

New Smyrna Beach City Commission Meeting April 14, 2020

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<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFnpWTUfup3BtTrUyHaJisA>

1. City Commissioners voted 4-1, with Commissioner Jake Sachs dissenting, to reopen the city's boat ramps from April 17 to May 15. The vote was one of several in which the Commission modified actions it took last month to fight the spread of COVID-19.

Commissioner Sachs explained his vote by expressing concern about boaters congregating closer than six feet apart along the finger piers and other areas around the launching ramps. He felt the city should closely adhere to social distancing measures outlined in Florida's "Safer-At-Home" Executive Order.

The Commission's April 14 meeting was the first ever conducted entirely as a virtual assembly, with each Commissioner and staff member participating in the video-conference individually from their homes or offices.

Commissioners noted when they voted to close the city's public boat ramps from March 27 through April 14 (*allowing only commercial fishing vessels to use the eastern ramps on the North Causeway*); it might have increased traffic at other launching ramps in Port Orange and Oak Hill. As a result, the majority agreed to reopen the city's ramps and limit their use only to residents living in coastal counties that are part of the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND), effective April 17 to May 15.

Commissioners said City Manager Khalid Resheidat is authorized to close the city's boat ramps again if boaters aren't following the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) agency's recommended social distancing guidelines, and the ramps and parking areas become too crowded.

Mayor Russ Owen suggested it's unlikely residents of these other counties along Florida's East Coast, bordering the Intracoastal Waterway, will drive here to launch their boats. As a result, he said the Commission would be limiting boat ramp usage mainly to local residents.

The City Commission also voted unanimously to approve other actions extending or modifying their earlier shutdown of city events and facilities as indicated here:

- All special events on city property are cancelled through May 15.
- City parks will be open, but all playgrounds and park restrooms will be closed through May 15. Commissioners noted the CDC has recommended closing playgrounds, and restroom surfaces are often a prime place for germs to spread.
- All city meetings open to the public are cancelled through the end of May, except for two City Commission meetings and a Charter Review Committee meeting. Those meetings will be conducted through videoconferencing.

City Manager Resheidat reported more than half of the city's staff members are working from home, and maintenance department personnel are working in shifts. For police officers and others who deal with the public, he said the temperatures of those employees are taken before they start their shift.

Commissioners also dealt with several issues unrelated to COVID-19 on April 14. They voted **unanimously** to grant citizens' requests to place stop signs at the intersection of North Pine Street and Due East Avenue on the beachside; as well as at the intersections of Live Oak Street and Fourth, Seventh and Eighth streets on the mainland.

In addition, the City Commission had the first reading of several ordinances relating to requests for annexation, land use and zoning changes. The second readings and public hearings of those ordinances are scheduled for April 28. Those changes include:

- A request to annex about 2.29 acres at 1076 Dillon Circle, designate its future land use as Rural, and rezone it to Rural Agriculture Estate (RA), with a notation that it is within the Airport Height Notification Zone.
- A request to annex approximately 1.05 acres at 2835 Pioneer Trail, designate its future land use as Low Density Residential, and rezone it to Transitional Agriculture (A-3), with a notation that it is within the Airport Height Notification Zone.
- A request to annex about 10 acres at 680 Williams Road, change its future land use to Rural Agriculture (A-2), and rezone it to Rural Agriculture with an Airport Overlay zoning.
- A request to annex 0.2172 acres at 406 Old Mission Road, designate its future land use as Medium Density Residential, and rezone it to Single Family Residential (R-2), with a notation that it is within the Airport Height Notification Zone.
- A request to annex 0.1187 acres at 408 Old Mission Road, designate its future land use as Medium Density Residential, and rezone it to Single Family Residential (R-2), with a notation that it is within the Airport Height Notification Zone.
- A request to annex 0.405 acres at 420 Old Mission Road, change its future land use to Medium Density Residential, and rezone it to Single Family Residential (R-2), with a notation that it is within the Airport Height Notification Zone.

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