

**NASHVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2020**

ATTENDANCE BY REMOTE ACCESS: Council members present – President Jane Gore, Vice-President Alisha Gredy, Councilmember Nancy Crocker, Councilmember Anna Hofstetter, and Councilmember Dave Rudd. Also in attendance: Administration Manager Phyllis Carr, Water/Sewer Operator Robin Willey, Town Attorney Jim Roberts, Police Chief Ben Seastrom, Municipal Operations Consultant Dax Norton and Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Debbie Ferry.

COUNCIL BUSINESS – 4:00 pm

1) CALL TO ORDER by President Gore at 4:00 pm.

2) RE-OPENING PLAN FOR NASHVILLE

President Gore opened the meeting by stating that the Town Council does not intend to present or attempt to vote on now or in the future, the face covering ordinance that was posted on the Brown County Democrat's website. Instead they propose to adopt a set of recommendations and guidelines which President Gore read aloud in its entirety. The Town of Nashville COVID-19 Community Reopening Recommendations and Guidelines are attached to these minutes.

President Gore then opened the meeting for a presentation by Brown County Community Foundation CEO Madison Miller. She advised that the Brown County Chamber of Commerce is an active member of the Brown County COAD and have been providing lots of resources to business owners and members through weekly meetings. BCCF CEO Miller announced that resource information could be found on the Chamber's website at <https://www.thebrowncountychamber.org>.

BCCF CEO Miller presented a survey of which 63% of the responders were local business owners and managers. She reported that the majority of the respondents do not support the previously proposed face covering ordinance as written. Additionally, the need to get access to capital and revenue streams is highly important to their sustainability. She advised that a great majority of the respondents have not received financial relief from the CARES Act and many have yet to hear back from the unemployment office.

BCCF CEO Miller explained the Chamber's recommendation is to enforce the Governors guidelines, encourage the Town to work with the Chamber, CVB and other organizations to provide resources that allow and encourage compliance with face masks, hand sanitization, etc.

Brown County Chamber President Greg Fox commented that the Chamber is looking at how they can move forward together and provide as much safety precautions as they can.

BCCF CEO Miller advised that CVB Director Jane Ellis is also on the Chamber Board and she is working on our County's response to tourism and the visitor experience.

President Gore advised anyone attending this zoom meeting has a right to speak but asked that they keep their comments short and keep the meeting on task. Councilmember Crocker asked those that wanted to speak, to put their comments in the chat section and she can call on them. Councilmember Hofstetter added that people could also raise their hand on the zoom application if they want to speak.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MAY 5, 2020

BCCVB Director Jane Ellis thanked everyone for being in this meeting and said the decisions that have been made have been done with a lot of thought going into them. She commented that her family are at high risk but they have been able to manage this. She encouraged everyone to stay diligent, if you encounter people not socially distancing or not wearing masks, stay away from them, you must protect yourself. They will need to learn to live with COVID. BCCVB Director Ellis thanked the Town Council for their dedication and getting them through this time.

The Town Council took comments from the audience.

Paula Staley wrote up a little guidance for the Town suggesting a standard sign for each business welcoming people for a safe shopping and dining experience. She also suggested that they use the term face coverings instead of masks. Ms. Staley also wrote guidance for shop owners regarding sanitizing and disinfecting their businesses.

President Gore advised that the Town is working with the Chamber and the intent is to put signs up and notices of what the Town guidelines are. She noted if a business feels they are not ready to open they have that option, they are not going to require anyone to open if they are not ready.

Warren and Betsy Cole commented that they missed the beginning of the meeting and asked if the Town Council has decided when restaurants can re-open for dine in. President Gore advised per the Governor's orders; restaurants can re-open on May 11, 2020. She reiterated that each business can choose to open or not.

Jim Rispoli talked about the sign he has on the front door of his shop that says they are aware and they care, asking only one family at a time enter his shop and how they will serve his customers. He has sanitizer and towels that he has available for his customers. He commented that they need this Town opened up again.

Glenda Brunner commented that she was open yesterday and saw no customers. She wants everyone to stay safe in all the shops.

Jessica George advised that she is a trained chef that travels the country to train people in safety and sanitation. She volunteered to help those restaurants and businesses to learn sanitation and safety.

Ross Benson wants common signage throughout Town. He asked what the Town has done to be ready for the tourists. Councilmember Crocker advised the Town Council has been working hard behind the scenes and the Chamber will be putting out signage for all the shops soon. She also reported that they are looking to provide hand sanitizer stations around the Town and asked for woodworkers to help in making these stations.

A restaurant owner asked if patrons would be required to wear masks. President Gore commented that the only time they need to wear a mask is when people are moving around. If a person is sitting down at a meal obviously you cannot wear a mask. Councilmember Crocker noted there is no rule that says people have to wear a mask, but they are recommending that people do so.

Debbie Bartes reported that the Brown County Health Department is requiring all food establishments to have a COVID-19 action plan. The plan has to be given to every worker in the establishment, to be posted so the public can see it and submitted to the Health Department for their review.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MAY 5, 2020

President Gore advised all the regulations are posted on the Chamber of Commerce website and those regulations address each individual occupation.

Matt Gray thanked the Town Council for listening to the business owners and giving guidance to them. He noted that tourism is not only their main industry it is their only industry. It is vital that they have options to move forth and thanked the Council for allowing them to move forth. Mr. Gray spoke about conveying a positive message for keeping people safe during this time. He asked if there could be a way that the Police could break up some of the big gatherings in a kind positive manner.

Councilmember Crocker commented that they have talked about creating a volunteer army with fun t-shirts helping to keep visitors social distancing. They are also working on a plan to possibly have more officers in Town. Police Chief Seastrom advised there would be more officers in Town.

