

**VANDERBURGH COUNTY COUNCIL
EMERGENCY MEETING MINUTES
March 25, 2020**

The Vanderburgh County Council met in session this 25th day of March, 2020 in the Locust Meeting Room B-C of the Old National Events Plaza. President Tom Shetler, Jr. called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

President Shetler: Good morning. It's 10 o'clock, and time for our meeting to begin. At this time, I'm going to ask, please take the roll call, please?

Kathy Glaser: Councilmember Terry?

Councilmember Terry: Here.

Kathy Glaser: Councilmember Montrastelle?

Councilmember Montrastelle: Here.

Kathy Glaser: Councilmember Kiefer?

Councilmember Kiefer: Here.

Kathy Glaser: Councilmember Goebel?

Councilmember Goebel: (No response.)

Kathy Glaser: Councilmember Raben?

Councilmember Raben: (No response.)

Kathy Glaser: Councilmember Koehler Lindsey?

Councilmember Koehler Lindsey: Here.

Kathy Glaser: President Shetler?

President Shetler: Here.

Councilmember Goebel: Mike Goebel here.

President Shetler: Okay. And who else was there? Was Jim Raben? Jim, are you on?

Councilmember Goebel: Did you get me? Did you get Mike Goebel?

President Shetler: Yes, I did. Yeah. Mike, thank you.

Councilmember Goebel: Okay. Thank you.

President Shetler: So, we have six present and one absent. If James gets in, you know, joins us, and I talked to him yesterday, I think he was going to join us, but something may have come up. I do want to point out, just a little housekeeping real quickly, if you would please mute your phones until you're ready to ask a question or make a point, it would be very helpful, because otherwise we get too much kind of feedback, I guess, going back and forth here.

Councilmember Raben: Hello.

President Shetler: And also... Hey, James?

Councilmember Raben: Yes?

President Shetler: Okay, you're on.

Councilmember Raben: Who all we got?

President Shetler: We have all seven are here. Everyone's here.

Councilmember Raben: Pardon me, Tom?

President Shetler: Everyone's on board.

Councilmember Raben: Okay.

President Shetler: Everyone is here, including Dave Wedding is online, and also Jeff Hatfield.

Councilmember Raben: Okay.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & INVOCATION
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President Shetler: At this time, I'd like to ask Brian if he would do the Pledge of Allegiance, and I'll do the invocation, and then we'll get started.

(The Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation were given.)

Councilmember Raben: Hey, Tom, question?

President Shetler: Yes?

Councilmember Raben: Do we have some folks in attendance at the meeting, or is everybody calling in?

President Shetler: Everybody, all the Councilmembers, except for me, are at remote locations. We have in attendance, two office holders, Bill Fluty, and also, Nick Hermann. I almost said Steve, so I used to deal with your father, but those are the two officeholders that we have. Other other than that, we have a couple of people from the news media, people here from the Events Plaza, and in addition to that we have Kathy and Brian, Jeff Ahlers, myself and Teri are here.

Councilmember Raben: Okay. Alright, just curious what the, I wasn't sure if there were still people in place there at the ONB Center¹, or not. Okay. Sorry to interrupt.

President Shetler: No, no problem.

PRESIDENT SHETLER'S COMMENTS

President Shetler: I was going to give a little bit of an opening statement here to kind of set the stage. 2020 budget is set, except for some miscellaneous revenue accounts that will be affected. There will be some additional overtime in critical areas, like the Jail, Highway, Garage, maybe even IT Services, that we can expect. But, but, for the most part, 2020 isn't going to be terribly rough sliding here. But what will be seriously affected, will be 2021 and 2022, as far as finances are concerned. The Riverboat being shut down right now will be a large hit. COIT, with incomes down due to layoffs will be a big major problem, and there are other fees and stuff that will also be affected. Now, the reason why, there's a lag time, because while the State collects those revenues, they don't distribute those revenues to the County for 18 to 24 months later. So, we won't see the effects of those until 2021, 2022 is when most of those will start affecting as far as receiving those from the State. So, that means we have to be very prudent on how we're going to spend our money today. Because we're going to need to save a few of those back until a later point. There are a few financial things that affect us, depending on when and how we receive our May 11th property tax revenue and stuff. That will make a big difference. If that's delayed at all, we'll lose a little bit of revenue that we get off of interest. We'll, we'll have to borrow money to bridge that gap that we're expecting to start utilizing that money as it comes in in May. If it's delayed a month, two months, whatever we'll have to have a bridge loan to do that. That'll have a negative effect on, on our expenditures. So, it's critical that we get that money in on May the 11th. If anybody can chip in and pay it early, that would be helpful. So, we are looking at that. But, the next 18 to 24 months, after this is all over with, is when we're going to hit it the hardest. And so, again, as we go through this today, we just need to be very mindful of that. The Commissioners have,

