

COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

**July 2, 2020 – 4:00 p.m.
City Hall (via video conferencing)**

A Council work session was held via video conferencing for a COVID-19 update.

Attending: Mayor Bill McMurray and Councilmembers Brenda Blessing, Madison Davis, Russell Moore, Brian Myers, Marty Novak, Kent O’Dell and Gary Roach.

Chris Connally, Interim City Manager/Police Chief; Bryan Carter, City Attorney; Debra Bradley, Health Director; Amy Cohorst, Human Resources Director; Chuck Kempf, Parks, Recreation & Civic Facilities Director; Tom Mahoney, Interim Administrative Services Director; Mary Robertson, Asst. to the City Manager/Communications & Public Relations Manager; Paul Flury, Network Administrator; Dawn Lanning, Support Systems Specialist; and Paula Heyde, City Clerk.

Mayor Bill McMurray called the meeting to order.

Mayor McMurray asked Dr. Gary Clapp, Associate Chemistry Professor at Missouri Western State University, to review his graphs on “7 Day M.A. (Moving Average) July 1,” “10 Day M.A. (Moving Average) July 1,” and “14 Day M.A. (Moving Average) July 1.” Dr. Clapp said we are going in the wrong direction and probably warrants a closer look.

Dr. Davin Turner, President of the Medical Center at Mosaic Life Care, gave an update on the cases at Mosaic. He said this is going to go on for months. Mosaic continues to remain at Tier 5 and limits visitors to one per patient and no visitors on the COVID floor. They continue to wear masks when around others. He believes the CDC recommendation is the right thing to do. Masks will prevent particulates from traveling to others and will slow transmissions.

Debra Bradley, Health Director, said one thing that weighed into her recommendation was that St. Joseph has a lot of elderly individuals and they have heard from several of them who have concerns that they can’t go out because they fear or uncomfortable going out because others are not wearing masks. (A memorandum from Ms. Bradley in re: Mandatory Face Covering, dated July 1, 2020, was previously emailed.)

Public Comment: Rusty Summers, Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission; Renie Proffitt, Brandon Manville, Last Call Bar; Tracie Archer, Biggins Sports Bar & Grill; and Kim Bigham, Big Shots spoke against wearing masks.

Brad Durham, BFIT CrossFit, said he would like to see a plan and asked who will enforce wearing masks.

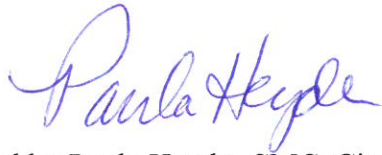
Jane Frick and Joann Wann spoke, via video conferencing, in support of mandatory mask wearing.

Mayor McMurray and Councilmembers Madison Davis, PJ Kovac, Marty Novak, Kent O'Dell and Gary Roach favored waiting until next Thursday to make a decision on mandatory face masks. Councilmembers Brenda Blessing, Russell Moore and Brian Myers did not want to wait.

