

City of Brookings

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

City Hall Council Chambers, 898 Elk Drive, Brookings, OR 97415
Thursday, April 23, 2020

Call to Order

Mayor Pieper called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM

Roll Call

Council Present: Mayor Jake Pieper, Councilors Brad Alcorn, Brent Hodges, John McKinney, by conference phone, and Ron Hedenskog; a quorum present.

Staff present: City Manager Janell Howard, and Deputy Recorder Amber Nalls.

Media Present: 1

Others Present: 3 audience members

Scheduled Public Appearances

1. Virginia Williams, Chief Executive Officer for Curry Health Network, by conference phone. She updated the Council of the current status of health care PPE equipment and nonemergency surgeries.

Oral Requests and Communications from the Audience

1. Ron Reel – 519 Chetco Ave, Brookings, OR addressed Council regarding the reopening of his real estate offices and vacation rentals.
2. Lisa Griffin – 821 Ransom Ave, OR addressed Council regarding reopening Brookings. Lisa Griffin is not in support of reopening Brookings at this time. This request was emailed in by Lisa Griffin who was not present at the Council Meeting. Public comment was not read out loud at the Council Meeting. Public Comment is attached.
3. Tamie Kaufman – 29592 Ellensburg Ave, Gold Beach, OR addressed Council regarding the federal and state guidelines to reopen businesses. Tamie Kaufman is not in favor of the opening of lodging on May 1, 2020, by the county. This request was emailed in by Tamie Kaufman who was not present at the Council Meeting. Public comment was not read out loud at the Council Meeting. Public Comment is attached.
4. Andy Martin – 255 S Hazel, Brookings, OR addressed Council regarding reopening businesses in Brookings. Andy Martin is in favor of reopening business along with the county's May 1 timeline. This request was emailed in by Andy Martin who was not present at the Council Meeting. Public comment was not read out loud at the Council Meeting. Public Comment is attached.
5. Maureen Ter Beek – 975 5th St, Brookings, OR addressed Council regarding reopening transient lodging. Maureen Ter Beek is not in favor of reopening transient lodging at this time. This request was emailed in by Maureen Ter Beek who was not present at the Council Meeting. Public comment was not read out loud at the Council Meeting. Public Comment is attached.

Staff Reports

1. Plan to reopen Public Life and Business
Janell Howard presented the staff report.

Council had an extensive discussion on reopening Public Life and Business in Brookings.

Councilor Hedenskog moved, Councilor Hodges seconded and Council voted unanimously to extend the restriction to Transient Lodging Facilities Resolution 20-R-1176, until further notice, extend another 30 days, and to notify county commissioners of the council's decision today.

The council will be meeting every week to discuss and re-discuss the reopening process of businesses in Brookings.

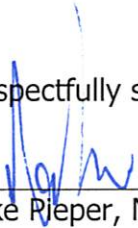
Councilor Hedenskog moved, Councilor Hodges seconded and Council voted unanimously to meet under this emergency situation every week. Regular Council Meetings take place on the second and fourth Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. and the bi-weekly meetings will take place on Mondays at 5:00 p.m.

Councilor Hedenskog moved, Councilor Alcorn seconded and Council voted unanimously to assign the City Manager to be the liaison to the other jurisdictions, entities, and local businesses to get information to the council that is necessary to make decisions dealing with this emergency.

Adjournment

Councilor Hedenskog moved, Councilor Hodges seconded and Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted:



Jake Pieper, Mayor

ATTESTED:
this 11th day of May, 2020:



Janell K. Howard, City Recorder

Janell Howard

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 6:02 PM
To: jhoward@brookings.or.us
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Contact City Staff

Contact City Staff

Name	Lisa Griffin
Email Address	Purlizard@msn.com
Phone Number	770-597-9517
Address	821 Ransom ave
City	Brookings
State	Oregon
Zip Code	97415
Staff Member You Wish to Contact	Janell Howard, City Manager
Message	Hi I was just reading about the meeting 4/23 regarding reopening Brookings. Please keep in mind the out of towers flocking here. Many of locals are Battling cancers and Other immune system Issues. We only have Fred Meyers and grocery outlet for food. We need to be very careful that we do not bring the virus here. We do not have the resources medically either. Please keep this in mind and pass along to Jake Peiper.

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

Janell Howard

From: Tamie Kaufman <TKaufman@goldbeachoregon.gov> on behalf of Tamie Kaufman
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 11:27 PM
To: jhoward@brookings.or.us
Cc: Jodi Fritts
Subject: Meeting tomorrow night

Dear Janell,

Could you please share this with your City Council for the meeting tomorrow?

Dear Mayor and Councilors,

There has been an effort from the three city managers to work with the County and the health district to work through the federal and state guidelines to open up businesses.

The guidelines are very similar and require tracing (county responsibility) and testing (health district under OHA guidelines). These two items are the foundation of the rest of the requirements. There are parts of the list that the cities can help with so this could get done sooner and share the burden.

