SPECIAL MYRTLE BEACH CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 2:00 P.M., MONDAY, MAY 18, 2020 VIA TELECONFERENCE

Roll Call.

Present: Jackie Hatley, Michael Chestnut, Mike Lowder, Philip N. Render, Gregg Smith, John Kraic.

Absent/Excused: Mayor Brenda Bethune.

2:02 P.M.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Councilman Chestnut

Mayor Pro-Tem Hatley reads statement from Mayor Bethune, attached.

Mr. Pedersen states that we are still in the middle of a pandemic and hopes that is now trending in the right direction. Also as staff and administration, we understand the desire is clear to reopen the economy. However, given that, though, we are still constrained by the law. There are still businesses not open by virtue of Governor McMaster's Executive Orders. Still not fully staffed to meet load that you can expect, we're not in a, situation normal. This is not your typical Myrtle Beach at this time. The other point that I wanted to make here is that there is no getting around the fact that we had some very behavior this past weekend, what we are seeing and what we're starting to experience not just here in Myrtle Beach, but across the country. The psychology of people who have spent the last eighty days inside a guarantined or a social distancing. and they have the opportunity to get out and come to a place like Myrtle Beach and certainly. I think that, to a large degree, that is something that there was no way to completely anticipate and now we now that we've witnessed it, we need to be ready to deal with it going, going forward. I need to take steps to ensure the health and safety of our residents and our guests and without I wanted to turn it over to Chief Prock to talk a little bit about this past weekend.

Chief Prock gives an overview from the past weekend. Friday, we had three hundred and thirty eight calls for service throughout the day and evening. Calls range from service call from to fights to traffic related issues as well as self-initiated traffic enforcement calls. These types of calls continued into Saturday with 498 calls for service and to Sunday with 400 calls for service. I wanted to talk a little bit today about how we prepare for deployment throughout the week and the weekend. We have a process in place that includes communicating with our Myrtle Beach area, Chamber of Commerce. Our Myrtle Beach area, Hospitality Association, Coastal Carolina University. We check the occupant ratings for our hotels. We communicate with our law enforcement partners to include our state agencies, seek intelligence and we do our own intelligence gathering with our intelligence team. We also seek out legal advice, from our attorney, and we evaluate our deployment history. So, with that being said with the information and communications, we were provided for this weekend, specifically via

local associations, and our businesses and agencies that let us to conclude the following deployment plan. What is sufficient over the weekend? We have between 30-40 officers working day shift. 35-42 officers working night shift, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Of issues related to traffic escalating, specifically with golf, carts and mopeds issues on Sunday, three response teams were called into work the evening shift to address the hot areas. Information we originally received was inaccurate at best. It was extremely disappointing to me and my staff that the communication between our business community was lacking with our department. I cannot emphasize enough that this is key to how our community operates effectively every day of the year and not only. but especially as we move into a season of uncertainty. I was extremely disappointed to hear of the lack of participation. It is my hope that improves and that we count on our relationships to be successful. If you have information, and I am specifically, I'm requesting that of our community that you have not shared. We welcome the call. No matter what time of day or night. You hear me often say that public safety is a shared responsibility. Responsibility is a huge part of the communication piece. I have said that from the first day of being in this position, and I will continue to say that. Communication is a huge piece for us being successful. At approximately seven, fourteen hours officers responded to a shooting. Outside of Ryptidz, an argument took place, officers responded within a short distance located subject, matching the description of the shooter with the handgun. He was arrested and transported immediately. Officers received reports of gunshot in the area of Joe White Avenue. Two officers were on patrol in that area. As a result, officers were on scene within 49 seconds, and were able to detain three subjects responsible for that within 12 minutes. We currently having to be four subjects responsible. All defendants involved in this incident are from the Chesterfield County area, and are affiliated. It has been confirmed that they had a previous altercation earlier. Individuals injured during this incident are being treated at GSR for non-life, threatening injuries and the investigation will continue. The preparation for this weekend, as I've already talked about how we prepare. For weekends and holiday weekends and events it is the same of what we've done for Memorial Day Weekend, as we do every holiday weekend and events we also have been working with. Partners with our local county and state partners over the last several weeks and months, we will have over a hundred agency officers from the state and over twenty assisting agency officers from local jurisdictions. This weekend what our community and visitors can expect is to see our traffic congestion management plan, compliance teams and strict enforcement. You will see a modified emergency lane that will be stage for use in the event of heavy congestion and increase calls for service. This is nothing new to our community. But this is going to be stage, we will have assessments done by our watch commanders. This will be done on an hourly basis to determine if we need to implement the strategy. Staging pedestrian barricades will be completed by Public Works Dept. It will allow for quick deployment, if necessary, control pedestrian congestion or sidewalks and blocking roadways if necessary. We will also have traffic congestion relief teams, the 2 teams that will follow and respond to incidents for the dispersing crowds as well as traffic congestion. We'll have congestion release teams made up of four different, highly patrol response team for a of intersections throughout the city. In addition will have regulatory response teams to answer complaints of compliance. State mandate as well city ordinance is related to parking lots for businesses and property owners that fail to comply to adequately secure their parking lots and allow parties of mass gathering. That is something that we saw throughout this past weekend, is areas where mass gatherings were taking place in parking lots that either have been abandoned or not secured by businesses. I cannot emphasize the importance of making sure parking lots are secured upon leaving. We need to work together as a team to make sure that our community is safe. I will emphasizes again as I have done in the past that public safety and public health is a shared responsibility. That is something. Not only what our city believes, but our model, held at the highest standard, and if you come to live work or play in Myrtle Beach, you will obey the law or there will be consequences for your behavior. It is to ensure your safety.