¹ Should be Old National Events Plaza

they've not called for a shutdown of government of all departments. All, all departments are working. Employees are either working in the office, or from remote locations like their home currently. They're cooperating, all the Department Heads have been cooperating, and worked out their own individual plans that work well for their offices, as far as who is going to be in the office working, and who will be at home, or are at a remote location. That according to Commissioner Hatfield has been working very smoothly, and with a lot of cooperation on all the Department Heads. They're not, the Commissioners are not anticipating shutting down the government services to the public. Obviously, underneath the Governor's orders, and, also the Commissioners, there's no public entrance into the building and stuff. But critical services are being done on a daily basis, both remote and inside the office. The critical areas like law enforcement, including the Jail, County Highway, to clear any roads, you know, in the event of any emergencies. You know, we're right in the middle of tornado season or getting ready to get started into it. And, and, it's essential that those people are making sure that the roads are safe and clear for our emergency vehicles when needed. Today, the Commissioners are asking for our guidance on how we're going to treat employees who may need to be off work due to an illness, for themselves or family members, or care for extended family during this time. The Federal Government is sending some relief to the local governments. I'm not sure what that picture looks like. I don't think too many of us would, I think it was about a two o'clock in the morning deal it finally got brokered, but anyway, we're not sure exactly what that looks like, but there may be some relief there, coming. I would suggest that whatever we do, that we do it incrementally, that we have to be mindful that the Governors' order is what, up until April the 6th or 7th? So, we need to be mindful that we not go beyond that at the moment. We shouldn't do anything that extends beyond that point. Because again, we're not sure exactly how far this is going to be spread, and maybe end up being a couple of months, instead of just a couple of weeks. If he does extend the date, then I think we need to reconvene to discuss further extensions of our benefit package that we offer to the employees. Whatever, whatever we do, I think it must be prudent to the taxpayers and compassionate to the employees.

<p style="text-align: center;">EXTENDING LEAVE BENEFITS TO COUNTY EMPLOYEES AND FINANCING A LIMITED WORKFORCE</p>
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President Shetler: So, at that, I'll leave it open for either discussion. I did present three points I think to everyone over the last couple of weeks, and things that we might want to look at. One would be, the first one would be, to get permission to the office holder, department head that the County employees may take personal time off by using their saved PTO hours, their sick days, or unpaid, unpaid leave, whatever works best for their family situation. That was point one. Then, the second point as far as progression, we would suggest a plan to reimburse the employees affected by the State of Emergency through illness or unexpected family leave care to receive up to maybe 50% of time off to be added with additional PTO. I'm going to hold the third point off until a little bit later because we might have to scale that back a little bit. At least for a temporary period of time. So, I'll leave that open for discussion.

First Point – County Employees may take Personal Time off by using saved PTO, sick or unpaid leave with approval from the Officeholder/Department Head:

Councilmember Raben: Tom, going back to one. One, I understand completely. This is James by the way. One, I understand completely. I guess I'm a little unclear on number two. I mean, there needs to be some type of verification. So, if they're tested and found out, found to be positive, we would reimburse up to 50%?

President Shetler: Yes, for every, well, that proposal would be for every eight hours they're off, they would receive four hours of PTO time. Many of them have large banks of time.

