

TOWN COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

DECEMBER 4, 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 10:00 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, Roxanne Robinson, Jason Wright, Zolo, and Sandy Birdyshaw.

COVID-19 and Local Government Measures. Resolution #20-26, A Resolution Supporting Public Health Recommendation #12 Regarding Limiting Gatherings to Household Groups.

Mayor Muldoon read the draft resolution which supported the recent recommendation put forth by Dr. Riddell to limit gatherings to household members. The Council held discussion and Teton County Public Health Director Jodie Pond made comment on the recommendations and orders.

Public comment was given by Wes Gardner and Jessica Chambers.

Mayor Muldoon suggested an edit to the last paragraph of the resolution, to add “The Jackson Town Council also supports Public Health Order Variances that have been drafted by Dr. Riddell and submitted to the State of Wyoming and request their approval without delay.”

A motion was made by Hailey Morton Levinson and seconded by Jim Stanford to approve Resolution #20-26 A Resolution Supporting Public Health Recommendation #12 Regarding Limiting Gatherings to Household Groups, as edited today.

RESOLUTION 20-26: A Resolution Supporting Public Health Recommendation #12 Regarding Limiting Gatherings to Household Groups

WHEREAS, Dr. Travis Riddell, MD as the Teton District Health Officer, pursuant to Wyoming Statute §35-1-306(a), has enacted Recommendation #12 which recommends that gatherings be limited to household groups in order to help stop the spread of COVID. A “household group” is defined as a group of individuals who reside in the same residence. A “gathering” is any planned or spontaneous event, public or private, bringing together, or likely bringing together, people from outside a person’s household group in a single room or a single confined space (whether indoor or outdoor) at the same time. For clarification, persons should continue to go to work and to school, but should not gather outside of household groups that occur outside of work or school; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Riddell has requested the Town Council consider a resolution or other appropriate action to affirm this new recommendation and encourage its widespread adoption with the specific objective of slowing viral spread over the next two weeks in hopes that the leadership of our community can simultaneously speak in a unified voice in order to see greater compliance and therefore greater efficacy with this approach until such time as the State may sign on to specific variances to State Health Orders; and

WHEREAS, a significant number of Wyoming citizens are at risk of serious health complications, including death, from COVID-19. Although most individuals who contract COVID-19 do not become seriously ill, people with mild symptoms, and even asymptomatic persons with COVID-19, place other vulnerable members of the public at significant risk; and

WHEREAS, Teton County is an isolated rural community with a single small hospital with limited resources including only six (6) Intensive Care Unit beds and no critical care specialists such that caring for many patients with COVID-19 can compromise the ability of the healthcare system in Teton County to deliver the necessary healthcare to the public; and

WHEREAS, as of December 3, 2020, the number of active cases of COVID in Teton County is 132; and

WHEREAS, as of December 2, 2020 there are 9 current hospitalizations in the Primary Care Unit and 3 in the Intensive Care Unit of St. John’s Medical Center in Jackson, Wyoming; and

WHEREAS, as of December 1, 2020 the previous seven-day average of new cases in Teton County is 28.6 per day; and

WHEREAS, as of December 2, 2020, the two-week rolling average test positivity rate for Teton County is 9.65%; and

WHEREAS, St. John's Health routinely serves patients not only from within Teton County but also many tourists and residents from Lincoln County, WY, Sublette County, WY, Fremont County, WY, and parts of Eastern Idaho who will further stress its capacity, making it critical that Teton County take steps to slow the spread of COVID-19 infection so as not to overwhelm the local healthcare system in such a way that would result in many preventable deaths; and

WHEREAS, limiting gatherings to household groups could substantially reduce transmission of COVID-19 throughout the community and thereby reduce the infection rate, the death toll, and the economic impact of the disease.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF JACKSON, WYOMING, having duly met on December 4, 2020, at a Special Town Council Meeting, which was properly noticed and open to the public, and having fully considered the matter at hand, that:

The Jackson Town Council supports the Teton County Health Department and Dr. Travis Riddell, MD, MPH, the Teton District Health Officer, with regard to the public health recommendation that gatherings be limited to household groups in order to help stop the spread of COVID and strongly urge compliance therewith.

The Jackson Town Council also supports Public Health Order Variances that have been drafted by Dr. Riddell and submitted to the State of Wyoming and request their approval without delay

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 4th day of December 2020.

There was further discussion on asking restaurant owners to take it upon themselves to temporarily close the dining-in option when possible, or give staff time off when possible, and the personal responsibility of our community to make the right choices in wearing masks and getting together.

Mayor Muldoon called for the vote on the resolution. The vote showed all in favor and the motion carried.

There was brief discussion on enforcement. Lea Colasuonno made comment. Jodie Pond made comment on the entire infrastructure working on the health safety of our community.

Hailey Morton Levinson left the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

A motion was made by Jim Stanford and seconded by Pete Muldoon to direct the Town Manager to direct the Police Department to begin making citations at such time that feel someone is not wearing a mask and where they feel there is probable cause that the Public Health Order has been violated. Mayor Muldoon called for the vote. The vote showed 4-0 in favor, with Levinson absent. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Jonathan Schechter and seconded by Jim Stanford to incorporate the latest patient numbers into the resolution. Mayor Muldoon called for the vote. The vote showed 4-0 in favor, with Levinson absent. The motion carried.

Adjourn. A motion was made by Jonathan Schechter and seconded by Jim Stanford to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Muldoon called for the vote. The vote showed 4-0 in favor, with Levinson absent. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:09 p.m. minutes:spb

TOWN OF JACKSON

ATTEST:

Pete Muldoon, Mayor

Sandra P. Birdyshaw, Town Clerk
Publish JH News & Guide: December 16, 2020