Michele Wedel commented that she likes the idea of people helping but not to enforce social distancing but rather guide people to sanitizer stations, restrooms, and local businesses. She would like this to be a positive interaction rather than arguing or escalating the situation.

Jessica George asked about the guidelines for the beauty parlors and barber shops. President Gore advised there are guidelines in the Governor's orders.

Administration Manager Carr advised a member of the Parking and Public Facilities Commission asked if they need to get port-a-john's installed since the public restrooms are closed. If they do open the public restrooms can they have regulated hours to allow for the restroom attendant to clean safely. President Gore advised that the public restrooms will be allowed to reopen beginning at 5pm on May 6, 2020. She agreed a cleaning schedule should be created.

Ron Fleetwood asked if there are any plans to offer masks to visitors. President Gore advised there are several people making masks in the community. BCCVB Ellis commented that the Visitor's Center is looking into alternatives and things a little more Brown County style. They may offer bandanna's which can serve as a face covering and souvenir. She added that they are going to start a social media campaign encouraging businesses to be creative with their masks.

Cindy Steele commented that she is so grateful to represent this community with Our Brown County magazine. She is relieved to hear the positive messages by the business owners, public officials, CVB and Chamber of Commerce and glad they are working together. Councilmember Crocker noted it is amazing to see all of these entities working together. Michele Wedel gave a shout out to Kim Robinson of the YMCA as the COAD Chair. She is working very hard to make sure that everyone is fed in this community.

Patty Frensemeier of Brown County Vacation Rentals reported that they are having more people starting to call in to book vacation rentals in June, July and August. They have been encouraging guests to stay put in their rentals, but she would like to start telling the guests when they can start shopping in Town again. She asked those businesses to let her know so they can share this with their guests.

Councilmember Crocker read aloud a question asking if the Town is prepared if locals start to protest tourist within the town limits. She responded that they are trying to do the best they can, trying to make everyone safe and they will be going by the Governor's guidelines.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MAY 5, 2020

President Gore adjourned the open comment session and encouraged people to contact her via email if they have further comments.

3) ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Administration Manager Carr presented a right-of-way request from the Salvation Army to have a drive-in style Sunday service. They are asking to block Jefferson Street from Washington Street to Pittman House Lane beginning Sunday, May 10, 2020 and the following two Sundays. The area would be blocked from 9:15am to 11:30am. Administration Manager Carr sent an email to the requestor asking if the participants would remain in their vehicles but has not received a response.

Councilmember Crocker made a motion to approve the right-of-way request. Councilmember Rudd seconded the motion with the amendment that everyone stays in their vehicles. Councilmember Crocker approved of the amendment. All were unanimously in favor of the motion.

Administration Manager Carr reported a home on Highland Drive had two lift stations installed during the sewer expansion project. One station was to the main house and the other station was to the apartment above the garage. The property has since been sold and the new homeowners would like to have the power and panel turned off to the garage station and remove this monthly fee from their account.

Vice-President Gredy made a motion to approve the removal of the lift station power and panel and remove the monthly fee. Councilmember Crocker seconded the motion. All were unanimously in favor.

Councilmember Crocker talked about Creekside Retreat and suggested they possibly make this a TIF district. Municipal Operations Consultant Norton explained the process in creating a TIF district. He advised the Redevelopment Commission is where this process begins and ends, this is typically a sixty-day process. He offered to talk with the Redevelopment Commission at their next meeting on May 12, 2020 and suggested a Councilmember also be in attendance.

4) ADJOURN

Councilmember Rudd moved to adjourn the meeting. Vice-President Gredy seconded the motion. President Gore adjourned the meeting at 5:02 pm.

The audio recording made at the Town Council meeting on 5-05-2020 is retained in the office of the Town Clerk-Treasurer.



President Jane Gore

BY REMOTE ACCESS VOTE

Vice-President Alisha Gredy

BY REMOTE ACCESS VOTE


Councilmember Nancy Crocker

BY REMOTE ACCESS VOTE

Councilmember Anna Hofstetter

BY REMOTE ACCESS VOTE

Councilmember Dave Rudd



Clerk-Treasurer Brenda K. Young

Town of Nashville

COVID-19 Community Reopening Recommendations and Guidelines

The Town Council of the Town of Nashville, Indiana, is committed to protect the health and safety of the residents of Nashville and Brown County and aware of the need to allow and assist the small business community to begin the process of reopening and producing economically. Since March 23rd, the Town Council has been monitoring the COVID-19 statistics on a daily basis and have been discussing potential state and local response daily. The Town Council will continue to monitor COVID-19 numbers with vigilance and make any necessary changes to the local response as they may be needed.

In an effort to balance the business community's need to once again produce economically and maintain the health and safety of the residents of Nashville, and based on residents' feedback and with partnership and direction from the Chamber of Commerce, Community Foundation and CVB, the Town Council has adopted the following recommendations and guidelines:

- The Town of Nashville affirms and is committed to follow Governor Holcomb's Back On Track plan to ensure individual health and safety while reopening the state's/Nashville's economy.
- The Town Council affirms and supports the Brown County Chamber of Commerce recommendations and guidelines for the reopening of business in Nashville/Brown County.
- The Town Council recommends that all residents, workers and visitors wear CDC approved face coverings at all times while visiting public places in Nashville.
- The Town Council recognizes that all businesses are independent and supports each owner, operator and staff members to reopen at their own discretion and at a time that they deem safe for their workers and the public. The Town Council will continue to discuss methods to provide support for those businesses that are struggling due the COVID-19 economic disruption.
- The Town Council recommends and encourages that all residents, business owners and their staff and visitors follow the CDC guidelines for social distancing.
- If an individual's situation allows, the Town Council encourages all residents to continue to follow all previous stay at home guidelines.