Councilmember Raben: (Inaudible comments) verification process. We don't have, we don't have it spreading around to the whole County that, "hey, this", I mean, we have to have some type of verification that, I mean, we're assuming that they, that they have the virus when we're doing this?

Councilmember Terry: I understand, isn't that any illness? If you're caring for children or elderly, is that what we're, that's what that, the EFMLA guidelines, or something?

President Shetler: Yes.

Councilmember Terry: It's not directly related to COVID-19 illness? It could be anything.

President Shetler: That's (Inaudible comments). Because we really don't...

Councilmember Kiefer: Was that Stephanie?

Councilmember Terry: Yes, it is.

Councilmember Kiefer: Can we say our names before we talk? Okay, thanks.

Councilmember Terry: I'm sorry. This is Stephanie.

Councilmember Kiefer: Yeah, thanks.

Councilmember Raben: Okay, so that, is that just if they're caring for children or elderly or something like that? Okay.

President Shetler: Right, and the thought behind it was...

Councilmember Raben: And, this goes on top of whatever the Federal program is? Let's get clarification on that also.

President Shetler: No, it's, we, we're, I'm thinking that the Federal, Jeff could address that, I know he stayed up late last night and read a lot of it. But I'm thinking that the Federal program would basically might reimburse the County for expenses that they incur, some expenses that they may incur during this time. But Jeff, I don't...

Jeff Ahlers: I reached out yesterday to David Jones, the County Commissioner attorney, and I know they're still looking at various legal aspects and digesting it. So, we're still waiting to hear back from them on what it is they may be requesting, or how, whatever laws are being, and regulations are passed by the Federal government and/or State government. How that interplays and would affect the benefits that we already have pursuant to our handbooks and policies and, and or collective bargaining agreements. So, one of the things that Mr. Shetler and I talked about was that, and I think that's why he said hold back on number three, is that until we receive guidance, because as you know, some of the laws were being passed late last night, so there's still not guidance on everything, and until the Commissioners and their Counsel advise us on some of these other issues that you may want to proceed somewhat cautiously. Because as of right now, I mean the Governor's order, you know, as Tom said, only goes through like, April 6th or 7th. So that's, you know, a couple of weeks out, and that apparently the Commissioners are not going to shut down County government. So, everyone will, you know, continue to, you know, come to work or work from home. So, we're in the process of doing that. So, like as far as number three, you know, I would suggest that if you are going to do anything that it not be past the period of time of which the governments or the Governor's executive order is, and then also scale that back, I don't think you want to do that much additional PTO, because that would be the entire time that we're talking about here, and you'd want to scale that back and/or wait. One of the things that Mr. Shetler had talked about is whether to have another meeting next week, and then after it's understood a little bit more how all of these laws and regulations are going to come into play. And, also, I know the Commissioners are in the process of going through with each office holder, you know, how their employees are going to work, which ones are coming in, which ones may be, you know, working from home. And so then, we're going to have a more complete list, and have an understanding of what employees may be affected and what the ramifications would be in order for Council and the Commissioners to be able to address, you know, whatever gaps or, you know, paid or unpaid time off may need to be addressed. So that's, I think we'll be alright now.

President Shetler: And, basically what I'm suggesting is this would be at a minimum, and that if the Federal government does something to reimburse us, or they have in their program where we're going to be assisted, then we would pass that on and perhaps increase what we're doing here. But I'm suggesting that regardless of what the Federal

government does, we do this at a minimum for our employees. There are, I'm thinking of the, the mom who may have just, you know, had a baby in the last couple of three months, used up most of her PTO and sick days and stuff for family leave, and then comes back, been back for a couple of weeks, hadn't had time to really accrue any additional expenses here and stuff. And so, or I mean, I'm sorry, the additional sick days or PTO, and that person needs to be home taking care of their child. And, particularly if they become ill or anything like that, we don't need them coming to work and weakening everybody else's immune system. So, that's where I was coming from, and I believe that it's the least that we can do for the employees. One thing I want to go back...

Councilmember Montrastelle: Tom, I have...

President Shetler: Yep?

