

Emergency Meeting Minutes of the Town of Highlands Board of Commissioners Meeting of March 17, 2020, at the Town Hall, 210 North 4th Street, Highlands, North Carolina

Town Board Present: Commissioner John Dotson, Commissioner Amy Patterson, Commissioner Brian Stiehler, Commissioner Marc Hehn and Mayor Pat Taylor

Town Board Absent: Mayor Pro Tempore Donnie Calloway

Also Present: Town Manager Josh Ward, Town Attorney Jay Coward via phone and Town Clerk Gibby Shaheen

Media Present: Ryan Hanchett from the Highlander and Brian O'Shea of Plateau Daily News

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order at 4:05pm. Mayor Taylor began by stating the Macon County Board of Commissioners were going to approve a State of Emergency and we do not have an Emergency Ordinance in place so we needed the meeting. Things are changing by the hour and adjustments are going to be needed and some things are already in place, such as the Recreation Park being closed, cancelled the March Town Board Meeting and Employees are being urged not to come to work if they are sick, or if their spouse or child is sick. The Proclamation of State Emergency will give police the authority to enforce the state of emergency.

Tom Neal was available by phone and highlighted the hospitals position, including the protocols of the CDC and one point of access with everyone being screened. He also added that the cafeteria and Fidelia Eckerd was closed to all visitors.



WHEREAS, the coronavirus (“COVID-19”) is a new strain of coronavirus that can result in serious illness or death; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, measures have been taken by the President of the United States, the Governor of North Carolina and by Macon County Board of Commissioners all declaring a State of Emergency and implementing direct restrictions and prohibitions.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Highlands under Article 8 of Chapter 160A-174 and 166A-19.22 of the North Carolina General Statutes, the Board of Commissioners have determined that a State of Emergency exists in the Town of Highlands.

- Section 1.** I therefore proclaim the existence of a State of Emergency in the Town of Highlands.
- Section 2.** The restrictions and prohibitions imposed should mirror those set forth by the President of the United States, Governor of the State of North Carolina and the Macon County Board of Commissioners.
- Section 3.** Pursuant to 160A-175, I hereby order all Town law enforcement officers, employees, and all other emergency management personnel subject to my control to cooperate in the enforcement and implementation of the provisions necessary to address and abate the emergency.
- Section 4.** This proclamation shall become effective immediately, and shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded.

Proclaimed this the 17th day of March, 2020 at 4:00pm.

Patrick Taylor, Mayor

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of The Town of Highlands, North Carolina to be affixed this 17th day of March, 2020.

Gilberta B. Shaheen, Town Clerk

COMMISSIONER HEHN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROCLAMATION OF A MUNICIPAL STATE OF EMERGENCY AS REVIEWED AND EDITED BY TOWN ATTORNEY JAY COWARD, WHICH WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER STIEHLER AND THE VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.

Town Manager Josh Ward stated there will be no disconnects and will be evaluating the situation before any other decisions were made.

ADJOURNMENT

AS THERE WERE NO FURTHER MATTERS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, COMMISSIONER STIEHLER MOVED TO ADJOURN WHICH WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PATTERSON AND UPON A UNANIMOUS VOTE, THE TOWN BOARD ADJOURNED AT 5:00PM.

Patrick Taylor
Mayor

Gilberta B. Shaheen
Town Clerk