- Councilman Krajc asks how do we receive communication from these businesses? Communication between the hoteliers and the police department where do you all get those numbers for staffing? Is it from the Britten Center? Is it from other communication? How can we improve that communication moving forward? So this type of situation doesn't happen again.
- Chief Prock responds that we work with Hospitality Association and chamber as well. My comments and reference to that is, is the feedback that I have received is just the lack of participation from the businesses. Overall, I think the important lesson learned for the future, is that we want to make sure that that communication pieces together. The anticipation of this weekend was something that we didn't see.
- Councilman Lowder expresses that we need to prepare today for what may be to come this weekend. Barricades has helped cut down on partying.
- Chief Prock responds that if we see the need to deploy we will and if it warrants more we will address that. This Wednesday will be our staging day.
- Councilman Chestnut asks if there will be an emergency lane going south?
- Mark Kruea addresses that restaurant waiting times are long and that conducting with minimal staff. Amusements are not open at this time.
- Councilman Smith asked about frequency of bond court and states to public that plans are not just being made as a reaction but that plans have been discussed for months.
- Councilman Lowder states this has been a little difficult to gage what to expect during this time.
- Mayor Pro-Tem Hatley states that I want to say a couple of words, these are some trying times. The past three months in the city, we've had to deal with the hurdles of a serious virus, the shutdown of our local economy, the task to educate, or try to educate human rights. There's no book to read to tell us what, and how to overcome the

situation therefore, we need to be patient with each other and to diligently work together as a community of residences, businesses for a common ground. Together we can make a difference in getting passed this trying time. I would like to also say to our listeners be aware that this council is not going to allow our city to get out of control. This is why we are having this meeting today. We rely on our police and fire departments to protect all of our city, including residents, businesses and visitors. We are here today to make a pro-active approach. To reiterate that we will strictly be enforcing the laws and we will not tolerate the bad behavior that was shown this weekend. Myrtle Beach is a wonderful city and we do not deserve the negative publicity like it received this past weekend. This is our home we do not mind sharing our beautiful city, but we do expect our visitors to give this city the respect it deserves.

NO ACTIONS WERE TAKEN DURING THIS MEETING

JENNIFER STANFORD, CITY CLERK

Motion: To Adjourn, Moved by Mike Low Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll caryes: Jackie Hatley, Michael Chestnut, Mike Lo Render. Absent: Mayor Brenda Bethune.	all vote (summary: Yes = 6).
ATTEST:	
	JACKIE HATLEY, MAYOR PRO-TEM

- It is with a very conflicted and heavy heart that I cannot be in this meeting today.
- My husband is in ICU and I need to be with him.
- I have been in communication with Chief Prock and the manager to discuss possible plans and have participated with several conference calls this morning to address the issues we're facing.
- Please know that my priority is the safety of our community and we will all work with the hospitality industry to respond to issues like those we experienced over the weekend.
- Thank you all for your understanding during this very difficult time.