If I go to, pick a place that
349 doesn't fall into that category, so I don't have to wear it. Again, if you're making a resolution, it's
350 a recommendation, it's a philosophy of the town that we want to reinforce social distancing and
351 wearing a mask in social situations, washing your hands, it's all those recommendations from the
352 CDC from the news. That Surfside is putting out there saying we strongly suggest, following
353 these recommendations when you start prescribing, then you're also excluding. I don't think you
354 want a resolution that excludes anything.

355
356 Mayor Hellyer stated I think that our primary job here is to protect the residents and to make
357 sure that they have the ability to protect themselves, to take care of themselves at this time. So,
358 I think that certain restrictions need to be worked out, with people who are unable to take care
359 of themselves so that they will have that ability to. I think that if you're going to a pharmacy,
360 you shouldn't have to worry about people not wearing a facemask. if you have to go to the
361 grocery store to get something, I don't think that you should have to worry about people not
362 having a facemask. We've already taken and said that we're not going to dictate or make an
363 Ordinance. I think when we make the resolution it needs firm enough that people know that
364 what we're trying to get across.

365
366 Councilmember Keating stated assuming facemasks work. There's any number of studies that
367 show they don't work.

368
369 Mayor Hellyer asked, are you willing to take that chance for the residents of Surfside?

370
371 Councilmember Keating stated I don't think it's up to me to decide for someone else. I don't think
372 that's the role of government.
373

374 Councilmember Scoles stated I think it's the role of government to protect their residents, and
375 we've all been told that we need to wear face masks, reminded more so than ever to wash your
376 hands, do not put them on your face. I do think that we need to specify restaurants, retail,
377 employees need to be wearing masks, because I don't think residents take it seriously If
378 something is posted outside, masks are required, or we recommend, and then they walk in and
379 not one person, or a person is waiting on you or assisting you is wearing a mask.
380

381 Councilmember Holder stated I don't want it when I am out walking my dog that I need to be
382 wearing a mask. There's no risk at all.
383

384 Mr. Pieper stated it needs clarification. You have to narrow this down. I understand exactly what
385 Mrs. Scoles is saying about encouraging the foodservice. If I walk into an establishment and they
386 are not wearing masks, I would probably leave. But I will say I am receiving an overwhelming
387 amount of calls and emails. The residents are asking for the mandating of wearing masks. I think
388 people are trying, and they are concerned and are trying to help stop the spread of this virus. But
389 at the same time, understand everybody's concerns, and I will tell you that people I have spoken
390 to in other towns, do you want to allow people to self-police? There will people calling all day
391 long, and the Police Department will have to respond and enforce it. So, again, based on what I
392 have seen, they are narrowing the scope. And as Mrs. Keating stated, then along comes the
393 exceptions. The folks here support mandates. I know resolution, proclamation does not officially
394 mandate, you can strongly encourage, you can have a marketing campaign, the CDC, DHEC is
395 already doing that.
396

397 Councilmember Scoles asked, can you specify certain businesses, like business owners, that the
398 staff or wait staff or employees have to wear a mask?
399

400 Mr. Pieper stated again, you would just be encouraging. The State already has an initiative in
401 restauranters that's been out for a month or so.
402

403
404 Mayor Hellyer stated that we can specify retail business that will have to wear a mask, including
405 restaurants waitstaff.
406

407 Councilmember Scoles stated I'm not talking about people going into eat. I have been in places
408 to pick up an order. And I've done that several times over the past few months. There wasn't a
409 person wearing a mask, from the cook to the waitress that was leaning over people. I just think
410 that would help, as we saw before, with several restaurants had to close because their wait staff
411 got sick. I don't want to see that happen here; the businesses are just starting to come back. I
412 don't want to see them have to close, not because we regulate it, because we didn't set some
413 kind of guidelines to help protect them, and our visitors, and residents, they're coming into that
414 establishment.
415

416 Councilmember Keating stated we're making a recommendation. We're not mandating anything.
417 We're not enforcing anything. We're saying we support the recommendations of the CDC or
418 whomever, and that we strongly encourage the use of mask, especially in whatever situation you
419 want to define. That does not preclude any other application or excludes any other application.
420 Don't get overly prescribed in your details. Your resolution is a strong recommendation to
421 everybody and everything, with a particular focus on these situations, but it's still a

