



**MINUTES OF THE SPRINGDALE TOWN COUNCIL ELECTRONIC SPECIAL MEETING
ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 2020, AT 5:00PM**

This Council meeting did not have an anchor location and was conducted entirely via electronic means. Council members connected remotely. The meeting was available to the public for live viewing/listening.

Meeting convened at 5:00 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Stanley J. Smith, Council members Randy Aton, Lisa Zumpft, Adrian Player and Suzanne Elger

ALSO PRESENT: Town staff participated electronically: Manager Rick Wixom, Director of Community Development Tom Dansie, Town Treasurer Dawn Brecke, Police Chief Garen Brecke, Public Works Superintendent Robby Totten, Parks and Recreation Director Ryan Gubler, Deputy Clerk Katy Brown, and Town Clerk Darci Carlson recording. See attached sheet for attendees known to have signed into the electronic meeting.

Motion made by Lisa Zumpft to approve the meeting agenda; Seconded by Suzanne Elger.

Elger: Aye

Aton: Aye

Player: Aye

Zumpft: Aye

Smith: Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

A. Administrative Action Item

1. Resolution 2020-04, a Resolution providing for Town of Springdale public bodies to conduct electronic meetings in accordance with Governor Herbert's Executive Order No. 2020-5 dated March 18, 2020 which suspends the enforcement provisions of Utah Code §§ 52-4-202 and 52-4-207 due to the COVID-19 novel coronavirus: There was no Council discussion.

Motion made by Lisa Zumpft to approve Resolution 2020-04, a Resolution providing for Town of Springdale public bodies to conduct electronic meetings in accordance with Governor Herbert's Executive Order No. 2020-5 dated March 18, 2020 which suspends the enforcement provisions of Utah Code §§ 52-4-202 and 52-4-207 due to the COVID-19 novel coronavirus. Seconded Adrian Player.

Elger: Aye

Aton: Aye

Player: Aye

Zumpft: Aye

Smith: Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

B. Administrative Non-Action Item

General discussion on the impacts of the COVID-19 situation in Springdale: Mayor Smith said he would provide an update and take questions and comments from the Council. No questions or comments would be taken from the public during this meeting.

Earlier in the day Mayor Smith, and other mayors from around the county, met (via teleconference) with Dr. Blodgett from the Southwest Utah Board of Health. According to Dr. Blodgett, the next two weeks were very critical. Confirmed coronavirus cases today were actually people that contracted the virus approximately two weeks ago. Doctors were doing modeling; however, results differed and this impacted how medical professionals viewed the appropriate response. Mayor Smith said there was ongoing debate on every issue related to the crisis.

Using the state of Utah model, April 20th was estimated to be the peak date after which numbers would likely decrease.

- As of today, the state had tested 25,000 people but were now ramped up to conduct 20,000 tests per day. Currently if a patient showed symptoms, they were tested; however, the goal was to begin random testing on those that do not have symptoms.
- An immunity test was being developed.
- [Coronavirus.utah.gov](https://www.coronavirus.utah.gov) was a great source for the latest information and statistics.

As Mayor of Springdale, Mayor Smith had to follow the Governor's directive. He could not overturn or do more than what the Governor asked to be done.

- Mayor Smith appreciated the input he had received; some comments had been productive and others cruel. Regardless, he had responded to every call and email and understood people were concerned. Mayor Smith had dedicated hours of time and was part of every call to keep the community informed.

Mayor Smith indicated he did not have the power to force a business to close. He could suggest and recommend but had to follow the directive from the Governor and the health department. Businesses had the right to be open or closed.

Mayor Smith also indicated he did not have the authority to demand people stop coming into Springdale or Rockville. People needed to be responsible and follow the Governor's directive to stay home.

Many had demanded Zion National Park be closed. Mayor Smith had several deep conversations with Superintendent Bradybaugh and local support was needed as a component to a Park shut-down. Support to close also had to come from the local health department, the regional office of the National Park Service, and the Department of the Interior.

- Mayor Smith said he was in complete support of Zion National Park closing and had a letter written and ready to go once the decision has been made by Superintendent Bradybaugh.
- Mayor Smith offered the Council an opportunity to sign the letter as well.

People having difficulty paying their utility bill should contact Town Treasurer Dawn Brecke to work out an individual arrangement. If other situations warranted a Council decision, these would be included in a future meeting.

- The federal government had approved a number of financial relief measures for individuals and businesses.

Mayor Smith said this wasn't easy. He would gladly take constructive opinions, but when it got personal, that was going too far. Mayor Smith pledged not to walk away from the issue; people were welcome to criticize him when the situation was over. If people would do as the Governor directed, stayed home and

didn't go out, then we wouldn't have to worry about businesses or Zion National Park closing. These were not normal times and everyone had to do their part.

