



# MINUTES

## SPECIAL FORMAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

CITY HALL, 206 S. MAIN STREET  
NINTH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

Friday, April 3, 2020 – 10:00 a.m.

Virtual Meeting Viewing: <https://www.greenvillesc.gov/meeting>

Facebook:  
Greenville, South Carolina – Official City Government Homepage

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Knox H. White

2. **ROLL CALL**

The following members of City Council were in attendance: Mayor Knox White, John DeWorken, Lillian Flemming, Ken Gibson, Wil Brasington, Russell Stall, and Dorothy Dowe

3. **NEW BUSINESS -- (Emergency Ordinance – Final Reading)**

City Manager John McDonough introduced Dr. Eric Ossmann with Prisma Health who provided the following statistics regarding the current COVID-19 conditions in the upstate area:

- 34 patients in the hospital with COVID-19 in the upstate
- 60 hospitalizations since the beginning in the upstate
- 221 SCDHEC reported cases in the upstate
- 2,149 tests performed with 194 positives (positivity rate of nine [9%] percent)
- 100 surg beds added in the Prisma system throughout the upstate
- 1.8% overall death rate in the upstate (not a true rate due to non-reported)

Dr. Ossman stated from an ICU standpoint, they are prepared to deal with the volumes and have been working to stand up a Tier 1 site (self-care) and a Tier 2 site (minimum care/hospital). Dr. Ossman also stated they are working with partners to turn test results around in approximately two to three hours. Dr. Ossman advised South Carolina's upslope is relatively gentle compared to Georgia and Florida, however, this is not the time to reduce efforts. Dr. Ossman stated if we stay on this trajectory, we can manage the event without wrecking the hospital system.

Mayor White thanked Dr. Ossman for his comments and referred to the importance of maintaining social distancing.

Councilmember Brasington asked for clarification of the figures given and questioned whether they are combined health facility numbers or Prisma numbers. Dr. Ossman responded that it is a blend of numbers with most of the numbers coming from Prisma. Mr. McDonough responded he is meeting this morning with the major health care providers, that

all the reporting numbers fall under SCDHEC, and that the City is receiving similar information.

- a. An Emergency Ordinance urging the Governor to issue a statewide executive order requiring citizens to stay at home, enacting city-wide measures to ensure social distancing practices at certain businesses and matters related thereto  
(Roll Call)  
*(Presented by City Attorney Michael Pitts)*

Councilmember Dowe moved, seconded by Councilmember Stall, to approve first and final reading. Councilmember DeWorken abstained due to a conflict of interest.

Mayor White acknowledged some adjustments in the proposed ordinance since posting and recognized City Attorney Mike Pitts who presented the following amendments in Section 2 of the enabling clause: (1) include Saturday, April 4, at 10 a.m. as the effective date; (2) remove requirement for businesses to install protective barriers at check-out counters; (3) include as an undue hardship the availability of supplies to implement the measure; and (4) include language not holding businesses accountable for customer's failure to adhere to the measure.

Mayor White recognized the addition of a preamble clause referring to Governor McMaster's Executive Order 2020-17 defining "essential" and "non-essential" businesses, among other things, and urging businesses to facilitate effective social distancing practices. Mayor White stated that this Ordinance is consistent with the Governor's Order and that the proposed Ordinance puts teeth to those social distancing recommendations.

After discussion, Councilmember Dowe moved, seconded by Councilmember Flemming, to amend the Ordinance as proposed by the City Attorney.

Councilmember Stall requested an additional change in Section 2 amending the word "and" to "or" to state "having hand sanitizer or sanitizing products" due to lack of availability. Councilmember Stall also requested a better definition on applying for hardship. Mr. Pitts responded it is not an application but a factor that would go into determining whether the Ordinance has been violated or not and that it would be determined at the time a citation is issued. Mr. Pitts stated a municipal judge would take into account whether the Ordinance has been violated. Mayor White commented the intention is to allow city officials to make site visits to the businesses and to respond to concerns of the public.

Mr. McDonough referred to the local media highlighting what businesses are doing or not doing to improve access to their businesses and protection for their employees. Mr. McDonough referred to conversations with the South Carolina Retail Association and their recommendations to the proposed ordinance. Mr. McDonough stated the City is working to communicate the information out and to provide explanations of what is being required of the local businesses.

With no opposition, the amendment proposed by Councilmember Stall was accepted and included in the motion to amend.

After discussion, the motion to amend the proposed Ordinance carried 6-0, with Councilmember DeWorken abstaining.

Councilmember DeWorken reiterated his abstention is due to a conflict and not because he does not wish to vote.

After discussion, the motion, as amended, carried 6-0, with Councilmember DeWorken abstaining. (*See attached statement.*)


Mayor White stated with Council's approval, the City is encouraging the Governor to take effect of Stay at Home and to affirm social distancing which is critical.

Mayor White referred to the 1 p.m. press conference which will be conducted again today. Mr. McDonough advised he anticipates local media outlets to be present and comments will include representatives from Bon Secours, SCDHEC, United Way of Greenville County, and South Carolina Retail Association.

Councilmember Stall referred to the article in the New York Times and stated for clarification he believes the article is wrong and that the key area seems to be Spartanburg and not Greenville upon reviewing the map and the chart. Councilmember Stall stated he is receiving a lot of push back from the article. Mayor White added that there are still too many people engaging in things that are not essential and that the focus today is important in that a stay at home is the best policy and it should be a state wide policy.

**4. ADJOURN**

There be no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m.



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KNOX H. WHITE, MAYOR



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CAMILLA G. PITMAN, MMC, Certified PLS  
CITY CLERK

MEETING NOTICE POSTED AND MEDIA NOTIFIED ON APRIL 2, 2020 AT 1:14 P.M.



# STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST

**TO: Mayor, or Presiding Officer of Greenville City Council**

**FROM: Mayor Knox H. White**

Pursuant to the Code of Ordinances of the City of Greenville, Section 2-266, "I make this statement concerning the matter described below, action or decision upon which will directly affect an economic interest as contemplated by the Ethics, Government Accountability and Campaign Reform Act of 1991:"

A. The matter requiring action or decision is as follows:

### FORMAL AGENDA

Agenda Item No. 3a

An Emergency Ordinance urging the Governor to issue a statewide executive order requiring citizens to stay at home, enacting city-wide measures to ensure social distancing practices at certain businesses and matters related thereto


B. The nature of my potential conflict is as follows:


- I have an economic interest which will be affected by the action.
- A member of my immediate family has an economic interest which will be directly affected.
- An individual with whom I am associated has an economic interest which will be affected.
- A business (either for profit or not for profit) with whom I am associated has an economic interest which may be affected directly or indirectly.
- A member of my immediate family, or by marriage relationships, is recommended for appointment to a municipal Board or Commission creating a conflict.

C. As a result of my potential conflict:

- I hereby withdraw/abstain/recuse from any votes, deliberations or other actions on this matter and request that my disqualification and the grounds therefore be noted in the minutes.
- I hereby left the meeting during the vote, deliberation or other action on this matter and request that my absence and the grounds therefore be noted in the minutes.

Date: April 3, 2020

Signature:   
Print Name: John DeWorken

Accepted:   
Mayor

The City Clerk attests the above action has been noted and is reflected in the Minutes.

  
City Clerk