

1. 04/03/20 Town Council Agenda

Documents:

[040320.TCSA.COURTESY.PDF](#)

2. Public Comment Letters - ZNP Closure

Documents:

[PUBLIC COMMENT_ N. GUARDABASCIO_REDACTED.PDF](#)
[PUBLIC COMMENT__TAMMY_REDACTED.PDF](#)
[PUBLIC COMMENT_A. HINCKLEY_REDACTED.PDF](#)
[PUBLIC COMMENT_N. GOODELL_REDACTED.PDF](#)
[PUBLIC COMMENT_J. HEALEY_REDACTED.PDF](#)
[PUBLIC COMMENT_RUTH.STEVE PARKER_REDACTED.PDF](#)
[PUBLIC COMMENT_B. SABBATINO_REDACTED.PDF](#)



118 Lion Blvd PO Box 187 Springdale UT 84767 * 435-772-3434 fax 435-772-3952

TOWN COUNCIL NOTICE AND AGENDA
THE SPRINGDALE TOWN COUNCIL WILL HOLD AN ELECTRONIC SPECIAL MEETING
ON FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2020, BEGINNING AT 11:00AM

****This Council meeting will not have an anchor location and will be conducted entirely via electronic means. Council members will connect remotely. The meeting will be available to the public for live viewing/listening. If you do not have access to the internet, you can join the audio via telephone.**

Approval of the meeting agenda

A. Administrative Action Item

1. Discussion and action on letters to the Department of the Interior and the Southwest Utah Public Health Department Board concerning a request for the temporary closure of Zion National Park due to the COVID-19 pandemic

B. Adjourn

Persons interested in accessing the meeting can login using the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/989719170?pwd=N3Fpck1DdjV5TzR3a3I4YmFQUTdZUT09>

Meeting ID: 989 719 170

Password: 188080

Or, by calling one of the following phone numbers:

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,989719170# US (Houston)

+16699009128,,989719170# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US

+1 301 715 8592 US

Meeting ID: 989 719 170

This notice is provided as a courtesy to the community and is not the official notice for this meeting/hearing. This notice is not required by town ordinance or policy. Failure of the Town to provide this notice or failure of a property owner, resident, or other interested party to receive this notice does not constitute a violation of the Town's noticing requirements or policies.

The Town of Springdale complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act by providing accommodations and auxiliary communicative aids and services for all those citizens in need of assistance. Persons requesting these accommodations for Town-sponsored public meetings, services, programs, or events should call Springdale Town Clerk Darci Carlson at 435-772-3434 at least 24 hours before the meeting.

There are no packet materials for this meeting.

From: [Lisa Zumpft](#)
To: ["Stan Smith"](#); ["Randy Aton Town Council"](#); ["Adrian Player"](#); ["Suzanne Elger"](#)
Cc: [Darci Carlson](#)
Subject: Fwd: Closure of ZNP
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2020 2:14:26 PM

Get [BlueMail for Android](#)

On Apr 2, 2020, at 2:11 PM, Nancy Guardabascio  wrote:

Hello Lisa,

Thank you for all you are doing for our community in these difficult times.

I'm writing to add my voice to others in our community asking the Town Council to do all they can to encourage the closure of Zion National Park, in order to protect our community from the spread of the novel coronavirus.

I would also like to see us, as a community, encourage all the hotels in town to shut their doors until federal and state health officials recommend a return to normality. Until hotels are closed, we will continue to attract visitors interested in enjoying all of our outdoor activities.

Warmest regards,

Nancy Guardabascio

Teach InfoWest Spam Trap if this mail is spam:

[Spam](#)

[Not spam](#)

[Forget previous vote](#)

REMEMBER: Never give out your account information, password, or other personal information over e-mail.

