



MINUTES

TOWN OF MIAMI

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2020 AT 5:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Gonzales calls the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION:

Mayor Gonzales led the pledge of allegiance and Councilmember Medina led the invocation.

3. ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL MEMBERS:

PRESENT: Mayor Gonzales, Councilmember Black, Councilmember Bringham, Councilmember Medina, Councilmember Reiman and Councilmember Sosh.

EXCUSED: Vice Mayor Moat.

STAFF PRESENT: Town Manager Heatherly, Town Attorney Goodwin (telephonically), Town Clerk Norris, Engineering Tech Derhammer and Police Chief Thompson.

4. BUSINESS:

A. Information, discussion and possible action: Discussion and possible action regarding mandating facial masks within the Town of Miami.

Mayor Gonzales comments on Governor Ducey's press conference regarding wearing face masks. Governor Ducey recommended that everyone wear face masks in public but did not make it mandatory. Governor Ducey left it up to each city and town to regulate how they want to handle this issue. Mayor Gonzales states that Mayors can do a proclamation setting rules for how the town wants to regulate the face mask issue. Mayor Gonzales wanted to have a special meeting to hear from Council about how they feel about the issue; wants their input.

Open discussion and comments regarding the current number of positive cases in the Town of Miami. Discussion regarding the increased numbers due to increased testing or an upswing in positive cases.

Councilmember Sosh states that he is not particularly worried about Miami but he does protect himself when he goes to Globe. If there was to be an event or gathering in Miami he thinks we need to protect ourselves.

Councilmember Black asks what action City of Globe Mayor has taken, what was his opinion about this. Councilmember Black states that when he goes out in public or to the store, something like that, he wears a mask but that is about it.

Mayor Gonzales states that Mayor Gameros signed a proclamation for the City of Globe. Mayor Gameros felt due to the rise in cases in Globe that masks should be mandatory.

Councilmember Black suggests doing it for a short period of time. Comments on the increased amount of travelers coming through town due to the highway to Payson being closed.

Councilmember Medina comments that he understands that the masks don't protect you personally but the people around you.

Councilmember Bringham states that we all have to go out of town for food and essential items. Globe and Superior have mandated masks. There is really not much here in Miami to mandate it. Councilmember Bringham feels we should strongly encourage it but not mandate it.

Mayor Gonzales states that his opinion is more towards making it mandatory for the Town of Miami. Our citizens are mostly elderly and our numbers are going up. Masks do help. Not saying this is forever, he would like to see it for 30 days and reevaluate according to how the numbers go. He feels this is a serious matter. Feels masks should be required in places where there is no social distancing. He has talked to local business owners about this and they are supporting requiring masks.

Councilmember Black states that he agrees with Mayor Gonzales regarding requiring masks for a short period of time.

Discussion and comments regarding what authority would we be able to cite people on for not wearing masks? Town Attorney Goodwin states that under the Emergency Declaration Statutes violation of the Governor's Executive Orders or a city or town's Executive Orders constitutes a Class One Misdemeanor. Town Attorney Goodwin explains that local Mayor's have the authority to issue an emergency proclamation. Governor Ducey left that decision up to each municipality. Cities have been approaching this differently by adopting various forms of masking requirements. Each city is designing a proclamation that fits their own needs.

Councilmember Bringham feels wearing a mask should be the choice of the businesses and individuals of the Town of Miami.

Open discussion and comments regarding whether or not to make masks mandatory in the Town of Miami. Brief discussion regarding policing if masks are mandated.

Discussion and comments regarding Globe and San Carlos mandating masks.

Mayor Gonzales moves to mandate the Town of Miami wear facial masks for 30 days and reevaluate after 30 days. Motion seconded by Councilmember Medina.

Town Attorney Goodwin asks for clarification of the motion. She explains that we will need a formal document, whether in form of a proclamation that the Mayor issues or a resolution that Council approves. She can have one ready by Monday. Town Attorney Goodwin states that there is not too much guidance here so she will do her best to forecast what Council is thinking about. Council may want to tweak it and that will be ok. Basically, what she sends to Council is a starting place and they may want to make some changes. Mayor Gonzales asks what will be the effective date. Town Attorney Goodwin states they will need another meeting to declare the proclamation or adopt the resolution.

Open discussion and comments regarding what type of guidelines Council would like to see in the proclamation/resolution.

Town Attorney Goodwin states what she has is that masks really aren't mandatory, Council wants guidelines to follow and the owners of business post a sign that masks are mandatory and that customers must comply and that after 30 days Council will reevaluate.

Mayor Gonzales calls for the vote. Vote – Mayor Gonzales – yea, Vice Mayor Moat – excused, Councilmember Black – yea, Councilmember Bringham – nay, Councilmember Medina – yea, Councilmember Reiman – nay and Councilmember Sosh – yea.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Medina moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Black. Mayor Gonzales calls for the vote. Vote – Mayor Gonzales – yea, Vice Mayor Moat – excused, Councilmember Black – yea, Councilmember Bringham – yea, Councilmember Medina – yea, and Councilmember Reiman – yea. MOTION PASSED.

Meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

CERTIFICATION:

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Special meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Miami, AZ held on the 19th day of June, 2020.

I further certify that the meeting was duly called and that a quorum was present.

DATED this 13th day of July 2020.



Karen Norris, Town Clerk

APPROVED:


Sammy Gonzales, Mayor