

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
HAILEY CITY COUNCIL
HELD OCTOBER 7, 2020
IN THE HAILEY TOWN CENTER MEETING ROOM**

The Meeting of the Hailey City Council was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Mayor Martha Burke. Present were Council members Kaz Thea, Juan Martinez, Heidi Husbands, and Sam Linnet. Staff present included City Attorney Christopher P. Simms, City Administrator Heather Dawson, and City Clerk Mary Cone.

[6:00:26 PM](#) Call to order by Mayor Burke, thanks Dawson and Simms for acting quickly for this meeting.

Open session:

[6:02:04 PM](#) Sarah Benson = calling on behalf of Hailey ice, wanted to speak about protocols for covid, have been open for 8 weeks. Mayor Burke asks to hold thoughts.

[6:02:58 PM](#) Jane Drussel, question about Halloween Hoopla, usually mass amounts of children, is not in support of it and won't participate, won't expose her employees to this event. Suggests that we pass on this event this year. The chamber may be open to some type of event if keep their distance. Jane's is offering a \$200 prize for best decorated house. As for the Hoopla, she votes no.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

PH 419 Consideration of proposed City of Hailey Public Health Order 2020-07 amending the terms of Hailey Emergency Public Health Order 2020-06, to remove or amend some exemptions to the required wearing of face coverings. ACTION ITEM

[6:05:05 PM](#) Mayor Burke, the CDC suggests that 2 years and up should wear masks. We need to talk about, what, who and extension, or where we draw the line.

[6:05:57 PM](#) Simms opens up, Dawson has framed the issue very well. After taking the temperature in the community. The summary of it is, masks, give those who can't wear a mask, to wear a shield, then everyone would have their bases covered.

Orange risk level requirements plan of Harvard document, max 50 outdoor? Indoor? Define whole building vs. room. Address those who avoid the law, tent would be described as "indoor" Schools and healthcare facilities. May be other facilities we need to exempt like Hailey Ice.

[6:09:24 PM](#) Mayor Burke will take public comments but wants to get sense from council first.

[6:10:06 PM](#) Sam Linnet, up for adopting this, with adding shield as an option. Understands, that there are difficulties in getting a 2-year old to wear a mask. Implores to the community to try to

adhere to this, empathize with the challenge. Don't expect officers to ticket parents of 2-year olds. We are in this together.

[6:12:12 PM](#) Juan Martinez, we were on the front lines of this thing. Part of that, if you look at the history, we brought down the curve, it took some shutting down, and a tearful council, darkest of days, don't want to go back there. We stayed low because of things put in place, most particularly the mask order. Proof is in the pudding, this is the right thing to do. This is what has worked for us, for our physical health.

[6:14:18 PM](#) Husbands concurs with what has been said. We need to follow guidelines. To give perspective, she is a high school teacher, teachers and kids are doing great in the school. Education is key, do the best we can and follow the guidelines.

[6:15:25 PM](#) Thea agrees, we need to follow health professional's guidelines, but not supportive of 2-year olds wearing masks. Feel very strongly, we have COVID fatigue. See lot of people tired of the protocol. Don't think it is necessary to reduce the age, face shield is a good idea. Thea was in grocery store yesterday saw 2 people, one upset that folks are not wearing masks, one, she knew, was not wearing a mask. Not in favor of lowering the age to wear mask- partially in favor, partially not in favor for the child point.

[6:18:33 PM](#) public comments

[6:19:00 PM](#) Simms, meant to add to his comments, statewide reporting we were at 15.5 when he drafted this document, at 3 pm it changed to 18.6, moving towards critical zone.

[6:19:44 PM](#) Juan Martinez, definition of a cloth mask. Burke, covers mouth and nose, shield is clear plastic. Burke, has asthma, has to catch her breath sometimes, understands the struggle, and we are the most susceptible. Martinez, what about the buffs? Are they acceptable? Burke, yes, they are.

[6:21:50 PM](#) Dawson asks Simms. would you define a public place, when masks are not required? Invitations to events and daycares. Simms, those will not change. Whatever consensus, will draft order that meets their will. Appointment only place is not a public place.

[6:23:11 PM](#) England, clarifies, face shield, clear, cashier at store? Simms, someone not medically able to wear a mask. [6:24:31 PM](#) Thea, asks clarification. At banks, Plexiglas is important, but so is the face shield. Simms understands Theas comment.

Public comments

[6:25:26 PM](#) Sarah Benson, is representing Hailey Ice, they have been open for 8 weeks this summer. And open for 3 weeks now. Have been very diligent in asking people to wear masks, and limit number of players in building. Want council to consider the occupancy of their building because it is so large, in their discussions tonight. They sanitize the building after people leave.

