

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE 2020-07

WHEREAS, Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among humans through respiratory transmission and other potential methods, and presents symptoms similar to those of influenza; and,

WHEREAS, in December of 2019, a new and substantial outbreak of COVID-19 emerged in Wuhan, China, and has since spread rapidly to 117 countries and territories throughout the World, including the United States, and more specifically Charleston County and 29 other counties in the State of South Carolina; and,

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is predicting that it is likely that widespread transmission of COVID-19 will also occur in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, no vaccine or drug is currently available to cure or combat COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Sullivan's Island is threatened by COVID-19 because of the apparent ability of the virus to spread rapidly among humans, and COVID-19 thereby constitutes a clear and present threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens and visitors of the Town of Sullivan's Island; and,

WHEREAS, the CDC has issued guidelines for "community mitigation strategies" to limit the spread of COVID-19, including recommendations for social distancing, which has proven to be an effective method of containing COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Sullivan's Island is working with other government agencies in an effort to prevent the spread of the disease; and,

Whereas, Mayor O'Neil and Town Council declared that the Town of Sullivan's Island is in a state of emergency on March 15, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, Governor Henry McMaster issued an executive order that closed all dine-in services at restaurants and bars beginning on Wednesday, March 18, and limiting all business to to-go/take out services only; and,

WHEREAS, Section 5-7-250 of the South Carolina Code of Laws empowers Council to enact emergency ordinances affecting life, health, or safety; and,

WHEREAS, in light of the foregoing, the Town of Sullivan's Island deems it proper and necessary during this state of emergency to allow Town Council and any appointed Board or Commission to meet by telephone or other means of electronic communication provided compliance with the provisions of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act; and,

WHEREAS, on April 7, 2020, the Mayor and Council of the Town of Sullivan's Island, in Council assembled, approved Ordinance 2020-04 which included a number of measures to protect the health and security of its residents and the ability of the Town to fulfill its missions throughout this crisis, including among others the ability of Mayor and Council members to remotely participate in voting and operational procedures by telephone or other means of electronic communication provided compliance with the provisions of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act; and also the institution of restricted access to the Island for a period of 14 days; and

WHEREAS, the coronavirus pandemic continues to be a severe threat to the health and welfare of residents of Sullivan's Island beyond the duration earlier anticipated.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Sullivan's Island, in Council assembled, that:

1. While under the Governor's Emergency Order, the Town of Sullivan's Island temporarily suspends the normal operating procedures of the Town Council meetings and hereby allows for the Mayor and Council Members to remotely participate in voting and operational procedures by telephone or other means of electronic communication provided compliance with the provisions of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act continues and shall be extended, when needed and appropriate, to all Town Boards and Commissions.
2. All deadlines imposed by Town Ordinance, applicable to the municipality or applicant, shall be suspended until July 15, 2020.
3. The Town Administrator is authorized to modify the Town plan for continuity of service during the pandemic or any restrictions specifically placed on Town owned property during the pandemic as necessary.
4. The Town Administrator is authorized to cancel and revoke any special event permits issued prior to the date of the ordinance for events taking place through June 30, 2020.
5. All residents and non-residents shall comply with social distancing mandates of the Governor's Executive Order; and, there shall be no public gatherings on all Town-owned property and beaches over three (3) people unless they are related family members.
6. Access to the beach on Sullivan's Island shall be for exercise only. Beachchairs, shading devices and coolers are prohibited. Permitted exercise includes running, walking, dog

walking within permitted hours and Town-issued dog permit, biking, swimming, surfing, and other recreational activities consistent with social distancing. Sitting in chairs, sunbathing, loitering and congregations of more than three (3) people unless family are prohibited. Beach goers shall remain six (6) feet apart from each other. People with disabilities who can provide a handicap decal are exempted except for social distancing requirements.

7. Any violation of any rule or regulation issued and set forth herein shall be punishable as “Disorderly Conduct” provided in the Town Code of Ordinances.
8. Access to Sullivan’s Island will no longer be restricted effective 5:00 PM Monday May 11, 2020.
9. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its reading and vote and shall remain in effect as allowed by the state statute.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE TOWN OF SULLIVAN’S ISLAND, ON 11th DAY OF MAY, 2020.

Courtney Sottile, Clerk of Council



Patrick M. O’Neil, Mayor