

EMERGENCY MEETING MINUTES

**HYDE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2020**

Following opening prayer by Commissioner Swindell; and, Pledge of Allegiance, Chairman Pugh called the Emergency Meeting of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners to order at 8:00a.m., on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 in the Hyde County Government Center Multi-Use Room and the Ocracoke Community Center using electronic conferencing equipment.

The following members were present on the mainland: Chairman Earl Pugh, Jr.; Commissioners Ben Simmons, Shannon Swindell and James Topping; County Manager Kris Cahoon Noble; Special Projects Coordinator Bill Rich; Attorney Franz Holscher; Clerk to the Board Lois Stotesberry; IT Director Donnie Shumate; Interim Health Director Luana Gibbs; and members of the public.

Vice-chairman Tom Pahl and Deputy Clerk Teresa Adams were present on Ocracoke.

CONSIDERATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARATION FOR HYDE COUNTY:

Luana Gibbs, Interim Health Director, presented update on public health emergency criteria. Ms. Gibbs reported as of 4:00p.m. Tuesday, there were 56 known COVID-19 cases and no fatalities.

Kris Cahoon Noble, County Manager, reported Beaufort and Dare counties adopted a State of Emergency on Tuesday. On Tuesday, March 17, 2020, visitor restrictions were placed on Dare County.

Benjamin Simmons, Commissioner, reported citizens have a less than 1/10% chance of death from COVID-19 in the United States. Mr. Simmons recommends the County not restrict the vital people in society, such as medical personnel, farming operations, etc.

Luana Gibbs, Interim Health Director, advised we need to adhere to the guidelines and do our part.

Kris Cahoon Noble, County Manager, recommended everyone should stay calm but vigilant. Citizens should take the recommended precautions and prepare for the worst.

Commissioner Simmons moved to adopt “State of Emergency Declaration Prohibiting Mass Gatherings and Other Recommendations to Limit The Spread of COVID-19” and to amend the declaration as necessary. Commissioner Swindell seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Pugh, Pahl, Simmons, Swindell and Topping; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

Clerk’s Note: A copy of “State of Emergency Declaration Prohibiting Mass Gatherings and Other Recommendations to Limit The Spread of COVID-19” is attached herewith as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

Kris Cahoon Noble, County Manager, reported Dare County is keeping government open with all online services available during this travel restriction.

Kris Cahoon Noble, County Manager, reported the Ocracoke Control Group also recommends the County limit visitors to Ocracoke Island.

Tom Pahl, Vice-chairman, recommends Hyde County act in concert with Dare County, State and Federal Government.

Justin Gibbs, Emergency Management Director, recommends setting visitor (only) restrictions for Ocracoke in the morning. Mr. Gibbs is concerned that with only one 24/7 ambulance on the Island, and approximately a 6 hour turnaround time, Ocracoke may not have coverage for a second emergency.

Commissioner Pahl moved to adopt “State of Emergency Declaration Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) Amendment No. One – Prohibiting Visitation to Ocracoke Island” as written, effective at 5:00a.m. on Thursday, March 19, 2020. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Pugh, Pahl, Simmons, Swindell and Topping; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

Clerk’s Note: A copy of “State of Emergency Declaration Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) Amendment No. One – Prohibiting Visitation To Ocracoke Island” is attached herewith as Exhibit B and incorporated herein by reference.

Chairman Pugh offered condolences to Commissioner Pahl on the loss of a family member in Connecticut.

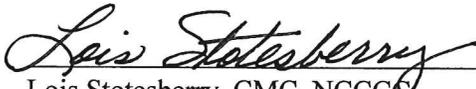
Commissioner Simmons moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Swindell seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Pugh, Pahl, Simmons, Swindell and Topping; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20p.m.

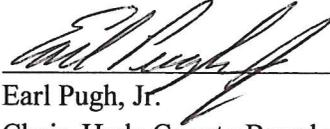
Respectfully submitted:

Minutes approved on the 6th day of April, 2020.

