

**City of Brookings**  
**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

City Hall Council Chambers, 898 Elk Drive, Brookings, OR 97415

**Monday, May 6, 2020**

**Call to Order**

Mayor Pieper called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM

**Roll Call**

Council Present: Mayor Jake Pieper, Councilors Brad Alcorn, Brent Hodges, John McKinney, and Ron Hedenskog; a quorum present.

Staff present: City Manager Janell Howard, Public Works and Development Services Director Anthony Baron, Deputy Recorder Amber Nalls.

Media Present: None

Others Present: 3 audience members

**Oral Requests and Communications from the Audience**

1. Dr. Ron Reel – 519 Chetco Ave #1, Brookings, OR addressed Council regarding the reopening of business. Dr. Ron Reel is in favor of businesses opening.
2. Kate Davis – 427 Hillside Ave, Brookings, OR addressed Council regarding the reopening of transient lodging facilities. Kate Davis is not in favor of transient lodging facilities reopening in Brookings.
3. Ellen Babin – 514 Myrtle, Brookings, OR address Council regarding the reopening of Brookings. Ellen Babin is not in favor of reopening business and transient lodging facilities.
4. Maureen Ter Beek – 975 5<sup>th</sup> St, Brookings, OR addressed Council regarding the reopening of transient lodging facilities. Maureen Ter Beek is not in favor of reopening transient lodging. This request was emailed in by Maureen Ter Beek who was not present at the Council Meeting. Public comment was not read out loud at the Council Meeting. Public Comment is attached.
5. Paul M. LeFebvre – 96499 Duley Creek Rd, Brookings, OR addressed Council regarding the reopening of transient lodging facilities. Paul M. Lefebvre is not in favor of reopening transient lodging. This request was emailed in by Paul LeFebvre who was not present at the Council Meeting. Public comment was not read out loud at the Council Meeting. Public Comment is attached.

**Staff Reports**

*Potential Modification on Restrictions on Transient Lodging Facilities*

City Manager Janell Howard presented the staff report.

City Manager Janell Howard gave an update on the status of transient lodging facilities being reopened in the surrounding areas. Gold Beach will open its transient lodging facilities at 100% occupancy with no restrictions and with recommendations to follow the CDC, OHA, and BMP guidelines, on May 6, 2020. Curry County will also open up all transient lodging facilities Friday, May 8, 2020, at 100% occupancy with no restrictions, along with recommendations to follow the CDC, OHA, and BMP guidelines.

City Manager Janell Howard gave updated information on PPE supplies within our County. Curry County Public Health Administrator and the Emergency Operations Manager informed her that there is a 30-day supply of PPE in place and on hand for Curry County.

City Manager Janell Howard informed the Council that Curry County met the entire requirements of the Governor to open into Phase 1 on May 15, 2020. The request letter was sent to the Governor's office for approval of the Phase 1 opening.

**Councilor Hedenskog moved, Councilor Hodges seconded and Council voted 3-2 with Councilors Mckinney and Mayor Pieper voting "Nay" for the City of Brookings to lift the restrictions on 20-R1176 to 50% occupancy with the effective date of Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. Business will follow the agreement of the DCD, OHA and BMP (best management practices) produced by the City Manager.**

**Remarks from Mayor and Councilors**

Councilor McKinney remarked that we need to support and open up local businesses before opening up transient lodging.

Councilor Hedenskong commented that by having hotels open at 50% occupancy and hotel rooms staying empty for 48 hours after a guest, meets the criteria for a soft opening.

Councilor Alcorn remarked that this is a very difficult decision to reopen transient lodging. He also commented that the City Council has done a very good job of risk containment regarding COVID-19.

Councilor Hodges remarked that the City Council has the ability to shut back down the closing of transient lodging if COVID-19 cases spike up.

Mayor Pieper commented, " We can not hang the welcome sign up for tourism".

**Adjournment**

Councilor Hedenskog moved, Councilor McKinney seconded and Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jake Pieper, Mayor

ATTESTED:  
this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Janell K. Howard, City Recorder

## **Janell Howard**

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**From:** Maureen Ter Beek <maureen@terbeek.us> on behalf of Maureen Ter Beek  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 6, 2020 2:28 PM  
**To:** Janell Howard  
**Subject:** Re: Transient Lodging update.  
**Attachments:** FB\_IMG\_1588797483343.jpg; FB\_IMG\_1588797255597.jpg

Hello Janell --

Per my email to you last night with a spreadsheet forecasting visitors I ask that you please ask the council if they are prepared to deal with the ramifications of opening up transient lodging to tourism in Curry County and the city of Brookings. Please ask them if they understand what the ramifications would be of letting in 25,000 people from hot spots and areas that have greater infection rates? Please ask the council if we are prepared to deal with a spike of infections? Do we have the healthcare staff beds and equipment to deal with this?