The County decided to move forward and open lodging May 1 without first reviewing the list and making sure it gets done and the qualifiers are met. It would be my preference that the three cities and county do this together, but just because they are making a hasty decision doesn't mean that we have to. However, if we are not united in our decision and timing, we could adversely impact each other.

- ✓ I encourage you all to look at the guidelines of both the federal and state, then think about if you want to change your prior decision on lodging before these items on the list are complete.

If you are willing to wait and work through the lists, then I would like to encourage the city governing bodies to coordinate and do our best to use the same list and timeline. United we can keep our communities safer.

I know our supply chain is impacted, many household staple supplies are still scarce. The county decision will create a bigger drain on the stores and make less available for our citizens. Vacation Rentals seem to be in higher quantity in the county's jurisdiction which impacts the grocery supply. Normally this is a good thing as it brings cash from the outside in, but when products are scarce, it creates an even shorter supply.

I have personally been contacted by motel staff afraid we will lift the lodging ban and that they will not be safe at work. Many establishments are still accepting visitors because we all have soft enforcement (on purpose, this is all mostly the honor system). I want to rebuild our economy as much as anyone else, but we have an aged population and their needs should be our first priority?

I look forward to working with all of you should you decide to do this together. We all have fantastic management teams that can roll this out safely and cooperate with each other.

Thank you,

Tamie Kaufman
GB Council 5

Janell Howard

From: Andy Martin, Brookings Fishing Charters LLC <wilddriversfishing@yahoo.com> on behalf of Andy Martin, Brookings Fishing Charters LLC
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 12:17 AM
To: Janell Howard; Jake Pieper
Subject: Public comments April 23 council meeting
Attachments: charter letter City of Brookings - governor executive orders.pdf

I'd like to submit the attached letter as public comment for the April 23 Brookings City Council meeting. Please confirm receipt.

Thank you,
Andy Martin
255 S. Hazel
Brookings, OR 97415

Capt. Andy Martin
Brookings Fishing Charters LLC
Wild Rivers Fishing
(541) 813-1082 or (206) 388-8988 cell/text
www.brookingsfishing.com
www.wilddriversfishing.com
Check us out on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/brookingsfishingcharters/>

April 22, 2020

Brookings City Council
898 Elk Drive
Brookings, OR 97415

Dear City Council Members,

As you know, the economic impact of the governor's stay-home order has been especially devastating to Curry County's and Brookings' small businesses. Tourism is a vital part of the local economy, and just as motels, restaurants, gift shops, fishing charters, RV parks and other local businesses geared up for the all-important Spring Break, our economy came crashing down. Some Curry County businesses will not recover from the shut down that has already extended more than a month. Adding to the financial crisis, relief from the SBA and federal government has failed to materialize for the majority of local businesses.

We represent six-pack fishing charters at the Port of Brookings Harbor. Most of our crew lives in the City of Brookings. With motels, RV parks and vacation rentals essentially shut down, and social distancing rules we must adhere to, our businesses have suffered greatly.

Many tourism-related businesses in our city and county have to deal with a long winter with little revenue, even though expenses last all year. The longer motels, restaurants, RV parks and other businesses are closed or drastically restricted, the harder it will be to make up the difference when the economy finally re-opens. We already face the potential of a lean summer as the economic impact of COVID-19 extends to communities throughout the region that produce the tourists who visit Curry County.

We urge the City Council to request the State of Oregon move quickly to re-open our economy and ease the stay-home orders to allow restaurants, motels, RV Parks and other businesses to take steps to re-open and serve customers. We agree with the county's May 1 timeline. We understand restrictions on larger gatherings, along with some other social distancing requirements, may be necessary, but we feel it is time to move toward opening our doors instead of keeping them closed.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,

Capt. Andy Martin

Capt. Mike Brouillette

Capt. Larry Brocker

Capt. Travis Sallander

Capt. Shane Brooks

Capt. Rye Phillips

Capt. Rich Signorello

Michael McGahan, deckhand



Six-Pack Charter Operators of Brookings, Oregon

April 22, 2020

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898 Elk Drive
Brookings, OR 97415

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Capt. Andy Martin
Capt. Shane Brooks

Capt. Mike Brouillette
Capt. Rye Phillips

Capt. Larry Brocker
Capt. Rich Signorello

Capt. Travis Sallander
Michael McGahan, deckhand

Amber Nalls

From: Janell Howard [jhoward@brookings.or.us] on behalf of Janell Howard
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 2:13 PM
To: Amber Nalls
Subject: FW: Reopening transient lodging to non-essential visitors

From: Maureen Ter Beek <maureen@terbeek.us>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 11:47 AM
To: Janell Howard <jhoward@brookings.or.us>
Subject: Reopening transient lodging to non-essential visitors

I've listened to 95% of the April 22nd Curry County Board of Commissioners meeting where you presented.