422 recommendation to business owners, to make their own choices, to visitors, to make your own
423 choices, to residents to make their own choices.
424

425 Councilmember Holder stated I make a motion to make a strong recommendation that we have a
426 resolution that all retail places, including bars and restaurants, the staff, and the management of
427 those establishments should be wearing masks, anyone going into the bars, wear masks until
428 they're eating or drinking. Councilmember Scoles seconded. All voted in favor. **Motion Carried.**
429

430 B. EMERGENCY ORDER

431 Mayor Hellyer stated I initially put out an emergency Proclamation on March 14 of 2020, an
432 emergency order which automatically expires in 60 days. We came back in May, and we
433 extended it for another 60 days, so it's about to expire. So, the question is, do we extend the
434 order again? I'm going to make a motion that we extend this certain other sixty days.
435 Councilmember Holder seconded.
436

437 Councilmember Keating, I would think that the impacts of the pandemic have already been well
438 felt over the last several months as we have evolved. We are now at the point that we are not
439 restricting businesses. We are not closing businesses Everything has virtually opened. We're
440 asking for maybe a 50% table occupancy or, some other requirements. Any claims for federal
441 funding due to the pandemic are probably well in hand. I don't think we need to extend an
442 emergency order; we're seeing our revenues are quickly coming back up to previous levels
443 compared to last year. With more than enough people still coming to town restaurants, and Bars
444 are full. From what I can see, most of our retail establishments are back in full force. I don't see
445 the of the economic effects within our 1.9 square miles, from declaring an emergency
446 declaration.
447

448 Councilmember Scoles stated, I disagree. I think we should. Luckily we can keep our businesses
449 open and that that doesn't mean it could not change. And it can get drastic, Florida shut
450 everything back down yesterday. I don't want to see us get into that and not have some
451 protection for our residents. I think we should continue with the emergency order.
452

453 Councilmember Keating stated we can always declare it again.
454

455 Councilmember Holder stated I see no risk in continuing it another 60 days.
456

457 Mayor Hellyer stated my opinion on this is to extend, and, again, this is the reason, at the time,
458 we don't know what's going to happen in the future. We don't know what's going to happen next
459 week. If the numbers go down, that's great. If the numbers go up, we need to stay in this
460 situation so that if we need assistance, or we need to do things, we're still an emergency state.
461 That's my opinion.
462

463 Councilmember Keating stated I just think if our situation drastically changes, we can always
464 convene an emergency meeting, as we did initially, and re-instate the emergency directive. But
465 our situation right now, none of us know what the future's going hold. As you said, all the
466 numbers may go down; the numbers may go up. And I think it behooves us to respond to our
467 current situations and recognize as things change, we may change our minds. Councilmembers
468 Scoles, Holder, and Mayor Hellyer voted in favor. Councilmember Keating voted against. **Motion**
469 **Carried.**
470

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472 **4. ADJOURNMENT.** Councilmember Holder made a motion to adjourn at 3:00 pm. Councilmember
473 Scoles seconded. All voted in favor. **Motion carried.**
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Surfside Beach Town Council

Robert Hellyer, Mayor

_____ Absent David L. Pellegrino	_____ Absent Bruce H. Dietrich, Town Council
_____ Cindy Keating, Town Council	_____ Absent Michael Drake, Town Council
_____ Debbie Scoles, Mayor Pro Tempore	_____ Paul Holder, Town Council

Attest: _____
Sheri L Medina
Town Clerk

Clerk's Note: This document constitutes summary minutes of the meeting that was digitally recorded, and is not intended to be a complete transcript. Appointments to hear recordings may be made with the town clerk; a free copy of the audio will be given to you, provided you bring a new, unopened flash drive. In accordance with FOIA §30-4-80(A) and (E), meeting notice and the agenda were distributed to local media and interested parties via the town's email subscription list. The agenda was posted on the entry door at Town Council Chambers. Meeting notice was also posted on the town website at www.surfsidebeach.org and the town's LED marquee.