From: [Lisa Zumpft](#)
To: ["Stan Smith"](#); ["Randy Aton Town Council"](#); ["Adrian Player"](#); ["Suzanne Elger"](#)
Cc: [Darci Carlson](#)
Subject: Fwd: Please close the parks (Numbers are 1 week old)
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2020 2:18:23 PM

Get [BlueMail for Android](#)

On Apr 2, 2020, at 1:36 PM, Tammy [REDACTED] wrote:

In the difficult times that we are faced with today I am frustrated by the lack of a more proactive response to the horrendous threat that is now creeping across our nation.

As a southern Utah resident, I am appalled by the Governing bodies both State and Federal that are encouraging people to visit the National Parks and Monuments and incentivizing them to come by waiving park entrance fees.

I have heard of people who have traveled from as far away as Chicago to tour the State Parks in Utah and surrounding areas as many have viewed this time away from work and school as an additional opportunity for a vacation. Why are we not reinforcing and supporting the idea that the "work from home" and school cancellations were done to discourage the rapid spread of the virus and not designed to encourage people to travel as this spreads the virus more quickly nationally.

I ask myself if in adopting this attitude have they considered the risk that they impose on the residents of the small towns and communities that surround the parks? As people drive across the country without knowing if they have already been exposed to the virus and are incubating it without being symptomatic. As such, they risk exposing people at every gas station, restaurant, or store that they enter to the virus. They in turn will take it home to their families. Or, If they have a milder case of the virus and mistake it for "just a cold" they will certainly be exposing a multitude of people to the virus as they travel. Further risk is imposed on the residents and travelers alike during the 1 to 14 day incubation period as travelers may become sick along the way. If that happens, the small communities that surround these areas have limited or no medical facilities. There is one small regional hospital in southern Utah located in St. George that covers the area from just south of Cedar City on 1-15 to Page, Arizona, and West beyond Mesquite, Nevada. This service area includes the Navajo Reservation where they have reported 76 cases as of yesterdays reporting which is 3 days behind todays date as it takes that long to receive test results. This regional hospital is nowhere near large enough to cover those residents that will be effected in southern Utah let alone trying to care for an influx of visitors.

As visitors continue to come to the area and shop local grocery stores it creates an additional burden for the residents when stores run out of many basic staples that the local residents need such as eggs, milk, or distilled water.

As southern Utah has a much larger percentage of older "high risk" residents than any other area in Utah, this additional risk for exposure to the virus and very limited medical facilities further endanger our most vulnerable population.

We will all suffer because of this virus and the financial ramifications are going to be horrific as we know. But we must consider if we are willing to risk the loss of family and friends in order to keep businesses open a little longer risking an even faster and more widespread exposure to this virus.

Now is the time to ask yourself what your priorities are. This is real and this is happening. Ask the people of New York if they could go back, would they rather have isolated early on to prevent the deaths and ravaging that their state is experiencing right now? As you see the images of refrigerated semi-trucks that are being brought in to store the dead, we must know that we cannot afford to ignore this any longer. Denial will not save lives.

If you would like to see the National Parks close here as they have done elsewhere in the

country, please contact your Governor at Governor@utah.gov. Click on 'contact' on the upper right side of the page, click on 'comments to the Governor, click on 'constituant service', Enter yes or no if you want a response (I clicked yes to be sure that it was read), fill out your information and the subject line and then enter your sentiments about not delaying shelter in place and National Park closure.

You can also Google the names and contact numbers of your city Mayor, Senators, Town Council Members, the head of the Department of Interior (he has the authority to close National Parks) and the President of the United States.

Call, Email, write letters, spread the word. Let your voice be heard.

I hope that you all stay safe out there.

Tammy

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Teach InfoWest Spam Trap if this mail is spam:

[Spam](#)

[Not spam](#)

[Forget previous vote](#)

REMEMBER: Never give out your account information, password, or other personal information over e-mail.