Attest:



Lois Stotesberry, CMC, NCCCC
Clerk, Hyde County Board of Commissioners



Earl Pugh, Jr.
Chair, Hyde County Board of Commissioners



Attachments

Exhibit A: *“State of Emergency Declaration Prohibiting Mass Gatherings and Other Recommendations to Limit The Spread of COVID-19”*

Exhibit B: *“State of Emergency Declaration Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) Amendment No. One – Prohibiting Visitation to Ocracoke Island”*



**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF HYDE,
NORTH CAROLINA**

STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARATION

**PROHIBITING MASS GATHERINGS AND OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS TO LIMIT THE
SPREAD OF COVID-19**

MARCH 18, 2020

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a serious communicable disease that has been found in North Carolina and poses an unprecedented public health threat to the State of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, a National Emergency has been proclaimed by the President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of North Carolina has declared a State of Emergency that prohibited mass gatherings, closed schools, recommended social distancing to be practiced across the State and restricted bars and restaurants to food take out or delivery services only; and

WHEREAS, the Hyde County Senior Center and Adult Day Activity Program (ADAP) were closed to the public until March 31, 2020 to protect vulnerable populations and the resumption of services will be evaluated before reopening; and

WHEREAS, the Ocracoke Deputy Control Group and Hyde County Board of Commissioners were apprised of the local public health impacts by the Hyde County Health Director; and

NOW, THEREFORE, by the authority vested in me as the Chairman of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners by the laws of the State of North Carolina and the Hyde County Code of Ordinances, **IT IS ORDERED:**

SECTION 1. STATE OF EMERGENCY

I hereby declare a State of Emergency, as defined in N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 166A-19.3(6) and 166A-19.3(19), for the County of Hyde based on the public health emergency posed by COVID-19.

The emergency area, as defined in N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 166A-19.3(7) and 166A-19.22(b) is the County of Hyde (the "Emergency Area").

SECTION 2. PROHIBITION OF MASS GATHERINGS

Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.31(b)(2), which allows for the undersigned to regulate and control the congregation of persons in public places or buildings and with the concurrence of the Board of Commissioners, to help protect the health and well-being of Hyde County citizens, I hereby prohibit mass gatherings of more than fifty (50) persons and discourage any event or convening of ten (10) or more persons in a confined indoor or outdoor space.

- a. A mass gathering is defined as any event or convening that brings together a large group of people in a single room or single space at the same time, such as an auditorium, arena, church, conference room,

meeting hall, stadium, theater, or any other confined indoor or outdoor space. This includes parades, fairs and festivals.

- b. A mass gathering does not include normal daily operations at airports, bus and train stations, medical facilities, libraries, shopping malls and centers, office environments, restaurants, factories, grocery stores or other retail establishments.

SECTION 3. RESTAURANT AND BAR OPERATIONS

In conjunction with the Governor's Executive Order and pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.31(b)(2), which permits the undersigned to implement restrictions or prohibitions of the operation of offices, business establishments, and other places to or from which people may travel or at which they may congregate, I hereby restrict restaurants and bars to food takeout or delivery services only.

SECTION 4. DISCRETIONARY TRAVEL

Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.31(b)(1)(d), which allows the undersigned to control ingress and egress, I encourage Hyde County citizens and prospective visitors to postpone discretionary travel from and to the County of Hyde, which includes Ocracoke Island.

SECTION 5. SOCIAL DISTANCING AND HYGIENE

In coordination with the Hyde County Health Director and alignment with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, all persons are urged to maintain social distancing, approximately six feet away from other people, whenever possible and to continue to wash hands, utilize hand sanitizer and practice proper respiratory etiquette, including coughing into their elbows.

SECTION 6. APPLICATION

All local government entities and agencies are ordered to cooperate in the implementation of the provisions of this declaration and the provisions of the Hyde County Emergency Operations Plan (the "EOP").