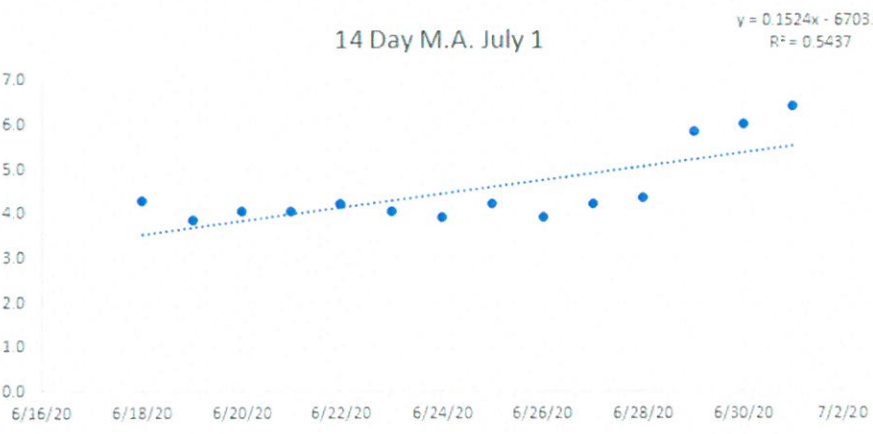
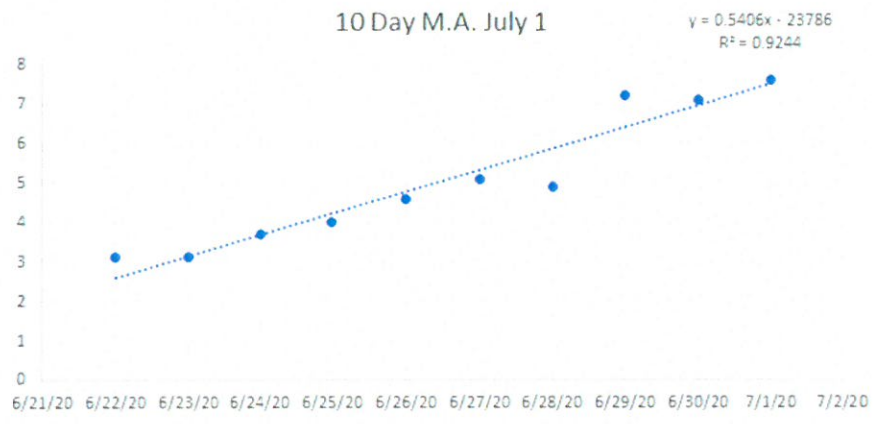
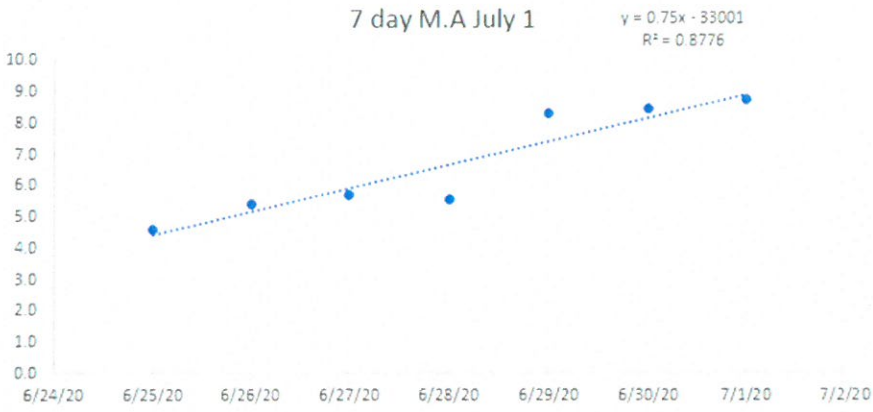
Councilmember Davis would like to see what an order for mandatory mask wearing would look like. Mayor McMurray asked the City Attorney to send a draft to the City Council.

A work session was scheduled for Thursday, July 9, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. to take a look at the numbers, review the draft order and consider relaxing the rules to allow bars and restaurants to put out tables to extend their services to sidewalks to allow for social distancing.

The meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paula Heyde". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.


Minutes transcribed by Paula Heyde, CMC, City Clerk.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

THROUGH: Chris Connally, Interim City Manager

FROM: Debra Bradley, Director of Health 

DATE: July 1, 2020

SUBJECT: Mandatory Face Covering

COVID-19 spreads between people primarily through droplets in the air. Wearing any type of face covering will minimize the spread of this virus. There is emerging clinical and laboratory research showing the role face coverings have on preventing the spread of the virus. Laboratory tests have provided enough proof of efficacy that medical providers have been wearing face coverings for years. This virus was discovered just six months ago and proved to be in the United States five months ago. We are all still learning the best way to protect one's self and others.

On June 28, 2020, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended that most people over the age of two years wear a cloth face covering when in public setting and around individuals who are not a part of their household and especially when social distancing is difficult to maintain. Those who have trouble breathing or certain medical conditions should not wear face coverings. CDC states "cloth face coverings are most likely to reduce the spread of COVID-19 when they are widely used by people in public settings."

Face coverings can be anything from a cloth mask to a scarf or bandana. The purpose is to minimize the spread of droplets when one speaks, sneezes or coughs. Even during a casual conversation, an asymptomatic infected person could spread the virus to an unsuspecting host.

There are certain situations where face coverings will not be recommended, medical condition, work environment, high level of activity, etc. In those situations, social distancing is the recommended way to protect one's self. Social distancing works well, however when one can safely wears a face covering and social distances the positive impact is even greater. Therefore, it is my recommendation that face covering be mandated in public places when feasible.

Please let me know if you have questions.