Ms. Zumpft thanked the staff for their hard work behind the scenes to make sure Town services continued. She thanked Town Council members for talking to the community and keeping up with the inordinate amount of information. Ms. Zumpft thanked Mayor Smith and Zion National Park for doing the best job they could. Lastly, she thanked residents for distancing to reduce exposure.

- Ms. Zumpft supported the Mayor's letter and agreed the Park should be closed. This was a hard time and everyone needed to work together to stay safe.

Mr. Aton noted there was a discrepancy in the reported number of visitors that tested positive.

- Mayor Smith said communication between different health districts was difficult and this was a definite frustration. Numbers did not match between jurisdictions.

According to Mr. Aton, the most critical issue was the number of visitors coming into Zion National Park. He insisted the Mayor's letter be submitted.

- Mr. Aton referenced a letter written by the mayor of Moab requesting closure of Canyonlands and Arches. This communication had the support of both national parks and the local health district. Because of their proactive response, Grand County had only one reported positive case of coronavirus. He expressed frustration the Southwest Utah Public Health Department was being reactive. Zion National Park was a magnet and people from outside the state continued to visit. The letter to request closure was vitally important to protect the community.

Mayor Smith reiterated his letter had not yet been set. He emphasized the strong relationships he had with Superintendent Bradybaugh, County Commissioners, and Dr. Blodgett went much farther than any letter would.

- The Grand County hospital had only two intensive care unit beds and no apparatus for breathing; therefore, they were not nearly as prepared as Washington County to handle the situation should it escalate.
- Mayor Smith said every decision-maker in the county and state felt incredible pressure. No more pressure could be put upon them. Decisions were taken seriously and Mayor Smith knew they were life-changing.

Ms. Elger was in support of closing the Park and sending the letter. It was her understanding local government and health departments could be more restrictive than the Governor's directive. She did not understand the hesitation in sending the letter.

Mr. Player would be delighted to put his name on the letter. He understood the powers of the Mayor and Council. If there was a possibility of closing the Park, now was the time to do it. Mr. Player said everyone was being asked to stay home and that was what they should do.

Mayor Smith said sending the letter today would not change anything. The Superintendent and County Commissioners knew what everyone wanted.

- In addition to the Mayor's letter, Ms. Elger wanted the Town Council to send a letter to the Southwest Utah Public Health Department asking them to recommend Park closure. She said the overall rate of positive cases in Washington County was ramping up compared to the state. Social distancing wasn't working and testing couldn't keep up; therefore, the Park should be taken off the table as a place for people to visit.
- Mayor Smith said having a debate over numbers would not change anything; what mattered was what the professionals were doing.

Because Mayor Smith had built strong relationships with the county, Ms. Zumpft contended his letter would have clout. She favored the Town publicly stating its position. Ms. Zumpft asked what the Southwest Utah Public Health threshold was to close the Park.

- Mayor Smith did not know, that was an internal decision. If the Council wanted to send a letter to the health district, they could write one. The letter Mayor Smith had drafted was addressed to Superintendent Bradybaugh. Mayor Smith did not want to down play the importance of the Park to the Town of Springdale.

The Council had received a number of letters from community members requesting the Park close. With this, Ms. Elger wanted the Council to do what would best serve Springdale.

Mayor Smith repeated his conversations with local leaders had impact. Personal relationships carried a lot of weight and this was where he put his focus. Mayor Smith said writing a letter was the easy part.

- Ms. Elger said writing a letter was only one part but not the end.
- Mr. Aton appreciated the Mayor's work but stressed limiting visitors was critical. This should be emphasized to the Commissioners and Southwest Utah Public Health District.

Mayor Smith said discussions about closing the Park did not just start. The Town had been proactive in many ways including shutting down public facilities. Perhaps others could be doing more, however Mayor Smith said he would not second guess the Governor or the health district. If everyone stayed home and continued to social distance, we wouldn't have to worry about what was going on beyond that. Mayor Smith would do everything he could to protect the welfare of our community.

Mr. Aton clarified his concerns were not with the Mayor but with the health district. He felt the Town should be ahead of the Governor and the minimum statewide standards.

Mayor Smith said the process to close the Park was not quick. He asked what a shut-down and a re-open would look like; there were a lot of questions. Answers were more than just one conversation and one letter.

Ms. Elger asked what the Town could do for the residents and businesses. She understood financial assistance was happening on a case-by-case basis but wanted the Council to have an open public discussion about what more could be done. Ms. Elger also wanted more posters displayed and current guidance communicated to the residents.

- Mayor Smith responded the website coronavirus.utah.gov contained the most current information for people to access. This resource had been shared with the community. He said the quickest and safest way to communicate information was via email rather than encouraging people to congregate at the post office. The simple message was that people should stay home.
- State guidelines regarding the stay home date would mirror the federal guidelines and extend to April 30th.