[6:27:30 PM](#) Mike McKenna Hailey Chamber of Commerce, thank you on behalf of the community. There are a lot of people following the law, like businesses, Hailey Ice and Idaho Lumber, unfortunately, there are those that are not following the law. Try not to punish the people that are following the laws and focus on those that are not following it.

Council deliberation:

[6:29:11 PM](#) Martinez, in March we discussed, throughout the county, trying to have similar laws, are we still doing that or are we taking the lead on this? Burke, suggests, from the last Mayor's meeting, representatives from the Health District and St. Luke's are extremely concerned. It seems incumbent on our community to step up efforts, at least for 2 weeks to once again flatten the curve. If it takes over our community again, then we can be in a bad place. McKenna had a good point. Everyone she knows is wearing masks and social distancing. There are weddings coming up in Ketchum, we cannot stop that. But if we don't do this, we will have to tighten up even more. Suggesting that children 2 and up is a great idea, to wear a mask. Burke has seen a lot of people wearing masks, younger than 5. It is worth talking about. We are back to, requiring masks on all people and put a fine in place, Burke asks.

[6:33:39 PM](#) Thea struggles with tightening up and not really holding everyone accountable. Could not deal with the non-wearing mask last night. We need to include compliance issues. Thea has had conversations with her high school son. The COVID spread is coming from the greater community events and not social distancing. It takes enough of us to comply with this to make a difference. The additional information we get back out there, talk to the community, they have COVID fatigue. Masks should be required with exceptions.

[6:36:16 PM](#) Linnet, is okay with the face shield, on board with that. Age requirement, still a good idea to follow CDC guidelines. Would not like to see police give fines but inform by education. Don't advocate confronting people in public, showing people that it is a good idea, proactive approach. We are all tired. Feel all should wear masks, 2 and older, follow guidelines.

[6:38:59 PM](#) Husbands, agrees with McKenna, don't punish people that are complying. In talking with owners of businesses, educate their clerks and staff, that would be great, both need to happen.

[6:39:55 PM](#) Martinez, this is the right decision for public health. Most decisions he would make, add culture into his decision. As tourists are attracted to this place, it is important, to show them our successful culture, wearing masks. In favor of do well people. Something to be proud of, our culture.

[6:41:49 PM](#) Linnet, asks procedural question, are we trying to improve the draft or adopt something tonight?

[6:42:18 PM](#) Simms, wanted to achieve consensus, and the way our emergency powers ordinance, gaining consensus in advance. Will draft and have Mayor sign. Tuesday is the next council meeting, that is what I am proposing.

Linnet, no motion.

Simms, more conversation of group size. Corraling around paragraph E, sporting facilities and Company of Fools, BCRD and the school district.

[6:44:28 PM](#) Linnet comments on Bensons earlier comments. Hailey Ice has protocols in order. Idaho Lumber has certain plans and rules in place for running his business. To provide flexibility would it be feasible to have an open-ended exemption process, Heather or Mayor could review it? I wonder if this would allow some flexibility. Want to hear what you think about this idea.

[6:46:26 PM](#) Mayor Burke, great points, Benson made good points. COVID safe plan submitted to City.

[6:48:39 PM](#) Thea, there are many businesses are doing the right thing. Numbers are climbing because of private get togethers, bars and restaurants, want to see plans from all these businesses. Don't want to see our community shut down. Benson made good points. Want to see that for all restaurants and bars. Some businesses have benefit of an outdoor space, should if possible. It is difficult when you are inside when you are eating and drinking. We have to get the message out, it is not okay, seeing our numbers go up like they are. Don't want us to shut down, not good for mental health, not good for schools to shut down.

[6:52:08 PM](#) Burke, asks Thea, size question, are you in favor of certain size adjustments of gatherings. People have been so careful for so long, at what point do we limit event size, is this the right time, do we prepare for Monday.

[6:54:23 PM](#) Linnet, proposal, in support of, 10 people indoors and 50 people outdoors, with exceptions.

[6:55:01 PM](#) Dawson asks how, is that proposal to be enacted when we reach the red category, when is it effective and how does it relate to the risk category?

[6:55:19 PM](#) Simms responds to the question, based on World Health Institute suggestion, we are in the middle of the orange category right now. If we stray from the matrix, then we need to revisit the matrix.

In regards to comments in private businesses, like the lumber store, suggests a catch all exemption process, so they can remain open, with a safety plan.

[6:57:09 PM](#) Thea, would we enact tonight and then we could later exempt businesses.

[6:58:25 PM](#) Simms, that is a point for discussion. How many businesses would need a plan? Linnet, seems onerous on us, suggests we make it proactive, and ask the business what their plan is. While still being fair and equitable.

