



Richland County Council
Special Called Meeting
August 16, 2021 – 6:00PM
Council Chambers
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29201

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Paul Livingston Chair, Yvonne McBride Vice-Chair, Bill Malinowski, Derrek Pugh, Allison Terracio, Gretchen Barron, Overture Walker, Jesica Mackey, Cheryl English, and Chakisse Newton

OTHERS PRESENT: Angela Weathersby, Kyle Holsclaw, Michelle Onley, Tamar Black, Ashiya Myers, Dante Roberts, James Hayes, Ronaldo Myers, Sandra Hayes, Stacey Hamm, Michael Byrd, Dale Welch, Elizabeth McLean, Leonardo Brown, John Thompson, Randy Pruitt and Beverly Harris.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mr. Livingston called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00PM.
2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Ms. Barron moved, seconded by Ms. Terracio, to adopt the agenda as published.

In Favor: Malinowski, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Barron, O. Walker, Mackey, English and Newton

Not Present: J. Walker

The vote in favor was unanimous.

3. **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE REQUIRING THE WEARING OF FACE MASKS IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOL BUILDINGS TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF COVID-19** - Ms. McBride moved, seconded by Ms. Mackey, to approve the emergency ordinance requiring the wearing of face masks in public and private school buildings to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Mr. Malinowski inquired how Council could cite the rise in cases in school, when schools are not open yet in Richland County.

Mr. Livingston responded he has heard a lot from teachers and educators that are engaged in school systems and they made it clear the virus was present in schools and some have contracted the virus. As you may know, teachers and educators are present at school before schools open to students.

Ms. Newton noted there are sporting activities and practices that have been happening within School District I. One of the high school football teams was recently quarantined.

Ms. McLean stated, as part of the emergency definition, when you look at the disaster declaration, it includes “imminent t threat”, which would apply to what we are discussing.

Ms. Newton noted the County wants to mirror the City of Columbia’s ordinance to make it easier for the schools to enforce. She inquired if the intent was to include high schools, based on the age range of 2-14, since come children start high school at 13.

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Ms. McLean responded, for clarity sake, we only included the language the City of Columbia included. She does not know what their intent was. She noted the way she reads the ordinance is because high schools educate children up to the age of 14, everyone in the high school would be included.

Ms. Newton noted, from her conversation with representatives from the City, their intent was not to include high schools.

Ms. McBride stated the intent of her motion was not to include high schools.

Mr. O. Walker stated, his understanding, the ordinance was to protect children that are not eligible to be vaccinated. He noted we need to keep in mind the aim of the ordinance is to protect children that cannot be vaccinated (i.e. elementary and middle schools).

Ms. Terracio inquired if the County could provide masks to schools, if requested.

Ms. McLean responded the updated draft addresses this matter.

In Favor: Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, And Newton

Opposed: Malinowski

Not Present: J. Walker

The vote was in favor.

Ms. Barron moved, seconded by Ms. Mackey, to reconsider this item.

In Favor: Malinowski

Opposed: Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, And Newton

Not Present: J. Walker

The motion for reconsideration failed.

4. **ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:15PM