MARCH 12, 2020

The Jackson Town Council met in conjunction with the Teton County Commission in a special joint information meeting (JIM) located in the Town Council Chambers located at 150 East Pearl Avenue at 11:01 A.M. Upon roll call the following were present:

TOWN COUNCIL: Vice-Mayor Hailey Morton Levinson, Arne Jorgensen, Jim Stanford, and Jonathan Schechter. Mayor Pete Muldoon joined by telephone.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS: Chair Natalia Macker, Mark Newcomb, Mark Barron, and Greg Epstein. Luther Propst joined by telephone.


Vice-Mayor Morton Levinson stated that Mayor Muldoon was not able to physical attend the meeting as he had been diagnosed with the flu and asked that the Council’s meeting rules be suspended to allow him to participate by telephone. A motion was made by Jim Stanford and seconded by Arne Jorgensen to suspend Section 3. Quorum in Chapter 2 of the Town Council’s Rules and Procedures to allow Mayor Muldoon to fully participate in this special meeting by telephone. Vice-Mayor Morton Levinson called for the vote. The vote showed all in favor and the motion carried for the Town.

Vice-Mayor Morton Levinson stated this special meeting was to talk about COVID-19 and large special events upcoming in the town and county. The Town and County were working with local, regional, and state health officials to prepare for local cases of the virus and ensure effective communication and coordination. She urged the community to work together to protect the vulnerable members of our community and first responders. Social distancing seems to have been an effective measure against the virus spreading. Chair Macker thanked those who have been working around the clock to inform and advance our community planning, our goal is to mitigate the impacts and slow transmission as much as possible. The Town and County are addressing continuity of operations within the government.

COVID-19 and Special Event Planning. Dr. Paul Beaupre, the Chief Executive Office of St. John’s Health, commented on social distancing, calling the hotline to review symptoms before going to doctor or emergency room to reduce the risk to healthcare providers, and testing capabilities. Jodie Pond, Director of Teton County Public Health presented a situational and regional awareness update, mitigation for large events, testing capabilities, CDC mitigation guidelines, having a very narrow opportunity to intervene so the healthcare system is not overwhelmed. The Council and Commission held discussion with Ms. Pond and Dr. Beaupre.

Jackson Hole Fire and EMS Chief Brady Hansen, Chief of Police Todd Smith, and Emergency Management Coordinator Rich Ochs made staff comment. The Council and Commission held discussion with staff.

Public comment was given by: Mary Kate Buckley of the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort regarding the Rendezvous Fest, Anna Olsen of the Chamber of Commerce regarding economics, Cory Milligan of New West Knife Works, Virginia Simmons, Dr. Gillian Chapman Superintendent of Teton County School District, Jeff Golightly of Snow King Mountain Resort, Bob Culver, Megan Gallagher from Jackson Hole Food and Wine, Brian Gallagher of the Jackson Hole Travel and Tourism Board, and Jim Waldrop of The Wort Hotel and Million Dollar Cowboy Bar.

Because the continuation of these special events presents a clear and present danger to the participants and the public, a motion was made by Jim Stanford and seconded by Arne Jorgensen to direct the Town Manager to revoke the special event permit and any other associated permits for the following events the March 19-22 World Championship Hill Climb, the March 20 Octane Addictions, and the March 27 Rendezvous Music Fest on the Town Square. Vice-Mayor Morton Levinson called for the vote. The vote showed all in favor and the motion carried for the Town.
On behalf of the County, a motion was made by Mark Newcomb and seconded by Greg Epstein to direct the Board of County Commissioners’ Administrator to deny or revoke Compliance Certificates for the following events, the March 21 Quarter Cookout at the Stilson lot and the March 26-29 Jackson Hole Rendezvous Fest in the Mountain Resort parking lot, for the reasons of public health nuisance. Chair Macker called for the vote. The vote showed all in favor and the motion carried for the County.

Adjourn. On behalf of the Town, a motion was made by Jonathan Schechter and seconded by Jim Stanford to adjourn. The vote showed all in favor and the motion carried for the Town. On behalf of the County, a motion was made by Mark Barron and seconded by Greg Epstein to adjourn the meeting. The vote showed all in favor and the motion carried for the County. The meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m. minutes:spb

TOWN OF JACKSON

ATTEST: Hailey Morton Levinson, Vice-Mayor

Sandra P. Birdyshaw, Town Clerk

Publish JH News & Guide: March 18, 2020