[7:00:12 PM](#) Thea part of issue is we are fatigued. We are lazy and tired of it.

[7:00:36 PM](#) Burke, we were shut down then.

[7:00:56 PM](#) Husbands, exemptions are there, don't need the overreaching. Need to let everyone know where we are headed. Start wearing masks, social distancing and be smart about it.

[7:01:45 PM](#) Martinez, Linnet has a good idea here. Clear easy and quick needs to be the theme behind these. This is not something that council should be in front of, overreaching. It is important that there is freedom and creativity. In line with Linnet's comments, with exemption process.

Public comments:

PH 420 Discussion of group size limitations, with consideration of enacting limitations to the size of indoor and outdoor groups within the City of Hailey during HIGH (Orange) or CRITICAL (Red) Risk Level Periods, as shown in the Harvard Global Plan adopted for guidance by the City of Hailey effective September 1, 2020. ACTION ITEM

[7:03:31 PM](#) Todd Hunter speaks, he is the Idaho Lumber owner. Generally have 25-30 employees, we would be exceeding number just in staff. 450- 500 transactions per day, sometimes 15-20 people in store at a time, sometimes. Been very fortunate, not had a staff member ill. Require customers to wear a mask and employees, they've been firm on this, risk losing business by requiring this. We want to do everything they can to keep people safe. Cleaning daily, hope that is a consideration in the decision.

[7:06:34 PM](#) Emily Jones from Idaho Mountain Express, orange category, suggest 2 week quarantine for guests? Dawson, Question assessing exemptions, set of standards to use? Will there be an appeal process? Linnet, yes standards. [7:08:12 PM](#) we can provide some standards.

[7:08:55 PM](#) Burke, and having the business ask customers use hand sanitizer, limiting customer. Give them a list, can you do these things?

[7:09:32 PM](#) Thea, at any one time, bars, have far less than that.

[7:09:57 PM](#) Ron Fairfax, is a dentist and with Hailey Ice, being that the City is not trained to evaluate these plans, it is enough to say, submit a plan. As long as a business or gathering submits a plan, that is all we can ask for.

[7:11:14 PM](#) Scotty McGrew, Executive Director with Sun Valley Ski Education Foundation (SVSEF), asks a question about hotels, one is being built in Hailey, wants to know how the council feels about our local hotels, catering to outside community. 14 day self-quarantine, opinion on visitors.

Mayor Burke, have a feeling that points to what happened in March. If we can cut the numbers down in the next 2 weeks, maybe we don't have to do that. McGrew adds, we are in a resort community, hotels say we are open for business, needs to be considered as a collective response. Important consideration.

[7:14:01 PM](#) Dawson, had a question texted to her, about fitness centers, how would they be controlled.

Linnet, responds, feels gyms would be exempt, but would submit a plan, leaning towards have strong restrictions in place with exemptions, small businesses are not the epicenters of the outbreaks, this could change in a day.

[7:15:40 PM](#) Husbands, we aren't going to know that there will be an event. We should not have the exemptions. If we don't do this, we will need to shut down. We have to keep moving forward. Businesses want to do the right thing, exemptions are more paperwork. If we reach critical, we will be shut down, don't need more paperwork for staff. Linnet, if we don't have exemptions, businesses will shut down. Views a solution to the problem.

[7:19:25 PM](#) Thea asks clarification of Husbands, stance. Husbands, we need to educate and see where this goes.

[7:20:21 PM](#) Linnet, local healthcare doesn't feel supported by local government. Need to fine tune restrictions for our community. We are the policymakers; it is our job to make this policy. Our local health professionals are suggesting this group size.

[7:22:24 PM](#) Burke, having heard these comments, asks Simms to put together an order that allows a business to stay open, the public is responsible to limit gatherings to 10 people inside, 50 people outside. Simms, understands his charge will give this to Mayor tomorrow morning. Mayor Burke, we will have better information next 2 weeks.

Any more public comments

[7:24:11 PM](#) Sarah Benson, would you like to see a protocol? Who to submit this to? Burke, give to Heather or Mary or drop off. This is the right step, Husbands is right, the parties that are going on at Music n Me, all summer long.

[7:25:31 PM](#) Thea can city send out card to all businesses, we do not want lockdown, must require masks and not have large gatherings. Burke, can be done with our web page, schools. Maybe we need billboards graphs of where we are, orange stage, a visual.

[7:27:20 PM](#) Burke hears what everyone is saying. Simms will draft order and Dawson will help. Simms will work on this and put in front of council next Tuesday.

[7:28:15 PM](#) **Martinez moves to adjourn, Thea seconds, motion passed unanimously.**

Public comments on size of events.