



**RICHFIELD VILLAGE COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020
6 p.m.**

ROLL CALL: Boester, Domanick, Lyons, Philippbar, Stoppenhagen, Waszak. **ABSENT:** Beshara.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Wheeler, Law Director Cortes, Police Chief Swanson, Fire Chief McLean.

MOTION: TO EXCUSE MRS. BESHARA FROM THE MEETING.

Moved by Domanick, seconded by Stoppenhagen. Upon roll call, motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE 19-2020

Offered by All of Council

AN ORDINANCE PROCLAIMING THE EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY; AUTHORIZING COUNCIL TO MEET VIA TELECONFERENCE OR OTHER REMOTE COMMUNICATIONS AND GRANTING THE MAYOR EXTRAORDINARY AUTHORITY TO EXPEND FUNDS OF THE VILLAGE FOR CERTAIN PURCHASES OF GOODS AND SERVICES IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE NEED FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS, AND THE DURATION OF SUCH MEETINGS, DURING THE PRESENT COVID-19 CRISIS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

MOTION: TO SUSPEND SECOND AND THIRD READINGS OF ORDINANCE 19-2020.

Moved by Boester, seconded by Waszak. Upon roll call, motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION: Cortes discussed the possibility of livestreaming the Council meetings with a call-in number for citizen participation. If members of the public wished to attend the meetings, they would have to sit six feet apart from each other or in another room.

Lyons discussed the portion of the ordinance what would increase the mayor's spending authority to \$100,000. Wheeler said that if five police officers were sick, he would need to hire a security contractor. Cortes said the current limit is \$25,000. Wheeler noted that the ordinance



would need to be renewed after 90 days. He added that he wouldn't spend \$25,000 without consulting Council, even though the ordinance allows him to do so. Cortes said Council would still be called to approve such expenditures.

Philipbar said she would like to move forward with conference calls and not reduce the number of meetings. Domanick said he would like the meetings to continue on the regular schedule.

Cortes said this is an unsettled area of law, and that Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost has said the state would act as a city's amicus (friend) if it gets sued. Lyons said the meetings would take place at Council chambers, and the public will be able to listen to the discussions. Wheeler said he would look into setting this up.

MOTION: TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 19-2020.

Moved by Domanick, seconded by Stoppenhagen. Upon roll call, motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

McLean updated Council on the actions of the incident management team, which includes himself, Swanson, Wheeler and Debbie Bluso-Rogers. They met to discuss hazards and the care of senior citizens on March 9. They later discussed new hazards and closings with the number for public gatherings reduced to 10. They also produced a video for the public earlier today. McLean has also participated in regional meetings on the crisis.

Swanson said Richfield may participate in an enhanced mutual aid agreement with Bath, Copley and Fairlawn.

Lyons adjourned the meeting at 6:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Gorman
Council Clerk

Mike Lyons
Council President