Mayor Smith thanked Ms. Elger for forcing this meeting; it was a good meeting to have. He appreciated the Council's support and hoped they understood the decisions he made were done using the best information he had. He asked the Council to continue to trust him, his conversations, and his relationships.

In order for the Park to close Mayor Smith said they needed approval from the local governments, the County Commissioners, the Southwest Utah Public Health Department, the National Park regional office, and the Department of the Interior. He was unsure if Kane County Commissioners would also have to agree to a shut-down.

Mayor Smith emphasized letters were important for the public but they would not increase the pressure. Ms. Elger asked if Mayor Smith was going to send a letter to the Park recommending it close.

- Mayor Smith said he would ask Superintendent Bradybaugh if he was ready for the letter. The intention was to help Superintendent Bradybaugh the best he could.
- If the other four Council members wanted the letter sent, Ms. Elger was unsure why Mayor Smith was going to ask the Superintendent first.
- Mayor Smith reiterated his personal letter would be submitted when Superintendent Bradybaugh was ready for it. He wanted to support the process the Park had to go through.

Mr. Player said he was happy to sign the letter when it was ready to send. The Council should rely on and trust the Mayor's knowledge and interaction with the Park.

Any correspondence that went out should be passed by the Town's legal counsel.

Ms. Zumpft was willing to work with staff and legal to draft a letter to the Southwest Utah Public Health Department. She would get input from other Council members and have it done by Thursday. Ms. Elger and Mr. Aton agreed to assist. Mayor Smith agreed with this effort.

Motion to adjourn at 4:40 pm made by Adrian Player. Seconded by Suzanne Elger.

Elger: Aye

Aton: Aye

Player: Aye

Zumpft: Aye

Smith: Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

Darci Carlson

Darci Carlson, Town Clerk

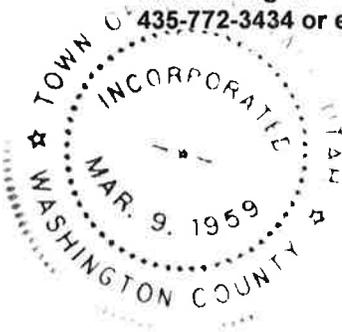
APPROVAL: _____

[Signature]

DATE: _____

4/8/20

A recording of the public meeting is available by contacting the Town Clerk's Office. Please call 435-772-3434 or email springdale@infowest.com for more information.





PO Box 187 118 Lion Blvd Springdale UT 84767

REMOTE MEETING ATTENDANCE RECORD

Meeting: Town Council Special Meeting 3/31/2020

Regina Pagles
Dean Elger
Hans Dunzinger
Robert Totten
Joe Pitti
Nate Carlisle
Janet Passek
Louise Excell
435-632-0440
801-556-5210
Allison Keith
Debi Keys
801-556-5210
Kenneth Dreyfuss
Stacey Christiansen
Deb Durban
"Sarah's iPhone"
Kimberlee Henderson
"Val"
805-415-4150
Sherri Folkerson

BRION A. SABBATINO

Consultant DoD | [REDACTED]

31 March 2020

To the Town Council:

I am writing in Reference to Paragraph B, Item 1: General discussion on the impacts of the COVID-19 situation in Springdale.

First off there is no doubt that the financial impacts on the businesses, employees, and Town will not be insignificant. The prospect of a quick rebound is not likely. This prediction is based on the worldwide nature of the COVID-19 which was not like the centralized attacks of 911.

Second point, is that Springdale and Zion National Park is gambling with visitation. Despite warnings and advise to shelter, groups of visitors are visiting. I know of at least one confirmed contagious visitor. There have probably been more that are too cowardly to report their visit and positive test results.

In order to not become the epicenter of a Southern Utah outbreak, business as usual should be curtailed. Services deemed unnecessary should be curtailed until the all clear signal is received.

Other Counties have already made the decision to do so.

Unfortunately, the County Commissioners along with the Southern Utah Health District do not agree. They appear to be downplaying the danger to the population while putting individual rights and profit first.

It is at this moment the Town Council needs to take action along with encouraging citizens to force the immediate closure of Zion National Park and all non-essential businesses in the Town.

On Monday I received a notice that the Pentagon along with all other DoD Centers declared the state of HPCON CHARLIE.

[REDACTED] Springdale, UT 84767

[REDACTED] |

All non-essential travel, visits, etc, have been suspended.

This action shows that the Federal Government has taken the current threat seriously. Why does the County or State of Utah not take it seriously?

A third item to examine at this point is the operation of the Town. While there are certainly funds to operate as normal for some time, do not overlook the fact that cashflow will be greatly diminished in the future. Cost cutting even if it requires staff cuts are likely a prudent move.

The object is to survive and overcome.

Maybe some lessons will be learned from all of this. Then the Town and ZNP can emerge better managed and stronger because of it.

Sincerely,

Consultant DoD

[REDACTED] Springdale, UT 84767

[REDACTED] |