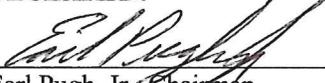
SECTION 7. DISTRIBUTION

I hereby order that this declaration be: (1) distributed to the news media and other organizations calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public; (2) promptly filed with the Clerk to the Hyde County Board of Commissioners; and (3) distributed to others as necessary to ensure proper implementation of this declaration.

SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE

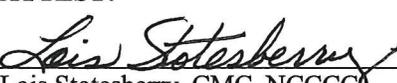
This State of Emergency Declaration is signed on this date, ~~Tuesday~~ ^{Wednesday}, March 18, 2020, shall become effective at 10:00 AM and remain in effect until modified or rescinded,

DECLARED:

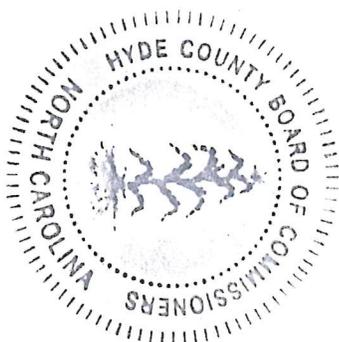


Earl Pugh, Jr., Chairman
Hyde County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



Lois Stotesberry, CMC, NCCCC
Clerk, Hyde County Board of
Commissioners





BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF HYDE,
NORTH CAROLINA

STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARATION

CORONAVIRUS 2019 (COVID-19)

AMENDMENT NO. ONE

PROHIBITING VISITATION TO OCRACOKE ISLAND

MARCH 18, 2020

WHEREAS, a State of Emergency, as defined in N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 166A-19.3(6) and 166A-19.3(19), continues for the County of Hyde; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of that declaration, that prohibited mass gatherings, recommended social distancing and proper respiratory etiquette and restricted bars and restaurants to food take out or delivery services only, continue to be enforced; and

WHEREAS, the Hyde County Board of Commissioners convened an emergency meeting on March 18, 2020 at 8:00 AM and approved visitor restrictions for Ocracoke Island; and

WHEREAS, the Hyde County State of Emergency Declaration Section Four (4), Discretionary Travel, is amended to prohibit visitation to Ocracoke Island beginning on March 19, 2020 at 5:00 AM; and

NOW, THEREFORE, by the authority vested in me as the Chairman of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners by the laws of the State of North Carolina and the Hyde County Code of Ordinances, **IT IS ORDERED:**

SECTION 4. DISCRETIONARY TRAVEL

Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.31(b)(1)(d), which allows the undersigned to control ingress and egress to the emergency area, visitation to Ocracoke Island is prohibited until further notice. Ingress to and egress from Mainland Hyde County continues unimpeded, at this time, but visitors are strongly encouraged to postpone or cancel any discretionary travel until the public health threat from Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) has diminished.

Furthermore, I strongly encourage Hyde County residents to postpone or cancel any discretionary travel from the County of Hyde to limit the spread of Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19).

SECTION 6. APPLICATION

All local government entities and agencies are ordered to cooperate in the implementation of the provisions of the State of Emergency, any amendments to that declaration and the provisions of the Hyde County Emergency Operations Plan (the "EOP").

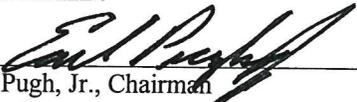
SECTION 7. DISTRIBUTION

I hereby order this amendment be: (1) distributed to the news media and other organizations calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public; (2) promptly filed with the Clerk to the Hyde County Board of Commissioners; and (3) distributed to others as necessary to ensure proper implementation of this amendment.

SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Amendment is signed on this date, Wednesday, March 18, 2020, shall become effective at 5:00 AM on March 19, 2020 and remain in effect until modified or rescinded,

DECLARED:



Earl Pugh, Jr., Chairman
Hyde County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



Lois Stotesberry, CMC, NCCCE
Clerk, Hyde County Board of
Commissioners

