JOPLIN CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 8, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Stanley called the special meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Invocation was read by City Clerk Barbara Gollhofer

The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America was led by Ms. Williams.

City Clerk Barbara Gollhofer read the Special Call:
Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Joplin, Missouri, will conduct a Special Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 8, 2020, at Joplin City Hall, 5th Floor Council Chambers, 602 S. Main Street for the purpose of discussing an ordinance to require persons to wear facemasks to help restrict the spread of COVID-19.

The public was informed the meeting could be viewed live on KGCS-TV channel 21 and regional cable television systems including Sparklight in Joplin; or livestream at http://www.joplinmo.org/182/Video-Multimedia. In compliance with the social distancing requirement of six feet, the number of guests in the Council Chambers is limited to 43.

Answering Roll Call were Council Members: Charles Copple, Keenan Cortez, Doug Lawson, Anthony Monteleone, Diane Reid Adams, Gary Shaw, Mayor Ryan Stanley, Phil Stinnett and Christina Williams. Also, in attendance were City Manager Nick Edwards and City Attorney Peter Edwards.

ORDINANCE-EMERGENCY

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2020-004 - AN ORDINANCE to require persons to wear facemasks that cover the nostrils and mouth to help restrict the spread of the COVID-19 virus, to establish reasonable exemptions, to set practical enforcement conditions; and containing an emergency clause.

Before discussion on Council Bill No. 2020-004, Mayor Stanley opened the meeting to hear Citizens Requests to Address Council and public comments submitted by email.

Requests to Address Council:
Motion by Mr. Copple, second by Dr. Reid Adams to allow Dr. McNab speak at this time.
Voting in favor were Council Members: Copple, Cortez, Lawson , Monteleone, Reid Adams, Shaw, Stanley, Stinnett and Williams, 9. Nays: 0.
Dr. Rob McNab, 1963 Reinmiller Rd. spoke on behalf of Freeman Health System and supports a mask ordinance. He gave an update on COVID patients: they're increasing in hospitalizations, severity of illness is increasing, stays are more prolonged. FHS is at capacity and has had to transfer patients to other hospitals. FHS is working with Mercy to find ways to take care of community members as well as health care providers who have been become ill. FHS is actively building another unit to figure out where to put patients. Dr. McNab stated he is also speaking on

behalf of Mark Hahn, President of KCUMB's medical school, who firmly supports a mask ordinance. KCUMB has implemented a mask ordinance on their campuses.
Christopher Rouse, 2006 Whitney Way, Joplin, spoke in opposition to a mask ordinance.
Blake Hartman, 1007 E Centennial, Carthage, spoke in opposition to a mask ordinance.
Josh Shackles, 712 Roosevelt, Joplin, spoke in favor of a mask ordinance.
Toby Teeter, 320 W. 4th St., Joplin, stated the Chamber of Commerce favors a mask ordinance.
Troy Kinast, 1630 Marzelle Dr., Joplin, spoke in opposition to a mask ordinance.
Dr. Michael Knapp, 3586 Alpaca Dr., Joplin spoke in opposition to a mask ordinance.
Holly Crane, 1205 S. Main, Joplin, spoke in favor of a mask ordinance.
Melanie Wamble, 2158 S. Fallen Oak, Joplin, spoke in favor of a mask ordinance.
Dr. Tobi Yerokun, 3702 Springhill Rd., Joplin, spoke in favor of a mask ordinance.
Jordan Starkweather, 2515 N. Minnesota, Joplin, spoke in favor a mask ordinance.
Ivy Hagedorn, 3401 S. Moffet, Joplin, spoke in favor of a mask ordinance.
Abigail Covington, 211 S. Moffet, Joplin, spoke in opposition to a mask ordinance.
Deborah Ferguson, 4480 Bradley Dr. Joplin, spoke in opposition to a mask ordinance. Ms. Ferguson asked for additional time to speak. Motion by Mr. Stinnett, second by Mr. Copple to allow the extra time. Voting in favor were Council Members: Copple, Cortez, Lawson, Monteleone, Shaw, Stanley, Stinnett and Williams, 8. Nays: 1, Reid Adams.
Sophie Stoebel, 2602 Delaware, Joplin, spoke in favor of a mask ordinance.
Kevin Van Story, 1241 N. Business 49, spoke in opposition to a mask ordinance.
Chuck Covington, 301 S. Mineral, Joplin, spoke in opposition to a mask ordinance.
Steve Allgood, 5837 Elm, Webb City, spoke in opposition to a mask ordinance.
Dr. Justin Hamlin, 308 Dogwood Trail, Carl Junction, spoke in opposition to a mask ordinance.
Charles McGrew, 2912 Minnesota, Joplin, spoke in opposition to a mask ordinance.
Lori Phillips, 3402 Westberry Square, Joplin, spoke in opposition to a mask ordinance.

Mayor Stanley called for a recess at 8:50 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 9:00 p.m.

