

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
HAILEY CITY COUNCIL  
HELD MAY 17, 2021  
IN THE HAILEY TOWN CENTER MEETING ROOM**

The Meeting of the Hailey City Council was called to order at 4:31 P.M. by Mayor Martha Burke. Present were Council members Heidi Husbands, Kaz Thea, Sam Linnet, and Juan Martinez. Staff present included City Attorney Christopher P. Simms, City Administrator Heather Dawson, and City Clerk Mary Cone.

[4:31:04 PM](#) Mayor Burke calls the meeting to order.

[4:31:35 PM](#) Martinez moves to approve the late added item SR 179, seconded by Linnet, Husbands, yes. Martinez, yes. Linnet, yes. Thea, yes.

**Open Session:**

[4:32:32 PM](#) no comments

**Mayor's Remarks:**

[4:33:00 PM](#) for the past year, Hailey and our area has followed the CDC's advice. The recent advice, fully vaccinated individuals do not need to wear a mask. Would continue to encourage all people to wear a mask when social distancing is not possible. [4:34:15 PM](#) Our options tonight, are to, remove the mask mandate but follow numbers in near future, monitor our numbers and continue to watch the positivity rate and if we need to re-mask, we reinstate order 2021-03. We have to be flexible. If you are on the fence, this is the moment to sign up. You were being protected by those wearing masks. Burke is afraid, there may be a more spreading of the virus in people who don't mask or get vaccinated. Burke doesn't believe this is the end of the virus or our response to it. We will continue to put this on the agenda. Burke asks council to share their thoughts.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

*NB 178 City Council consideration of Hailey Public Health Emergency Advisory Order 2021-04, which was executed and effective on May 14, 2021 rescinding indoor mask mandates within the City of Hailey ACTION ITEM*

[4:37:45 PM](#) Martinez, got an acronym, APD, Arrive, Perform and Depart. We were one of the safest communities when Covid was spreading. Now it is time to depart. Many people fail at the depart part. Slow departure, keep eyes open, listen to responses. Martinez, talks about comments, still vulnerable individuals that cannot get vaccinated. Important to stay involved in this leadership.

[4:40:18 PM](#) Linnet, understands rationale. Is against removing the mask requirement. The majority of our constituents advise against, (local advisors) are against rescinding our mask

ordinance. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is not recommending removing masks indoors. [4:41:38 PM](#) The difficulty is requiring all to wear masks indoors. Understand Mayor's actions, but does not agree with it. Many people in our community want the mask mandate to stay in effect. We've loosened restrictions as data tells us to. [4:43:11 PM](#) If we rescind, will harm others in our community, and it encourages those who don't want to wear a mask, not have to wear a mask. Public indoor spaces. [4:44:02 PM](#) we should be advocating for people that cannot get the vaccines. [4:44:22 PM](#) Our team of doctors and epidemiologists advise against loosening the mask mandate. Linnet, goes through vaccination rates. Those under 18 are largely unvaccinated. Suggests to wait to lift this mask mandate in 2 weeks. Businesses have the right to require masks, would expect people to become confrontational when being asked to wear a mask. If we do rescind this, suggest continue to wear a mask indoors.

[4:47:39 PM](#) Husbands understands Linnet's points, but is leaning towards lifting the mask order. If a business like the grocery store has a mask mandate, then you need to wear one. Husbands will continue to wear a mask indoors. Husbands supports Mayor, want to put a new mask in position if data suggests it in the future.

[4:49:16 PM](#) Thea, is torn, CDC understands why we changed the order. Is concerned with grocery stores. Other thing, 12-16 year olds haven't gotten vaccinations yet, therefore, rushing the mask removal indoors. Schools can leave their mask mandate. Thea thought we were going to wait another week, would like to revisit this in 2 weeks before lifting this order. This is difficult because of all the mixed messages. Mobile units are reaching more people with the vaccine. Thea thinks we should wait 2 weeks and reconsider.

[4:52:51 PM](#) Burke will continue to wear a mask when going out in town and around. Has a bit different take from Linnet. Feels vaccinated people are protecting those who've not gotten vaccinated. Burke worries about those with children that cannot get vaccinated. If you've had covid, you have to wait 1 month before you can get vaccinated. Burke stands by her decision, rational and thought out.

[4:58:01 PM](#) Simms suggests we move forward with a motion.

[4:58:22 PM](#) **Martinez moves to approve 2021-04 emergency health order, seconded by Husbands. Husbands, yes, encourage masks and vaccinations. Martinez, yes. Linnet, no. Thea, no. Burke, breaks tie, stands with her order.**

### **STAFF REPORTS:**

*SR 179 Update on ITD curb ramps project by Brian Yeager*

*no documents*

[5:00:14 PM](#) Brian Yeager shows a letter from ITD, we are waiting for prices from Knife River, the contractor, Maple, Carbonate and/or Walnut intersections. ITD expects them to be expensive, if we want us to have these ramps changes, they'll likely ask Hailey to pay the difference in cost. Concerned, if project is delayed, then it would cost upwards of \$100,000. May be best to let them build as is planned and then later change them. We are not the decision

maker, ITD is. We can ask and request, they've been jumping through hoops. As it looks now, it may be difficult to change this in mid process.

[5:03:43 PM](#) Simms this is not an action item, not in the position to strong arm ITD.

[5:04:02 PM](#) Linnet asks about the crosswalk striping? Yeager, thinks ITD will accommodate the striping. Stanley Consultants is moving forward with the analysis. Striping won't happen until late August, have some time to make this decision.

[5:05:00 PM](#) Thea, disappointed by ITD's response, they are receiving a lot of money right now. It is not safe and accessible for everyone. Thea thinks we should move forward. Yeager responds, the curb ramp details have been approved through a federal process. Yeager, ITD is trying to find a way to make Hailey's design to work.

[5:07:04 PM](#) Dawson, in 2019, ITD appeared twice in front of council with this project.

[5:08:18 PM](#) Husbands, the 90-degree ramp is not a federally funded option? Yeager responds, it is not the exact one we've been discussing. Maple Street only has an 80 foot right of way. Yeager explains the challenge with the West side of the intersection, we are going beyond the federally approved standards. Linnet asks a question for clarification.

[5:10:12 PM](#) Thea asks Yeager, the safety analysis from Stanley Consultants the entire length. Yeager responds with last meeting's discussion. [5:11:47 PM](#) Yeager explains challenges with large trucks in both lanes and providing lane relief.

[5:12:47 PM](#) Martinez moves to adjourn meeting, Linnet seconds, motion passed unanimously.