

TOWN OF HUDSON SPECIAL MEETING

March 12, 2020

In Attendance:

Members Present: Mayor Janet Winkler, **Commissioners:** Larry Chapman, Jonathan Greer, Jeff Link, Rick Shew and Ann Smith

Members Absent: Commissioner Barry Mitchell

Others Present: Town Manager, Rebecca Bentley, Rotary Representative, Jim Engelman, Dinner Theater Director, Keith Smith, Town Clerk, Tammy Swanson, Town Attorney, Carroll Tuttle and HUB Manager, Janice Woodie

Call to Order:

Janet called the Special Meeting to order, and she stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Governor's orders concerning the COVID-19 Pandemic. We will also be discussing the status of the road repairs for Hickman Avenue and Holly Hill Street.

COVID-19 – Restrictions by Governor Roy Cooper:

Janet and Rebecca reviewed Governor Cooper's orders pertaining COVID-19. The order included a recommendation that organizers of mass gathering events that primarily draw high-risk persons, including those that attract older adults, should consider cancelling or postponing these events. The recommendations were to begin immediately and extend through March 31, 2020, with the situation being monitored closely after March 31st. Rebecca stated that we need to talk about our events coming up, and we need to have a strategic plan to address those events.

- Dinner Theater – March 26th – 28th and April 2nd – 4th - The Board discussed different options including serving the guests at the table instead of having a buffet, or possibly even postponing the show for now.

Janice Woodie stated that she had talked with the caterer, and they do not have extra staff to address possible changes for serving. Also, we will need to pre-order our food about a week in advance of the shows.

Keith Smith stated that the set is built and ready to go when we are ready. He stated that if the Board wants to postpone the show, we would need to coordinate the dates with Janice to make sure the HUB is available. He mentioned that this show could be done in the fall instead of a musical.

The Board also discussed how to handle the ticket situation if the show is postponed. It was suggested that the tickets should all be refunded instead of giving the ticketholders the option of getting a refund or holding the tickets.

Motion: (Rick Shew/Larry Chapman) in following the Governor's orders pertaining to COVID-19 postpone the Dinner Theater Show "Dixie Swim Club" indefinitely, and refund all the tickets. Unanimously approved.

Discussion of Other Upcoming Events: (COVID-19 Restrictions)

- **April 18, 2020 - Bob Timberlake Event** – Ann Smith suggested that since this is an invitation only event, and the invitations have not been mailed out, it should be easy to postpone and reschedule.

Motion: (Ann Smith/Jeff Link) to postpone the Bob Timberlake event at the HUB and reschedule at a later date. Unanimously approved.

- **April 10, 2020 – March of the Cross** – Larry stated that this is an HCDA Event sponsored by the area churches and the decision on whether or not to hold the event should be made mainly by the churches.
- **May 2, 2020 – Butterfly Festival** – Will be discussed by HCDA at an upcoming meeting next week.
- **June Music Festival** – Decision will be made closer to the date of the event.
- **Jan Karon Event** – Decision will be made closer to the date of the event.
- **HUB Rentals booked by other people** – Janice asked the Board how they wanted HUB rentals handled if people wanted to cancel their events and asked for refunds.

After some discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to give full refunds when requested for events that are cancelled due to COVID-19.

Closed Session: N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with attorney:

Janet stated that the Board was going into closed session in accordance with N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) – to consult with legal counsel.

Motion: (Larry Chapman/Jonathan Greer) to go into closed session. Unanimously approved.

Return to Regular Session:

Motion: (Rick Shew/Larry Chapman) to return to regular session. Unanimously approved.

Adjournment:

Motion: (Larry Chapman/Jeff Link) to adjourn the meeting. Unanimously approved.

Tamra T. Swanson, Town Clerk