

Draft Council Agenda

August 20, 2020

Zoom

12:00 p m

Mayor Officially Opens Meeting

Opening Prayer Led by Councilman Holmes

Pledge of Allegiance by Councilman Lashley

Mayor Calls Meeting to Order

Adoption of the Agenda: Motion –
Second –

1. Resolution – Masks or Face Covering in Property Owned or Leased by the City – Lauritsen

Council Comments

Mayor's Comments

Adjourn

Formal Public Comment – Speaker Protocol

The City of Warner Robins has identified this portion of the meeting to allow individuals an opportunity to formally address specific item(s) on the agenda for this meeting. The Mayor will recognize the speaker at the appropriate time and ask him/her to come forward to the podium. The City Council members may ask the speaker questions and/or engage in dialogue if they choose, but the speaker should not have an expectation that a question and answer format will occur. During this public comment section, persons shall be permitted to speak for three (3) minutes. When that time period has expired, the mayor shall direct the person speaking to cease. A second request from the mayor to cease speaking shall be cause for the removal of the speaker. Any person making personal, impertinent, profane, or slanderous remarks, or who becomes boisterous while addressing the city council or who otherwise violates any of the above-mentioned rules while attending a council meeting shall be removed from the room at the direction of the mayor, and the person shall be barred from further audience before the council during that meeting. If the mayor fails to act, any member of the council may move to require the mayor to act. If so directed by the mayor or an affirmative vote of the majority of the council, the offending person shall be removed.

The City of Warner Robins is endeavoring to be in total compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you require assistance or auxiliary aids in order to participate at the council meeting please contact the ADA Coordinator, Sherri Windham, at (478) 302-5518 or swindham@wrqa.gov as far in advance of the council meeting as possible. Persons with hearing disabilities can contact the City through the Georgia Relay Service, at (TDD) 1-800-255-0056 or (Voice) 1-800-255-0135.

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Informal Public Comment – City Council Agenda Protocol

The City of Warner Robins believes that any member of the general public should be afforded the opportunity to address the City Council provided that designated rules are followed by the speaker. Any member of the public who wishes to address the City Council and offer public comment may do so during the Informal Public Comment period of the meeting. These rules will govern; if silent, most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall apply. Elected officials shall preserve order and decorum. City officials or employees shall not respond to questions posed during a meeting. Citizens shall conduct themselves with propriety and decorum. Unauthorized remarks from the audience, stamping of the feet, whistles, yells, and similar demonstrations shall not be permitted. Placards, banners, signs, pamphlets, flyers, or political materials shall not be permitted in the council chambers or conference room, general comments will be received. Persons are urged to limit comments to topics relevant to the operations or business of the City. During the public comment sections of a council meeting, persons shall be permitted to speak for three (3) minutes. When that time period has expired, the mayor shall direct the person speaking to cease. A second request from the mayor to cease speaking shall be cause for the removal of the speaker. Any person making personal, impertinent, profane, or slanderous remarks, or who becomes boisterous while addressing the city council or who otherwise violates any of the above-mentioned rules while attending a council meeting shall be removed from the room at the direction of the mayor, and the person shall be barred from further audience before the council during that meeting. If the mayor fails to act, any member of the council may move to require the mayor to act. If so directed by the mayor or an affirmative vote of the majority of the council, the offending person shall be removed.

Placement on the Agenda

Warner Robins requires that any person who wishes to place a subject on the agenda shall advise the City Clerk's Office and the specified subject matter which he or she desires to place on the agenda no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday prior to the council meeting. Every member of the public will be given an opportunity to be placed on the agenda once every six (6) months. The request can be done in person, regular mail, fax or e-mail. The request should state the name of the individual(s) desiring to be heard and the subject matter to be presented to City Council. Requests may be referred at the discretion of the City Clerk, to appropriate staff for mediation prior to being placed on the public agenda. Please be advised the request to be placed on the agenda does not entitle the speaker to be added to the agenda.

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**A RESOLUTION BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL REQUIRING
THE USE OF MASKS OR
FACE COVERINGS IN PROPERTY OWNED OR LEASED BY THE
CITY DURING THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK**

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus, an infectious virus known to cause the respiratory disease “COVID-19” can spread from person to person, and can result in no symptoms, minor symptoms, or serious illness causing permanent organ damage and death;

WHEREAS, individuals age 65 or over or living with certain medical conditions identified by the CDC (members of Vulnerable Populations) and members of other populations identified by the CDC (“Other Populations at Risk”) are at risk of severe and lasting harm to health or death from COVID-19;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 also has been reported to cause severe and permanent damage to some children;

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, Governor Brian Kemp declared a Public Health State of Emergency in Georgia, and renewed this declaration multiple times to present date;

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) has noted that COVID-19 spreads very easily and sustainably when an infected person (who may have no symptoms at all, or minor symptoms) talks, sneezes, or coughs in close proximity with others (within six feet);

