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MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BANDERA

MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021 AT 5:30 PM IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING AT 511 MAIN STREET, BANDERA, TEXAS

1. Call to order. Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

2. Discussion and possible action on the following items:

a. Discussion on GA-32 dated October 7, 2020.

There was much discussion on GA-32 and the bars and restaurants operating at 50% occupancy. There was discussion about all bars in town now having a Food & Beverage license which makes them able to operate, except for Arkey Blues. It was important that everyone is clear this all comes from the governor and then TABC is the one that enforces it. There was no action on this item.

b. Discussion and possible action on Ordinance 377.

This Ordinance was originally adopted when Bandera County was not under the mask ordinance. They discussed the confusion and questions about what is actually in effect because the people are confused. There have been a lot of questions about face coverings and if that is going to be enforced. Marshal Dietrich stated the confusion started when Deputy Allen was handing out new certificates of occupancy last week. He explained they needed to post the signs referencing the ordinance stating masks are required. However, the Marshal will not be enforcing that they wear them. The ordinance just says they must have a sign posted. He also explained his deputies are not required to wear masks because of safety reasons. It is up to the business owner to enforce whether they want customers to wear a mask or not. If someone refuses to leave because they won't wear a mask, the business owner can call the Marshal's office and the deputy can follow their procedure.

Mayor Pro Tem Gibson proposed that the whole ordinance be rescinded. There was much discussion about this and giving the business owners their own choice to enforce it as long as they follow the GA-32 mask sign. There was a lot of talk about the confusion from the citizens and business owners and that what needs to be done which needs to be communicated better to the people. There was some discussion about gathering email addresses from the business owners and sending them regular updates on what the status is of the mandate.

Mayor Pro Tem Gibson made a motion to rescind Ordinance 377, seconded by Councilmember Hasty. There was much discussion about more communication with the business owners and adding that to the motion. Mayor Schauman called for a vote. Mayor Pro Tem Gibson and Councilmembers Hasty and Morse in favor. Councilmembers Kunz and Russe oppose. Motion passed.

Councilmember Russe made a motion to give a directive from City Council that we set a mechanism to inform the business of our current status and to request posting of that current status at their business, seconded by Councilmember Kunz. There was some discussion about how this is going to be communicated to the public and business owners. Council is going to discuss and get some input together. Mayor calls for a vote. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

3. Adjourn.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Jill Sholton, City Secretary