

1 **MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING** of the City Council of the City of Orange City, Florida, held
2 on Monday, July 06, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, 201 N. Holly Avenue, Orange City.

3
4 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

5
6 The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Blair and roll call was taken.

7
8 **ROLL CALL**

9
10 **PRESENT:** Mayor Gary A. Blair; Vice Mayor Bill O'Connor; Council Members; Jeff Allebach, Jim
11 Mahoney, Kelli Marks, Martin Harper; City Attorney Bill Reischmann; City Manager Dale Arrington;
12 City Clerk Gloria Thomas.

13
14 **TELEPHONICALLY:** Council Member Crippen

15
16 **INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

17
18 Everyone stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

19
20 **1. Proposed Emergency Ordinance Mandating Face Masks in the City of Orange City due to**
21 **COVID-19**

22
23 Mr. Reischmann read the title of emergency Ordinance No. 632 into the record.

24
25 Ms. Arrington reported about local cities that have pursued or mandated face masks.

26
27 Mayor Blair opened the floor to Council Members for comments or questions regarding this ordinance.

28
29 Vice Mayor O'Connor voiced concerns regarding some of the wording within Ordinance 632, especially
30 Section 3 (ii) b.

31
32 Ms. Arrington clarified Section 3 (ii) b to resolve Vice Mayor O'Connor's concerns.

33
34 Council Member Harper commented that the CDC advised that wearing a mask, washing of hands and
35 maintaining a safe distance of six feet is imperative in order to stop the spread of COVID-19.

36
37 Council Member Marks stated that it is a shame that the City is left with the responsibility of enforcement.
38 She voiced her concerns and opinions regarding the facts, voiced resident concerns, and the overall
39 situation.

40
41 Council Member Crippen stated that the CDC, the World Health Organization and Dr. Fauci state that
42 wearing a mask is most important to stop the spread. He agreed with Council Member Marks that the
43 responsibility to mandate mask should not fall on the local municipalities, it should be mandated by the
44 State and/or County.

45
46 Mayor Blair opened the public hearing for citizen's comments.
47

1 Anthony Pupello, 702 Montclair Terrace, came forward to thank Council and staff for bringing forth this
2 item. He suggested expanding “harm reduction” and overcoming the COVID-19 challenges faced at this
3 time.

4
5 William Cobb, 470 E. Wisconsin Ave, inquired about the timeframe of the mandate.

6
7 Mr. Reischmann read from the City Charter responding, 60 days unless the emergency continues.

8
9 Chris Berrian, 2090 N. Sparkman Ave., came forward to speak against the mask mandate.

10
11 John Bird, 109 S. Lawton Ave., came forward to speak against the mask mandate.

12
13 Diane Learens, 1102 Oak Landing Dr., came forward to state that her son is a respiratory therapist at
14 Orlando Hospital. She spoke in favor of the mask mandate.

15
16 Dan PePin, 485 S. Cedar Ave., came forward to speak in favor of the mask mandate.

17
18 Renee Imbrenda, 640 Gathering Way, came forward to speak against the mask mandate.

19
20 Tim Siers, 526 Blue Park Rd., came forward and shared statistics regarding the antibody tests and COVID-
21 19 test results. He stated that he stands in opposition of the mask mandate.

22
23 Bradley Coleman, 356 Park Ave., came forward to speak in opposition of the mask mandate.

24
25 Marcia Wood, 1355 10th St., came forward to speak in opposition of the mask mandate.

26
27 Deborah Cerankowski, 256 Adelaide St. Debary, came forward to state that she is a business owner within
28 the City. She spoke in opposition of the mask mandate.

29
30 Pat Thomas, 723 Morrissey Dr., came forward to speak in favor of the mask mandate.

31
32 Wallace Rule, 346 N. Volusia Ave., came forward to state that he is daycare owner within the City and is
33 concerned about the children’s wellbeing from wearing a mask. He spoke against the mask mandate.

34
35 Fran Darms, 990 Kumquat Ct., came forward to state that she is approaching this matter with mixed
36 feelings. She asked about the statistics regarding the COVID-19 numbers. Ms. Darms spoke against the
37 mask mandate.

38
39 Julie Melendez, 1361 N. Carpenter Ave., stated that it has been proven that frequently wearing a mask is
40 harmful to a person’s immune system. She spoke in opposition of the mask mandate.

