

TOWN OF IRMO COUNCIL WORKSHOP

April 29, 2020

The Irmo Town Council held a virtual workshop on Wednesday, April 29, 2020. Council members present were Mayor Walker, Councilwoman Condom, Councilmen Busch, Sickinger, and Danielson. Others present were Mr. Robert Brown, Town Administrator, Mrs. Renee Caviness, Clerk/Treasurer. Kim Lanier (Lucky's), Kerry Powers (Greater Irmo Chamber of Commerce), Steve Price (Bistro on the Boulevard), Rocco Bellino (Hemingway's), Rhonda Midgette, (Insightful Hr), and Joey Von Nessen (Darla Moore School and Resh Marketing). The public was able to watch it live-streamed on the Town's Website and YouTube Channel.

The agenda was published and posted on Friday, April 24, 2020 to meet FOIA requirements.

Mayor Walker called the workshop to order at 6:30 p.m.

DISCUSSION:

A. REACTIVATE THE OLD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OR CREATE A NEW NON-PROFIT CORPORATION SPONSORED BY THE TOWN:

Mayor Walker started the discussion by expressing the need for the town to offer some relief to in-town small businesses due to the strain of the Covid-19 pandemic. Mrs. Condom, Mr. Sickinger, and Mr. Busch did raise their concerns about using town reserves to fund a relief program. Mr. Danielson understood the concerns but stated that the town could start the program with \$250,000 and Council would solicit for contributions from other companies, corporations and organizations. Ms. Powers stated that the Greater Irmo Chamber does not qualify for the federal relief being offered and believes the Irmo businesses would appreciate some help from the Town. All agreed that something needed to be implemented to help the in-town struggling businesses and were in favor of creating a new non-profit corporation. It was decided that any financial consideration would be further discussed once the new non-profit was established.

Mayor Walker requested that Mr. Brown put this item on the next agenda.

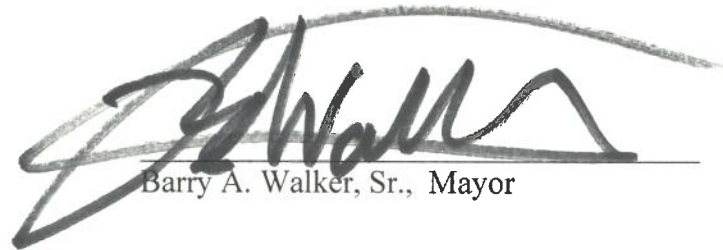
B. COVID-19 INITIATIVES TO INCLUDE LOCAL BUSINESSES WITHIN IRMO:

Mayor Walker is concerned about businesses and would like to know what the Town of Irmo can do to open bars & restaurants as safe and quickly as possible. All the business owners stated they would do whatever is needed to be allowed to open up. Some of the items they have implemented or will be implementing included one use menus and condiments, taking employee temperatures, and providing safety equipment to employees as well as thoroughly sanitizing the restaurant before and after customers leave.

Council decided to allow Irmo restaurants to open for outside service and must follow CDC guidelines so both employees and customers feel safe starting Friday, May 1st. After a brief conversation, Mayor

Walker asked for this to be put on the next agenda but Mr. Brown stated it would be better to make this a resolution and have an emergency meeting on Thursday, April 30, 2020 if Council is going to allow the places to open up over the weekend. The discussion ended with all of Council agreeing to hold an emergency meeting on Thursday, April 30th to approve the resolution.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Mr. Busch made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Sickinger seconded it. The motion was approved unanimously; therefore, the workshop was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.



Barry A. Walker, Sr., Mayor

ATTEST:



Renee Caviness, Clerk/Treasurer