I have always been most appreciative of the skill and determination and effectiveness of the staff and elected members of the city.

Below is the text of a comment that I made on Facebook to I believe the mayor of Port Orford who goes by the name RV Park.

I hope you and others will take these comments under consideration. You may think it is easy for someone who is retired to advocate continuing quarantining. It is not. But I do admit that it may be easier for some like myself than others. I have formed my opinions based on history and what I think is required to win the long game.

In all of the discussions that I have read or participated in on Facebook I have not come away with a feeling that any of us have a grasp on how to handle this no matter how rationally or how thoughtfully we think we should do this.

In the post below I go on record stating that I am not in favor of reopening transient lodging for non-essential visitors. The problem that the city of Brookings faces is that the county have passed this measure meaning that transient lodging facilities in Harbor will be filled with non-essential untested visitors who will spread the virus here to Brookings and Curry County and we are not prepared in my view to deal with the consequences. if you believe that we are prepared to deal with the consequences I would love to understand what I am missing. If there is new information that I do not have please share it. I would love nothing more to be comfortable with this. I am not.

Thank you for listening

Maureen C Ter Beek
Brookings

FB post:.

RV Park I have been listening to the board of commissioners for Curry County meeting on April 22nd. Around minute 53 the five counties letter is discussed. I admit that I could be missing a thing or two here but what I'm hearing does not lead me to conclude that we have adequate testing. I would like to be wrong about this. This means we have not met that third parameter the gov requires.

So if anyone in this thread can provide information as to what exactly our testing protocol is and what exactly our contact tracing protocol is and how it is that we are meeting the governor's requirement to reopen -- I would be most interested in hearing this.

As I understand it in order to get a test a person must be symptomatic. As I understand it according to a country that has done extensive testing - Iceland-over 50% of the people tested are asymptomatic virus shedders. This means that we can't "be smart " as commissioner Paasch suggests about the person standing in the hallway 3 ft from you. It's not as if we can see this virus.

The decision to reopen transient lodging to non-essential visitors will result in untested people coming here in great numbers -- most likely from the valley and most likely from the California valley and other virus epicenters --> . So I disagree w Sheriff Ward's contention that no one will come here.

In the Board of Commissioners meeting we are heard from people who are concerned about their personal business situation. Understood and appreciated.

In my view the solution to people's financial suffering is for our state and local leaders to channel their energy to the Mitch McConnell Pelosi Donald Trump level in order to get rescue packages tailored to *grassroots businesses* and "working class people* -- i e the constituents of Curry County.

Instead the discussion at the April 22 meeting is entirely focused is on pressuring the citizens of Curry County to accept a conversation that the economy must start back up again, that the economic devastation will outweigh the devastation of the virus etc.

I did not hear one word ...not one about the loss of lives.

So at the risk of repeating myself, let's run some numbers because it is clear that the decision to reopen our county to non-essential visitors is in essence a decision to implement a herd immunity public health policy:

We have 23,000 people in Curry County. The assumption to establishing herd immunity is that we need a 70% infection rate. (Some models say 80-90%) --> that is 16,000 members of our community.

According to statistics in worldometer of those infected people, 3% are documented as serious and requiring intensive professional care --> that's roughly -- 485 beds.

So..... question number one. Do we have those beds????? And....do we have the support staff and equipment to support working these cases??? I have no idea.

Moving along, of the 16,000 infected the death rate at the moment in the United States is about 6%, but if you were to just assume 5%, we would be looking at 800 deaths in Curry County.

Again, in reviewing the comments and presentations at the board of commissioners meeting I did not hear one person mention nevermind quantify the fatalities that would happen should we pursue this type of herd immunity public health policy.

I would love to believe that I am missing something here and that there truly is a way to do this thoughtfully and carefully in Curry County, but, if no one is even acknowledging fatalities but only acknowledging business losses then I have to wonder how thoughtfully and how carefully we are approaching this.

The other thing I wanted to bring up here, and I am by no means a scientist, the consideration of a second wave -- the virus, as it is proliferating, has an opportunity to mutate. Recently there was an article in Reuters documenting cases in China where recovered patients were reinfected.

So if this herd immunity public policy goes forward it follows that we would need to count on a second wave -- just like in 1918 during the Spanish flu pandemic.

History has shown that social distancing and other quarantining methods implemented by towns in a disciplined way enabled those towns to come out the other side more quickly with less fatalities a quicker rate of economic recovery. Towns that did not hunker down and nations that did not hunker down saw a forestalling of economic recovery.

So we have to ask ourselves do we have the data today to really make these kinds of decisions? Do we have the testing and contact tracing infrastructure to move forward?

If someone can show me how my reopening my transient lodging business small as it is will not do harm to my neighbors I am all ears.

Until I hear otherwise I am not in favor of the county or the cities or the ports reopening transient lodging to non-essential visitors. We are not prepared for the consequences. Potential loss of human life is unacceptable.