WHEREAS, the Governor’s Executive Orders require Vulnerable Populations to continue to shelter in place, with exceptions that include participating in essential services and working;

WHEREAS, many City employees and many members of the public who visit City Hall and other City buildings may be members of Vulnerable Populations;

WHEREAS, some City employees and many members of the public who visit City Hall and other City properties are members of the following “Other Populations at Risk” identified by the CDC: pregnant women, individuals experiencing homelessness, people with disabilities, and racial and ethnic minorities;

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to protect individuals in said Vulnerable Populations and Other Populations at Risk, in a reasonable manner and as recommended by the CDC and by the Georgia Department of Public Health, while such individuals are working in, conducting business in, or visiting City Hall and other City buildings;

WHEREAS, the CDC, Dr. Kathleen Toomey (Georgia’s Commissioner of Public Health), and Governor Kemp recommend that individuals wear face coverings over the nose and mouth to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 when they are in public places where they

cannot practice social distancing (i.e., stay at least six feet away from other individuals who do not share the same household); and

WHEREAS, the CDC states that wearing a face covering over the nose and mouth is a recommended precaution designed to prevent symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals who have contracted COVID-19 from spreading it to other individuals; and

WHEREAS, to be an effective precaution, it is necessary to require all City employees and members of the public to wear a face covering over the nose and mouth while in public areas in City buildings and while meeting in City buildings; and

WHEREAS Dr. Toomey and Governor Kemp have modeled the behavior of wearing face coverings as examples for Georgians to follow; and

WHEREAS, having City Hall and other City offices open and accessible to the public as necessary to conduct in-person business that cannot be conducted by other means is important for the economic vitality of the City;

WHEREAS, certain activities, such as discussing and reviewing construction and other permits, benefit from or require face-to-face interactions between City employees and other individuals;

WHEREAS, if a City employee is exposed to the novel coronavirus, by an individual visiting a City building or otherwise, in accordance with CDC guidance such employee will need to quarantine at home for at least 14 days;

WHEREAS, if a City employee is diagnosed with COVID-19 or develops COVID-19 symptoms, such employee will be required to isolate at home in accordance with CDC guidance;

WHEREAS, O.C.G.A. §36-35-3 allows city governments to establish rules for use of and access to its own property for which no provision has been made by general law and which are not inconsistent with the Constitution or any charter provision applicable thereto;

WHEREAS, the City is authorized to establish policies for how the public can access City buildings during the Public Health State of Emergency and thereafter, including closing City buildings, or opening City buildings to the public but placing restrictions on public access; and

WHEREAS, the City has made and continues to make efforts to reduce the need for members of the public to physically visit City Hall and other City buildings to interact with City employees, pay bills, and conduct other business with the City;

WHEREAS, the City intends to assist its employees and the public with mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in City buildings by providing hand sanitizer, disinfecting common

surfaces regularly, and encouraging social distancing of non-cohabitating persons, as well as other mitigating measures;

WHEREAS, despite these precautions, the City recognizes that it is not always possible to ensure social distancing within the City buildings; and

WHEREAS, the following actions are necessary and appropriate to balance the public's interest in having access to City buildings for the conduct of business and other purposes with the compelling public interest of providing for the health, safety and welfare of the City's employees and individuals who visit City Hall and other City buildings and preventing an outbreak of COVID-19 in the City and the surrounding community.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that for the protection of members of the public and other City employees, including members of Vulnerable Populations and members of Other Populations at Risk, City employees are required to wear face coverings over the nose and mouth, which face coverings are cloth face coverings as defined by the CDC or are face coverings designed to protect others from infection by the wearer, when in public areas of City buildings and when participating in physical meetings with other individuals within non-public areas of City buildings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that for the protection of members of the public and City employees, including members of Vulnerable Populations and members of Other Populations at Risk, members of the public are required to wear face coverings over the nose and mouth, which face coverings are cloth face coverings as defined by the CDC or are face coverings designed to protect others from infection by the wearer, when entering and while inside City buildings except as expressly stated in a separate policy, order or law, if any, that applies to certain uses of portions of City buildings, such as courtrooms and polling locations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City will communicate ways to perform city business that do not require entry into a City building.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, for City business that must be done in person, the City will take reasonable steps to provide such in-person service to members of the public who affirm they cannot wear a face covering because they are physically unable to remove such a face covering, have trouble breathing, or must be accompanied by children under age two.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City will communicate the types of acceptable face coverings required for entry into City buildings and instructions by the CDC about how to make such face coverings easily and inexpensively.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City will display information from the CDC explaining or illustrating the proper way to wear and remove face coverings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City will attempt to provide face coverings to individuals visiting City buildings who do not otherwise have a face covering that meets these requirements.

This 20th day of August, 2020.

CITY OF WARNER ROBINS, GEORGIA

By: _____
Randy Toms, Mayor

Attest:

Mandy Stella, City Clerk