41
42 Shawn Pupello, 702 Montclair Ter., came forward to state that it is everyone’s personal right to wear or
43 not wear a mask. She thanked the Council for discussing this matter.

44
45 Sandy Jones, 403 W. New York Ave., stated that her young son contracted COVID-19. She said that her
46 son and daughter-in-law both received false-positive test results. Ms. Jones stated that everyone should be
47 careful and use common sense.

48

1 Mark Siers, 261 S. Orange Ave., came forward and thanked Council for considering this matter. Mr. Siers
2 stated that he is a pastor within the City and will pray for our leaders in this decision making.
3

4 A discussion ensued between Council Member Mahoney and Mr. Siers regarding the ability to social
5 distance and be safe during church services.
6

7 Mason White, 670 E. 2nd Ave., came forward as a scientist to provide data regarding masks safety. He
8 spoke against the mask mandate.
9

10 Rick Becker, 2501 N. Volusia Ave., came forward and spoke strongly in favor of the mask mandate.
11

12 Doug Little, 163 E. Indiana, came forward to speak about the economic effects that COVID-19 has had
13 around the County.
14

15 Ms. Thomas read several emails from City residents in support of and opposed to the mask mandate. A
16 copy of the emails are permanently attached to these minutes.
17

18 A question and answer forum ensued between Vice Mayor O'Connor and Chief Thomas regarding the
19 enforcement of fines and how the implementation of this mandate will affect police officer's time and
20 present possible court cases challenging the mask mandate.
21

22 Council Member Allebach observed that precautions to end the spread of the virus are not working.
23 Volusia County has a high number of cases and should take larger measures to lower the curve of the
24 virus.
25

26 Council Member Marks stated that this has been a hard decision to make. Council just wants to do the
27 right thing for City residents. She noted that the virus is scary for everyone and Council is just trying to
28 be safe and push the numbers down.
29

30 Council Member Harper stated that wearing a mask scientifically stops the spread of the virus. He voiced
31 his concerns about the safety of the healthcare workers in the hospitals that are fighting the virus. Council
32 Member Harper stated that he supports this Ordinance.
33

34 Council Member Mahoney asked Mr. Reischmann if the Ordinance should be amended to include the City
35 Charter subset language. Mr. Reischmann responded "no".
36

37 Council Member Mahoney stated that he is not fond of wearing a mask; however, the City needs to make
38 evidence-based decisions. He commented about wearing a mask in public, going to gyms and churches to
39 keep the body and spirit healthy. Council Member Mahoney stated that he would like language added to
40 the Ordinance that would allow an exception for places of worship.
41

42 Council Member Mahoney commented about the loss of employment and health. He read from an article
43 that provided statistics regarding the affects that have occurred during the COVID-19 crisis.
44

45 Mayor Blair stated that the health and welfare of the citizens in this community are of the utmost
46 importance. The City wants to avoid a second shutdown which could be devastating to the community.
47

1 Mr. Reichmann suggested adding an exemption "k. Any person in a place of worship maintaining at least
2 six feet of distancing" to page 4 of the ordinance.

3 A citizen came forward to request Council take into consideration the extra time people take to touch their
4 masks.

5
6 A citizen came forward to speak in favor of the mask mandate.

7
8 A citizen came forward to state that the death rate is low and this is a fear factor.

9
10 A lady came forward to state that she does not live in the City but shops in the City. She spoke in favor of
11 the mask mandate.

12
13 Council Member Harper commented about the testing factors.

14
15 **Council Member Mahoney moved to approve Emergency Ordinance No. 632,**
16 **providing an additional exemption, "k. Any person in a place of worship**
17 **maintaining at least six feet of distancing", seconded by Council Member Harper.**

18
19 A discussion ensued that pertained to maintaining the social distance requirements in a place of worship.

20
21 **The motion passed by a 6/1 roll call vote of the City Council with Vice Mayor**
22 **O'Connor voting "no."**

23
24 **2. ADJOURN**

25
26 There being no further business, Mayor Blair adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

27
28
29 **RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

APPROVED ON:

30
31 _____
32 Melani Beringer
33 CMC, Deputy City Clerk

7/28/2020
Date