Comments from the Public: Read by City Clerk Barbara Gollhofer
Tim Wasson, Joplin: do not mandate masks for residents
Stephanie Brady, Community Clinic: supports a mask ordinance
Meegan Brown, 3106 S. Grand: stated she is against the mandatory masks' rules.
Kristine Gustafson: supports wearing masks in public places
Steve Brown, 3106 S. Grand: please vote NO on the mask ordinance.

Staff Recommendation:
City Manager Nick Edwards stated the City of Joplin Health Department recommends mask usage for health and safety reasons. The city council authorized the purchase of masks at the council meeting on Monday, July 6. The Finance Dept. has been working to procure masks. They will be available to the public sometime next week. The city is working on a distribution plan which may involve using Memorial Hall parking lot and city staff. Details will be announced when they're finalized, and the City will do its best to accommodate those in need as much possible. Proof of residency such as a utility bill will be required. If there are masks left over after the citizen distribution, they may be offered to businesses.

Comments from Jeremy Drinkwitz, President of Mercy Joplin

Mr. Drinkwitz stated Mercy has limited supplies and resource, but plenty of PPE and resources to take care of people with COVID, but the reality is they have limited nurses and a limited number of beds to take care of all the patients they have. Cases have risen in the past two weeks. There is concern within the medical profession and medical community that we may get to a point if the trend of increasing COVID cases continues, that we're going to run out of the ability to take care of the patients that need care. He stated Mercy is 100% in favor of supporting face masks.

Comments from Dr. Melinda Moss, Joplin Schools Superintendent

Dr. Moss stated Joplin Public Schools has worked with the Health Department concerning a mask ordinance and feels they have protocols in place that are reasonable for school children and aligns with the Pediatric Association's guidelines. The back-to-school plans for the 2020-2021 school year are still being drafted.

Comments from Dr. Yuhas, Freeman COVID doctor

Dr. Yuhas spoke on behalf of his cohorts at Freeman Health System. He's been working with COVID patients the last two weeks and supports a mask ordinance.

Ordinances – Emergency

Council Bill 2020-004- an ordinance to require persons to wear facemasks that cover the nostrils and mouth to help restrict the spread of the COVID-19 virus, to establish reasonable exemptions, to set practical enforcement conditions; and containing an emergency clause.

Mr. Copple asked to make the following amendment to Section 1 of Ordinance No. 2020-004:

> Section 1. That all persons six (6) years old or older who are present in the City of Joplin shall wear a face covering when inside public facilities or businesses that are open to the public, public transportation vehicles and outside when social distancing is not possible in groups of ten (10) or more persons who are not members of the same family or household. Face covering is defined as a cloth face covering that covers the nose and mouth *or a full-face shield*. It can be a sewn mask secured with ties or straps around the head or behind the ears; multiple layers of fabric tied around the head; made from a variety of materials, such as fleece, cotton, or linen; or factory-made or made from household items.

Mr. Cortez asked to make the following amendment to Section 8 of Ordinance No. 2020-004:

> Section 8. Under the Joplin City Council's authority for enforcement of a violation of face coverings, the City Council specifically orders that a violation of this ordinance under Joplin's City Code, Section 1-5, is punishable by a fine of $0 to ~~$150~~ $50 dollars, at the court's discretion.

Motion by Mr. Cortez, second by Mr. Monteleone to approve the amendments to Council Bill No. 2020-004. Voting in favor were Council Members: Copple, Cortez, Lawson , Monteleone, Reid Adams, Stanley, and Williams, 7. Nays: Shaw, Stinnett, 2. Council Bill No. 2020-004 was amended.

Amended Council Bill No. 2020-004

Mr. Cortez introduced Amended Council Bill No. 2020-004 - an ordinance to require persons to wear facemasks that cover the nostrils and mouth to help restrict the spread of the COVID-19 virus, to establish reasonable exemptions, to set practical enforcement conditions; and containing an emergency clause. Motion by Mr. Cortez, second by Dr. Reid Adams to approve Amended Council Bill No. 2020-004 on an emergency basis. Voting in favor were Council Members: Copple, Cortez, Monteleone, Reid Adams, Stanley, and Williams, 8. Nays: Lawson, Shaw, Stinnett, 3. The Council Bill was declared adopted and entitled **Ordinance No. 2020-101**

Other Business

Mayor Stanley asked the city council for their permission to reach out to Newton and Jasper County leaders, and every municipality in those two counties, to put together a COVID Task Force. Mayor Stanley believes this issue (mask ordinance) would have been best served if it had been addressed by the counties and not the city because the city is too small. He wants to include the Health Department, city manager and the mayor to try to help pull the cities in this area together and try to fight this (COVID-19) as a joint effort. The consensus of the City Council was to grant permission to the mayor to move forward.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:43 p.m.

Respectfully,

Barbara J. Gollhofer, City Clerk