Recently the city of Gold Beach did a COVID 19 survey. Attached is a picture of each page of a report analyzing the results.

In the survey most of the respondents were not in favor of reopening transient lodging to tourists. In fact that subject dominated the responses.

The County and the City of Gold Beach ....and soon the Brookings City Council....are making a decision that most people do not agree with.

I'm asking one last time please do not do this. Please extend for another month. Please put together a plan that involves opening businesses and parks to locals first before phasing in dining in and bars. Once you've got a handle on that then move on to slowly opening up transient lodging.

There has been no leadership regarding masks. So many people have commented about maskless customers in large grocery stores. The county of indicated they wish to request not ask. Can you please discuss this as well at your meeting?

I am very concerned regarding the risks you are taking with this decision.

Maureen

On Wed, May 6, 2020, 11:35 AM Janell Howard <[jhoward@brookings.or.us](mailto:jhoward@brookings.or.us)> wrote:

Just a quick update...

The County Commissioners voted this morning to repeal their order to restrict TLF. Their order makes this effective at 5p today. There were no restrictions or requirements; only a recommendation to follow CDC and OHA guidelines for protocol.

Also, the City of Gold Beach voted Monday night to repeal their resolution restricting lodging, effective Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at noon, along with a recommendation to follow the Best Management Practices and CDC guidelines that I emailed you last week.

The City of Brookings City Council meets today at 5p, specifically to discuss this topic. I will send you an email this evening to give you an update.

Janell

**Janell Howard**

City of Brookings  
City Manager

Finance and Human Resources Director

898 Elk Drive

Brookings, OR 97415

## **Janell Howard**

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**From:** paullefe@charter.net  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 6, 2020 11:06 AM  
**To:** 'Sue Gold'; 'Court Boice'; 'Chris Paasch'  
**Cc:** jfitts@goldbeachoregon.gov; mattesons@co.curry.or.us; 'Janell Howard'; 'Maureen Ter Beek'; jpieper@brookings.or.us  
**Subject:** RE: re-opening and transient lodging

Dear Commissioners and other interested parties;

I am a resident of Brookings having moved here some 16 years ago.  
I have been following the commissioner meetings and understand that you will be considering opening our county to transient lodging.

I would like this memo to be a matter of record for today's meeting.

Because I am a scientist and engineer of 45 years by training, I understand the mathematics associated with rapid (exponential) spreading of a virus as it proliferates a virgin population. For the purpose of this discussion, let's consider Curry County as a virgin population of about 25,000 people comprised of a high percentage of high risk individuals.

Currently our case count is zero... and presumably, this is because we have isolated ourselves and observed the recommendations of the CDC.

It is my observation that most are compliant but the economic worry is beginning to soften our discipline.

I know that others have put forth analysis to you that attempts to model the impact of the virus in Curry county given an influx of some 20,000 transient visitors – a situation that we will not be able to handle should the virus arrive here from others that are from infected areas.

Why then.... does it make any sense at all to open the county to transient lodging where the UNTESTED population from outside our county can mix with our population at this time?

If you would like to rehash the models and scientific analysis in this regard, please let me know and we can put together a credible analysis for your review.

However, common sense can prevail in this decision. You have enough information to know you are risking the lives of those of us who live here....particularly with the demographics that associate with this county.

This thought process must lead you to a conclusion that opening the county to transient lodging must be delayed. Please act accordingly and minimize our risk rather than inviting infection through cross pollination of infected populations.

I do not now who is providing the scientific leadership on this board....

Sue, I understand you have a mathematics background. Please educate your colleagues on what can happen here.

**Do Not Open Curry County** to transient lodging at this time.

More information is becoming available daily indicating that the states that are opening early are seeing an increase in cases.

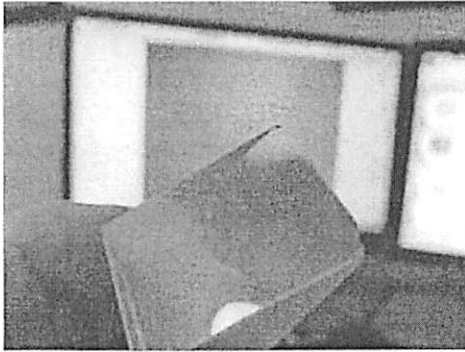
Use common sense and study these states to allow better data that can serve as a basis for further consideration of this matter.

Personally I have a person I love that is a high risk. This decision will be about lives and not politics. If my wife loses her life, because of your decisions made here, you will hear further from me in a way that will be aggressive and personal.

I believe that you are currently informed of the impact of bringing infected individuals into a older virgin population. Please know that I consider the opening of our county at this time to be negligent.

Best Regards,  
Paul M. LeFebvre

***LeFebvre Services***  
*Thin Film Design, Processing, Manufacturing*



96499 Duley Ck Road  
Brookings, Ore 97415  
707-508-5383 Cell  
541-412-2723 Office

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