From: [Lisa Zumpft](#)
To: ["Stan Smith"](#); ["Randy Aton Town Council"](#); [Elger, Suzanne - TC](#); ["Adrian Player"](#)
Cc: ["Darci Carlson"](#)
Subject: FW: Closing ZNP
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2020 2:50:02 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Ann Hinckley [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2020 10:18 AM
To: lzumpft@springdaletown.com
Subject: Closing ZNP

In the interest of public health and to align with both state and federal government policies regarding Covid 19, please implore the powers that be to close Zion National Park. As a resident of Springdale, UT, my health, the health of Washington County residents, and the health of Utahns depend on it.

Thank you,
Ann Hinckley

Sent from my iPhone

--

--

BEGIN-ANTISPAM-VOTING-LINKS

Teach InfoWest Spam Trap if this mail (ID 072IUO1vM) is spam:

Spam: <https://spamtrap.infowest.com/canit/b.php?c=s&i=072IUO1vM&m=6018e694c855&t=20200402>

Not spam: <https://spamtrap.infowest.com/canit/b.php?c=n&i=072IUO1vM&m=6018e694c855&t=20200402>

Forget vote: <https://spamtrap.infowest.com/canit/b.php?c=f&i=072IUO1vM&m=6018e694c855&t=20200402>

REMEMBER: Never give out your account information, password, or other personal information over e-mail.

END-ANTISPAM-VOTING-LINKS

From: [Lisa Zumpft](#)
To: [Darci Carlson](#)
Subject: Fwd: Urgent - Act To Close Zion During Covid-19 Pandemic
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2020 2:19:42 PM

Get [BlueMail for Android](#)

On Apr 2, 2020, at 10:00 AM, Nancy Goodell [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Council,

Today's Zion Dispatch shows over 1,000 cars a day are still driving through the Park. Some of this is essential through traffic but many can be presumed to be out-of-area visitors who will be hitting the trails and making stops in local communities along the way.

The balmy spring weather and the waived park entrance fee are working against us.

My impression is that Zion leadership feels their hands are tied by lack of federal direction to close. Yesterday Grand Canyon NP closed to visitors, reportedly after a letter was sent to federal NPS officials by the local health district asking for closure to be granted. Those of us who emailed the Southwest Utah Public Health District yesterday received this form letter from David Heaton in response:

Thanks Nancy,

The Southwest Utah Public Health Department has implemented Utah's State Public Health Directives for COVID-19, which makes allowances for outdoor recreation in household groups or individuals who maintain social distancing from others. Utah's State Parks remain open to residents, as do many of the outdoor spaces in our National Parks. The decision to close National Parks ultimately rests with the National Park Service. You can visit swuhealth.org/covid for updates and guidance for Southwest Utah.

I urge you to exercise your role in taking all possible actions aimed at closing Zion NP ASAP, including convincing the SWUHD to move on this. The Park leadership would like to close Zion but it appears their hands are tied without further input to the federal decision makers from local municipalities and health departments.

Thank you,

Nancy Goodell

[REDACTED]
Springdale, UT

Teach InfoWest Spam Trap if this mail is spam:

[Spam](#)

[Not spam](#)

[Forget previous vote](#)

REMEMBER: Never give out your account information, password, or other personal

From: [Rick Wixom](#)
To: [Darci Carlson](#); ["Adrian Player \(springdaletown.com\)"](#); ["Lisa Zumpft \(springdaletown.com\)"](#); ["Randy Aton"](#); ["Stan Smith \(springdaletown.com\)"](#); [Suzanne Elger](#)
Subject: FW: Please CLOSE the Park
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2020 4:33:59 PM

Another letter.

Rick Wixom
Town Manager
Town of Springdale
435-772-3434 - office
435-619-8500 - cell
435-627-3449 - direct
rwixom@springdaletown.com
www.springdaletown.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Jerry Healey [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 7:47 AM
To: rwixom@infowest.com
Subject: Please CLOSE the Park

Rick:

I had a nice bike ride yesterday in Zion National Park. I was careful to observe Social Distancing and did not stop to speak with anyone. However I counted nearly 100 cars parked at various locations in the park (the visitor center, the Grotto, the Temple of Sinawava etc.). They had license plates from all over and few of these people were practicing social distancing. Everyone of these people is a potential disease vector that could bring Covid-19 into our community. Sol foods is open, Oscars is open (for take-out) he gas staton is open etc. and all of these places are manned by locals who are interacting with these visitors.

