

# **BROOKINGS COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING**

## **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2020**

The Brookings County Board of County Commissioners met in special session on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 with the following members present: Michael Bartley, Larry Jensen, Angela Boersma and Ryan Krogman. Lee Ann Pierce was present via telephone.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Bartley called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion by Krogman, seconded by Boersma to approve the agenda for the March 25, 2020 Commission Meeting. All members voted “aye.” Motion carried.

### **REGULAR BUSINESS**

Motion by Krogman, seconded by Jensen to approve and authorize Chairperson Bartley to sign Resolution #20-12: an Emergency Resolution to Address a Public Health Crisis by Encouraging Certain Measures that have been Deemed Necessary to Slow the Community Spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19). Commissioner Pierce suggested changing the word “implement” to “encourage” in the ‘Now Therefore, Be It Resolved’ statement.

Motion by Pierce, seconded by Boersma to amend the Resolution so that it reads: Now Therefore, Be it Resolved that the Brookings County Commission hereby encourages the following. Voice vote on amendment: All members voted “aye.” Amendment carried.

Voice vote on main motion as amended: All members voted “aye.” Main motion as amended carried.

### **BROOKING COUNTY RESOLUTION #20-12**

#### **AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION TO ADDRESS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS BY ENCOURAGING CERTAIN MEASURES THAT HAVE BEEN DEEMED NECESSARY TO SLOW THE COMMUNITY SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

WHEREAS, an outbreak of the disease COVID-19, which is caused by the novel coronavirus, has been confirmed in more than 100 countries, including the United States; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a severe respiratory disease transmitted by person-to-person contact, or by contact with surfaces contaminated by the virus. In some cases, especially among older adults and persons with serious underlying health conditions, COVID-19 can result in serious illness requiring hospitalization, admission to an intensive care unit, and death; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services have declared the outbreak of COVID-19 as a public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency in response to the global pandemic of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on the same day, Governor Kristi Noem, issued Executive Order 2020-04 which declared a state of emergency to exist in the State of South Dakota in response to the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in Brookings County, South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, the CDC and health experts have recommended social distancing to slow the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, social distancing is a method of slowing down or stopping the spread of a contagious disease by reducing the probability of contact between infected persons and those not infected in order to minimize disease transmission; and

WHEREAS, in response to the need to implement social distancing all schools in the state have been closed for an extended period; and

WHEREAS, on March 16<sup>th</sup>, the White House issued guidance recommending that social gatherings of more than ten people be avoided and that people avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts; and

WHEREAS, the guidance issued by the White House further recommended that in states with evidence of community transmission, bars, restaurants, food courts, gyms, and other indoor and outdoor venues where people congregate should be closed; and

WHEREAS, many states and communities across the country have already implemented the White House recommendations by ordering all bars, restaurants, food courts, gyms, and other indoor and outdoor venues where people congregate be closed until the public health emergency is over; and

WHEREAS, the failure to successfully implement social distancing will likely result in higher numbers of infected individuals and has the potential to overwhelm the capacity of the County's health care providers; and

WHEREAS, it is important that control measures be taken to reduce or slow down the spread of COVID-19 in order to protect the health and safety of the County's residents, especially for seniors and those with underlying health conditions that make them particularly vulnerable to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020 Governor Kristi Noem, issued an Executive Order that sets forth guidelines for every South Dakota resident, business, healthcare provider, and local and municipal government to stop the spread of COVID-19;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Brookings County Commission hereby encourages the following:

1. Employers, both for profit and not-for-profit, within Brookings County should:
  - a. Implement the recommended CDC hygiene practices and other business strategies designed to reduce the likelihood of spreading the disease.
  - b. Understand that the COVID-19 is not a short-term challenge, and operations will need to endure a difficult and limited social environment for potentially eight weeks or more.

- c. Innovate and continue to demonstrate entrepreneurial excellence in their operations during this difficult and uncertain environment.
  - d. Encourage staff to telework if possible, implement social distancing measures, limit unnecessary work gatherings, limit non-essential travel, and consider regular health checks including CDC guidance for COVID-19 screening if possible.
  - e. Offer, to the extent possible, special shopping times or access periods for populations particularly vulnerable to COVID-19.
2. Any bar, restaurant, brewery, cafe, casino, coffee shop, recreational or athletic facility, health club, or entertainment venue within Brookings County should:
- a. Suspend or modify business practices as recommended by CDC guidance that involve ten or more people to be in an enclosed space where physical separation of at least six feet is not possible.
  - b. Continue offering or consider offering business models that do not involve public gatherings, including takeout, delivery, drive-through, curbside service, off-site services, social distancing models, or other innovative business practices that do not involve public gatherings in an enclosed space.
  - c. Consider business arrangements and innovative ideas intended to support the critical infrastructure sectors, as defined by the Department of Homeland Security.

Passed, approved and adopted this 25th day of March, 2020

Michael Bartley  
Chairman  
Brookings County

ATTEST:

Vicki Buseth  
Auditor  
Brookings County

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion by Krogman, seconded by Boersma to enter into Executive Session at 2:10 p.m., in accordance with SDCL 1-25-2(1), personnel. All members voted “aye.” Motion carried.

Motion by Krogman, seconded by Boersma to come out of Executive Session at 5:21p.m. All members voted “aye.” Motion carried. No action was taken.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Krogman, seconded by Boersma to adjourn. All members voted “aye.” Motion carried. The next regular scheduled meeting is Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.

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Jenna Byrd

Finance Assistant II  
Brookings County

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