

# City of Clearwater

*Main Library - Council Chambers  
100 N. Osceola Avenue  
Clearwater, FL 33755*



## Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday, March 18, 2020**

**5:00 PM**

**Emergency Council Meeting**

**Main Library - Council Chambers**

**City Council**

## Roll Call

**Present:** 5 - Mayor George N. Cretekos, Councilmember Jay Polglaze, Councilmember Hoyt Hamilton, Vice Mayor Bob Cundiff and Councilmember David Allbritton

**Also Present:** William B. Horne II – City Manager, Michael Delk – Assistant City Manager, Pamela K. Akin City Attorney, and Rosemarie Call – City Clerk

*To provide continuity for research, items are listed in agenda order although not necessarily discussed in that order.*

## Unapproved

### 1. Call to Order – Mayor Cretekos

*The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Main Library.*

*all present except Nicole*

### 2. City Manager Reports

- 2.1** Confirm a declaration of a state of emergency, establish COVID-19 emergency measures and adopt Resolution 20-11.

*The City Manager said for the past several weeks Emergency Manager Jevon Graham and staff have been monitoring the federal, state and county actions related to COVID-19, as well as participating on county conference calls. Given the CDC's recommended measures, Governor DeSantis' declaration of emergency and emergency order, and Pinellas County's declaration of emergency and emergency orders, the City of Clearwater is compelled to issue its own declaration of emergency and emergency resolution that will assist the city government in reducing the spread of COVID-19 among its staff, visitors and guests. He said the resolution before Council does not include a provision addressing a beach closure; there was no support at today's county emergency management meeting for a beach closure among the other beach communities participating on the call. Mr. Graham reviewed Resolution 20-11 and the restrictions outlined in the resolution.*

*In response to questions, the City Manager said during today's call there was an acknowledgment made that if Clearwater Beach closed other beaches may close. The Pinellas County Board of Commissioners are meeting on Friday.*

*Three individuals opposed closing Clearwater Beach.*

*In response to questions, Police Chief Daniel Slaughter said some of the beaches in Miami-Dade were closed during certain hours but the information changes daily. There are no curfews for Clearwater Beach; it is open 24 hours a day. Both closing the beach and enforcing social distancing present challenges; the density present at the beach today was not significant but if the density gets busy as it was last weekend, enforcing social distancing will be complicated and problematic. He said if the beachgoer density is already high, he will not be able to change that and will be forced to implement a social distancing strategy. As it relates to established hours of operation, it would be difficult to clear out the beach at 4:00 p.m.; the beach typically thins out after sunset. The City Attorney said the cities of Tampa, Palm Beach, South Miami Beach, Miami Beach and Ft. Lauderdale have closed their beaches.*

*Discussion ensued with concerns expressed that closing Clearwater Beach would only push beachgoers to other beaches in the area. It was stated that the resolution before Council mirrors the county resolution and that the beach can accommodate social distancing. A comment made that Clearwater Beach should close since Spring Training has been cancelled and city recreation centers are closing.*

**Councilmember Polglaze moved to amend Section 7 to close Clearwater Beach. The motion was duly seconded.**

*The City Attorney said the amendment would include closing all public bathing beaches, public beach access, Courtney Campbell recreation area, Beachwalk, Sand Key, Bayside Park, and public beach parking lots in the City of Clearwater as determined by the Emergency Manager Director. She said closure of the parking lots are determined by the Emergency Management Director and will be closed as he sees fit. The motion was duly seconded.*

*In response to a suggestion the City Attorney said Council may review the provisions listed in the resolution every two weeks; staff direction to*

*amend the resolution timeframe will be needed.*

**The motion was withdrawn.**

**Councilmember Polglaze moved to close Clearwater Beach for two weeks. The motion was duly seconded.**

*One individual opposed the beach closure and suggested enacting the closure on Monday.*

*One individual said that the beach will be closed in two weeks anyway since many of the vacation rental reservations are being cancelled.*

*In response to a question, the City Attorney said Council may amend the resolution to allow council meetings; as written, the council would meet as needed. The new councilmembers elected at yesterday's election would take office when the election results are certified. She said the beach closure would not impact restaurants and businesses; just the sand.*

**Councilmember Hamilton moved to amend the motion to make the beach closure effective Monday, March 23, 2020 at 6:00 a.m. The motion was duly seconded and carried with the following vote:**

**Ayes:** 4 - Mayor Cretkos, Councilmember Polglaze, Councilmember Hamilton and Vice Mayor Cundiff

**Nays:** 1 - Councilmember Allbritton

**Councilmember Polglaze moved to amend Section 4 so that the resolution takes effect on March 18, 2020 with the exception of Section 2.7 which takes effect on Monday, March 23 for 15 days. The motion was duly seconded.**

*One individual spoke in opposition.*

*One individual questioned the action taken by Council.*

*It was stated that the closure impacts the public beach and not the restaurants or businesses. The City Attorney said alcohol services at restaurants will close at 10:00 p.m.*

**Upon the vote being taken, the motion carried as follows:**

**Ayes:** 4 - Mayor Cretekos, Councilmember Polglaze, Councilmember Hamilton and Vice Mayor Cundiff

**Nays:** 1 - Councilmember Allbritton

**Councilmember Polglaze moved to amend Section 2.1 by striking “regular meetings of council.” The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.**

**Councilmember Hamilton moved to confirm a declaration of a state of emergency and establish COVID-19 emergency measures. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.**

**Resolution 20-11 was presented and read by title only. Councilmember Polglaze moved to adopt Resolution 20-11 as amended. The motion was duly seconded and upon roll call, carried with the following vote:**

**Ayes:** 4 - Mayor Cretekos, Councilmember Polglaze, Councilmember Hamilton and Vice Mayor Cundiff

**Nays:** 1 - Councilmember Allbritton

**3. City Attorney Reports – None.**

**4. Closing comments by Councilmembers (limited to 3 minutes) – None.**

**5. Closing Comments by Mayor – None.**

**6. Adjourn**

*The meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.*

Attest

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor  
City of Clearwater

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk