

TOWN COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

DECEMBER 1, 2020

JACKSON, WYOMING

The Jackson Town Council met in special session in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall located at 150 East Pearl at 11:00 A.M. Upon roll call the following were found to be present:

TOWN COUNCIL: *In-person*: None. *via Zoom*: Mayor Pete Muldoon, Vice-Mayor Hailey Morton Levinson, Jim Stanford, Arne Jorgensen, and Jonathan Schechter.

STAFF: Larry Pardee, Lea Colasuonno, Tyler Sinclair, Zolo, Roxanne Robinson, Michelle Weber, and Sandy Birdyshaw.

COVID-19 and Local Government Measures. Mayor Muldoon made introductory remarks and facilitated discussion.

Dr. Paul Beaupre, Chief Executive Officer of St. John's Health made comment on the state of the hospital due to COVID patients, impacts to their workforce, he pleaded with the community to try and stop community spread which was occurring, accepting patients from outside Teton County, and staffing capacity. Further discussion included contact tracing on employees, encouraging personal responsibilities, taking a break now to get ready for the ski season, the state seems to be focused on procurement and distribution, people were letting their guard down on precaution measures, surrounding hospital capacities, limited space at St. John's, and messaging to the community.

Jodie Pond, Director of Teton County Health Department made comment on testing and positivity rates, the contact tracing results and current efforts, she proposed looking at enforcement through fines, suspending school and club close-contact sports, a return to prior orders which limited capacity, limited restaurant seating to household members, a household-only order, recommended bars to close at 10pm, preferred the variance-to-the-state-wide-order route, a new stop the spread campaign, working with state partners, the difference in the terms 'household' and 'family', living conditions in our community are not the same as other resort communities, reengaging emergency support function number 15 for messaging with one voice.

Teton District Health Officer Dr. Travis Riddell made comment on COVID cases, orange and red levels, trends for the hospital and capacity, weighing closures to reduce the number of cases, how other areas are dealing with closures, using the data from community exposure and movement tracking studies, and reviewing this data further before making a decision. Further discussion included contact tracing results, the current struggle with enforcement, fines may work, cases by age, communications with the state health officer, the intermingle of other regions with our community, school virtual studies and after-school activities, that public health has not endorsed close-contact sports, appreciation for today's conversation and the importance of laying the options out for consideration, pursuing local regulations through the variance process, using the daily nixle alerts, and then he summarized strategies.

Jim Stanford thanked Drs. Beaupre and Riddell, Jodie Pond and the public health staff for their important role and tireless work on our behalf, he asked about contact tracing results, comparing our county with other resort communities, communicating through the emergency management website, and was ready to enact closures.

Jonathan Schechter made comment on the cases by age results, absence of federal assistance, state relations, using the term household versus family, effectiveness of the personal responsibility approach, and unifying our message.

Arne Jorgensen made comment on School District policies, rationing of care by an ethics committee, variance to state health orders, method of establishing fine enforcement, appreciation to the health committee for their endurance, and supported next steps discussed today,

Lea Colasuonno made comment on the Council's ability to enforce fines and penalties.

Hailey Morton Levinson asked what the health officers needed from the Council and supported the health committee in their efforts.

Pete Muldoon asked the health committee to pursue the variance option and come back to the Council. He stated public comment would not be taken today but after a draft ordinance is prepared if it goes that route.

A motion was made by Pete Muldoon and seconded by Hailey Morton Levinson to direct the town attorney to work with Teton County Public Health and Dr. Riddell to understand what actions they deem necessary and to be ready to draft that into an emergency ordinance should those requests not granted by the State. Mayor Muldoon called for the vote. The vote showed all in favor and the motion carried.

The Council held discussion on enforcement challenges and possible solutions. Lea Colasuonno commented on the town’s ability to fine for order violations. Michelle Weber made comment on the police department’s enforcement and the challenges presented by mask orders. Dr. Riddell made comment on the language in mask orders. Further discussion included consistency between the town and county, other health orders in place that may be enforceable, household gatherings, communication and messaging. Dr. Riddell commented on using “household” in the limitations on gatherings.

Adjourn. A motion was made by Hailey Morton Levinson and seconded by Jonathan Schechter to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Muldoon called for the vote. The vote showed all in favor and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 1:19 p.m. minutes:spb

TOWN OF JACKSON

ATTEST:

Pete Muldoon, Mayor

Sandra P. Birdyshaw, Town Clerk
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