

# MINUTES

## COSM

### Commissioners

#### COSM Special Remote Session

Thursday, April 29, 2021, 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm

#### Virtual Remote Meeting

- I.

Call to Order

- President Harrod called to order the special remote meeting of the Commissioners of St. Michaels at 4:30 p.m. Also present were Commissioners Michael Bibb, David Breimhurst, Jaime Windon, and T. C. duPont, Town Manager Jean Weisman, Police Chief Anthony Smith, Legislative Clerk Suzanna Warnick, and members of the public. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Items for Discussion

- Ordinance No. 526 - Use of Face Coverings

- **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO FACILITATE THE SAFE REOPENING OF COMMERCE AND ACTIVITIES REGARDING FACE COVERINGS WITHIN THE TOWN IN ACCORD WITH STANDING GUBERNATORIAL EXECUTIVE ORDERS CONCERNING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC; PROVIDING THAT THE TITLE OF THIS EMERGENCY ORDINANCE SHALL BE DEEMED A FAIR SUMMARY**

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- President Harrod opened the discussion of the continuation of the use of face coverings in the Town of St. Michaels. Mrs. Weisman said she drafted Ordinance No. 526 in the event that the Commissioners wished to exercise their option to relax the wearing of masks in St. Michaels, following Governor Hogan's relaxation of this Covid 19 regulation for the State of Maryland based on CDC guidelines. Commissioner Breimhurst said close reading of the Governor's order relaxed the mask regulations for outdoors only for vaccinated people and only when a six-foot distance could be maintained.

After some discussion, the Commissioners concluded that a relaxing of St. Michaels' mask regulation was not necessary and that the Town should remain cautious throughout the month of May and maintain the mask regulation and the six-foot distance on St. Michaels' busy and narrow sidewalks.

Police Chief Smith said he agreed that enforcing a mask regulation will be more difficult based on the public's misinterpretation of the Governor's order and the fact that some people who have been vaccinated now feel the mask is unnecessary. Chief Smith said his officers would do their best to enforce a continued mask requirement. Chief Smith added that his priority now is getting as many hesitant citizens vaccinated as possible in order to achieve close to satisfactory herd immunity levels.

The Commissioners agreed that if they decided to change their position after some time, the issue would be revisited.

The Commissioners invited public comment.

Following some additional discussion, Mrs. Weisman said her understanding was that the ordinance she drafted would not be adopted by the Commissioners at this time. The Commissioners reiterated their intent to take no action for at least thirty days, to not adopt Ordinance No. 526, and to leave their previous ordinance (Ordinance No. 510) in place.

#### IV. Comments from the Public

- The Commissioners agreed to continue to reinforce the mask regulation on the Town's website and the Maritime Museum, represented by President Kristin Greenaway, said the Museum would do the same. Ms. Greenaway also praised the Commissioners for not relaxing the masking regulation at this time in the interests of public safety for all.

Chief Smith said he would work with Kim Weller to put out a Constant Contact email message to make the public aware of a fraud case he was investigating.

#### V. Comments from the Commissioners

#### VI. Announcement of Future Meetings

- FY22 Budget and Tax Rate - Special Work Session - May 4, 2021 at 5:00 pm
- Public Hearing on FY22 Budget and Tax Rate - May 12, 2021 at 6:00 pm

#### VII. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.