Consequently, even though I love biking in the park, I feel the park should be closed immediately. An open park and the existential threat it represents to the health of our community is just not worth it.

Please recommend that the park be closed IMMEDIATELY.

Best regards,

Jerry Healey

--

--

BEGIN-ANTISPAM-VOTING-LINKS

From: [Rick Wixom](#)
To: [Darci Carlson](#)
Subject: FW: PLEASE CLOSE THE PARK
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2020 4:34:10 PM

Darci,

This went to most of the council, but not to you.

Rick



Rick Wixom

Town Manager

Town of Springdale

435-772-3434 – office

435-619-8500 – cell

435-627-3449 – direct

rwixom@springdaletown.com

www.springdaletown.com

From: Ruth Parker [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 11:05 AM
To: ssmith@springdaletown.com; Selger@springdaletown.com; Raton@springdaletown.com; Rwixom@springdaletown.com
Subject: PLEASE CLOSE THE PARK

THE GOVERNOR HAS ISSUED A STAY-AT-HOME POLICY BUT OUR TOWN AND THE PARK ARE ALLOWING NON-ESSENTIAL RECREATING AND VISITORS BY THE HUNDREDS AND THOUSANDS TO STILL COME HERE WHY???? VISITING THE PARK IS NONESSENTIAL.....

PLEASE BE RESPONSIBLE AND ACT PROACTIVELY TO TRY TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF THIS DEADLY VIRUS THAT HAS TRAGICALLY AFFECTED SO MANY PEOPLE. PLEASE FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF OF THE LEADERS IN MOAB, OTHER PARK COMMUNITIES AND INSTITUTIONS AROUND THE COUNTRY. THE SCIENCE IS BEHIND THIS ..

WE ARE NOT IMMUNE OR ISOLATED IN THIS SMALL TOWN AND THOSE COMING HERE ARE MOST ASSUREDLY COMING FROM AFFECTED HOT SPOTS AROUND THE COUNTRY. PLEASE DON'T WAIT UNTIL SOMEONE IN YOUR FAMILY IS AFFECTED BEFORE DOING THE RIGHT THING AND CLOSING THE PARK. PLEASE REQUEST THE COUNTY COMMISSION, HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO CLOSE ZION NATIONAL PARK AND SAVE LIVES.

RUTH AND STEVEN PARKER
[REDACTED]

From: [Brion Sabbatino](#)
To: springdale@infowest.com; dcarlson@springdaletown.com
Subject: TC Meeting 3 April 2020
Date: Friday, April 3, 2020 9:40:15 AM

All,

Here is my opinion and comments on today's meeting.

I fully support the immediate closing of Zion National Park until the current health situation has been curbed.

Observations taken from the last meeting:

- 1) It appears the Mayor backs the closing of ZNP. It also appears that the mayor is hesitant to send out letters to that affect due to peer pressure. It seems that the mayor desires the blessing of the County Commissioners, other mayors, the ZNP superintendent and Governor Herbert before doing so.
- 2) It appears that most of the Town Council backs closing ZNP.
- 3) If the mayor does not agree today to add his signature to a letter requesting that ZNP be closed, I fully back the Town Council to proceed with issuing such a letter. Hopefully unity will prevail.
- 4) This letter should be sent to the National Park Service (National, Regional, and local ZNP) Southwest Utah Health Department, County Commissioners, local State and Federal legislators, and Governor Herbert.

I would very much have desired for the park to remain open. Unfortunately individuals cannot follow instructions. Because of this it must be closed.

The last press release sent out by the County Commissioners is an embarrassment. Asking people not to visit Washington County.

Now is not the time to ask. It is the time to demand and take action.

Brion Sabbatino

Cell: 

Teach InfoWest Spam Trap if this mail is spam:
[Spam](#)