



**MINUTES OF THE EMERGENCY MEETING OF  
THE SOLVANG CITY COUNCIL**

---

Council Chambers  
1644 Oak Street  
Solvang, CA 93463

March 12, 2020  
Thursday  
7:00 p.m.

---

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Toussaint called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

PRESENT: Mayor Ryan Toussaint, Mayor Pro Tem Robert Clarke, Council Members  
Chris Djernaes, Daniel Johnson and Karen Waite

STAFF: Xenia Bradford, Acting City Manager/Administrative Services Director;  
Chip Wullbrandt, City Attorney; and Daryl A. Betancur, Interim City Clerk

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Led by Mayor Pro Tem Clarke.

1. **PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – WRITTEN OR VERBAL** - None
2. **SANTA BARBARA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER DECLARATION OF “PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY” RELATED TO COVID-19 (CORONA VIRUS)**

Receive staff report on Coronavirus including the Presidential Actions, Governor of California Executive Order, California Department of Public Health Guidance and County of Santa Barbara Public Health Emergency Declaration; and direct staff to adopt and follow County Public Health Officer’s Order on Social Distancing.

Acting City Manager/Administrative Services Director Bradford presented the staff report noting that this emergency meeting was called upon when the City was notified that the County of Santa Barbara was issuing an official order by the County Public Health official related to social distancing; stated that we have declarations from Henning Ansorg, MD, Santa Barbara County Public Health Officer and Van Do-Reynoso, MPH, Ph.D., Santa Barbara County Public Health Director on COVID-19 declaring that a local health emergency exists in the County of Santa Barbara due to an imminent and proximate threat to the public health, within the meaning of Section 101080 of the Health and Safety Code, by the introduction of COVID-19 in the County of Santa Barbara.

Acting City Manager Bradford further stated that we also have a declaration of a local emergency by the County CEO; commented that the County has activated its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on a limited basis for media inquiries; that they are placing an order mandating social distancing by following State of California Public Health Department and the Governor’s Executive Order, which was not binding; she stated that such order was limiting or allowing social gatherings of 250 people or more and also providing direction with respect to social gatherings and requiring that there be a space of 6 feet between people, that those requirements are becoming an actual binding order by the County of Santa Barbara, which in turn the City would have to follow.

Ms. Bradford stated that staff is seeking Council's direction to adopt the County of Santa Barbara Public Health Officer Order and provide direction in terms of any steps the City may take relative to permitting of events and other issues. She commented that with respect to the Solvang Century event, that event is supposed to begin and end in the City of Buellton and consequently, it is up to the County and City of Buellton to make the determination to cancel that specific event; that our involvement with that event has been limited to issuing a permit for pass-through access. She elaborated that staff is seeking Council's direction relative to cancellation of the limited permit and again, the rest of any cancellations for the Century event are within the purview of the County and City of Buellton to make determinations.

Acting City Manager Bradford stated that this morning the White House held a briefing for all local officials where information was provided about the actions taken at the federal level including already existing travel restrictions from places like China and Iran, and adding travel restrictions from the European Schengen Zone. United States citizens and permanent residents are still allowed travel to and from the Schengen Zone but are required to self-quarantine for 14 days. Foreign citizens are not allowed to travel to the United States from the Schengen Zone. Ms. Bradford commented that the federal government stressed the need for coordinated local response amongst state, county, and local levels; however public health efforts are locally executed. The Federal government also stated that cargo planes continue to operate and stressed the importance to keep the economic flow of good to avoid shortages. Representative from CDC discussed containment and mitigation efforts; stressed the need to contain the virus where possible but for all to engage in mitigation efforts to slow down the spread of the virus to allow health officials to treat patients without overwhelming hospitals. CDC provided guidance to cancel gatherings, extend hours of non-operation for schools, and to encourage telecommuting.

Ms. Bradford stated that the recommendations for the Council are to follow the County's Order and for the City of Solvang to formally adopt the Order given by the County public officials. She emphasized the need for the City to partner with and help local businesses to help mitigate the local economic impact to the tourism industry and local businesses. She stated that staff will work proactively with the business community to develop coordinated efforts with local banks to develop loan programs to help with cashflow for small businesses. Ms. Bradford also stated that the City and City Council should also proactively seek funding programs from the State and Federal government under Emergency Declarations.

Discussion followed regarding the Solvang Century ride and how the City is responding to the issue of pulling out their permit.

Acting City Manager Bradford and City Attorney Wullbrandt stated that while the event is called Solvang Century, the event takes place mainly within the geographic boundaries of the City of Buellton where the event is scheduled to begin and end; that it is primarily permitted by the City of Buellton; that the City issued its limited pass-through permit on July 2019; that the recommendation would be to pull the permit in order to comply with County health officials order, however, we need to be mindful that we still allow bike riding on city streets.

A discussion ensued regarding cancelling the race, how the promoters stand on the issue, whether or not the City can cancel the race, liability and legal issues and the best way to meet the requirements of the Order by public health officials; it was noted that it is within the jurisdiction of County public health officials to enforce the order when a gathering is over 250 people.

City Attorney Wullbrandt also pointed out details from the Declaration of a Local Health Emergency by the County Health Office and Public Health Director for Coronavirus (COVID-19), stating that the order is "Effective immediately until March 30, 2020, consistent with the Governor's social distancing guidance the Health Officer is mandating cancellation or postponement of nonessential gatherings of 250 or more people, and small gatherings shall include six (6) foot distancing between participants particularly those at high risk for severe illness for COVID-19.

The City Attorney Wullbrandt also clarified that the County of Santa Barbara confirmed that the Farmer’s Market for City of Solvang would not be considered a social gathering under this definition.

Acting City Manager Bradford also pointed out that the City had been notified that the Solvang Library (operated by City of Goleta) informed the City that it will be closed through end of March.

Mayor Toussaint opened public comments at 7:33 p.m.

There were no public comments.

Mayor Toussaint closed public comments at 7:33 p.m.

*Motion made by Mayor Toussaint, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Clarke for the City to take the following actions:*

- 1. Adopt the public health order;*
- 2. Authorize staff to pull the Century permit and hold/review any outstanding permits in the near-term permit applications;*
- 3. Authorize issuing suggested press release;*
- 4. Direct staff to work with the business community to find ways to mitigate the economic impacts;*
- 5. Authorize the Mayor to send a letter to state and federal representatives seeking financial assistance under the emergency declarations, for example SBA loans;*
- 6. Authorize staff to cooperate with federal, state, and county health officials to meet any Order or remain vigilant to future guidance; and*
- 7. Authorize the Acting City Manager to develop policy guidelines for qualified employees to work remotely from home when feasible.*

*Motion carried with a roll call vote of 5-0.*

**3. ADJOURNMENT** – Mayor Toussaint adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

**Minutes Prepared by:**

DocuSigned by:  
*Daryl Betancur*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
**DARYL A. BETANCUR, MMC**  
**Interim City Clerk**

In accordance with Solvang Municipal Code Section 1-4-16 (Ord. 14-305), minutes of the City Council of the City of Solvang are prepared in action style.