Councilmember Montrastelle: Tom, I have a question. This is John. You're opening paragraph. it says would support for up to a period ending April 15th. That's a Wednesday. Why a Wednesday, and not a Friday? Well (Inaudible comments).

President Shetler: Okay, we're going to we're going to scale that back to the 7th because, to coordinate with what the Governor's request has been. And, we will review that once he makes an adjustment or amends his deadline on it. So, that first opening part, that's why I didn't, I didn't read that part of it because we were going to amend that date from April 15th to the 7th.

Councilmember Montrastelle: Okay, thank you.

Councilmember Raben: Hey, Tom? James. I think, I think what would be most helpful for now, I mean, we're, we're, as we're talking through all of this, I guess, we need to define, you know, we talk about shutting it down. Can we shut down? Who do we shut down? I guess we need to identify what departments are essential to a, would be considered essential services? You know, when you start thinking about that, you know, the list just goes on and on. And, I don't know, I don't know what in government we've got that you can actually shut down, frankly that wouldn't be considered essential business.

President Shetler: Well...

Councilmember Raben: (Inaudible comments.)

Councilmember Kiefer: This is Joe. I agree with James on that 100%.

President Shetler: Okay. There, there is a list and we have that and...

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: Tom?

President Shetler: Yeah?

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: Mr. President?

President Shetler: There is a list that the Commissioners have on it. I'll have Jeff go through that in a second. I will mention, I did forget that Weights and Measures is not on that list at all. They are essentially shut down. What they are doing in the interim is going through the education, schooling, the different things that they need to do to keep up with the necessary information that they need to have for their skills. And then, Jacob is being reassigned to one of the other departments and to help out administratively with County government on a temporary basis. So, Jeff, are you?

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: Tom?

President Shetler: Yes?

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: Tom, hey Hatfield here. Can I clear up a few things?

President Shetler: Yes, please.

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: Can everyone hear me?

Councilmember Koehler Lindsey: Yes.

President Shetler: Yeah.

Councilmember Raben: Yes.

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: Okay. The offices that, the offices that are critical to the ongoing function of the government. And, I'll list them, okay? The Auditor, the Assessor, the Surveyor, Treasurer, Recorder...

Councilmember Raben: Hold on just a second.

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: Sorry.

Councilmember Raben: Surveyor...

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: Okay, I'll start over.

Councilmember Raben: No, no, no, you're good.

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: Okay, Auditor, Assessor, Surveyor, Treasurer, Recorder, the Courts, the Clerk of the Courts, Election Office, the Sheriff's Office, Public Defenders, Voter Registration, Prosecutor, Drug and Alcohol, I'll explain that in a minute, Coroner and IT. Okay?

Councilmember Goebel: Mike Goebel here.

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: Let me go down further, because there's more, there's more.

Councilmember Goebel: Well, I was hoping Teri would just copy this and email out to everyone.

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: Yeah. The, the other critical infrastructure departments that we need to keep open include the Highway, Health, Engineering, Burdette, and I'll explain that in a minute, ONEP, where you are at now, Weights & Measures. Okay, the departments that can exclusively, that are considered noncritical, that can exclusively still...

Councilmember Raben: Hey Jeff, before we do that, before you go to the next category, explain the Burdette?

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: Okay, Burdette is still open to still open to the public. If you read the Governor's order from 2 days ago, outdoor activity is not excluded from the Governor's order. And, the public still uses Burdette Park. Also, too, it needs to be available for any remote locations that may need to be used by hospitals for any excess patients. There is an effort going on, I am on the phone with the Mayor and the hospitals, and the Health Department every night at 5:00 p.m. on that call. And, there is an effort happening to identify locations, in our County, in geographic areas, that can be available for any triage that may need to occur. So, we're planning, we're not anticipating or predicting, we're just planning. And, that was one of the areas identified. In addition to that, we are cancelling a lot of events that were planned there because of the orders of not congregating over 10 or 50, I can't remember what it is now. But... So, the staff, you know, is, is working to make those calls and help people make other arrangements, if possible, but the main thing is just cancel. But, considering the public stills uses it by walking, jogging, walking their dog, there is a need to keep staff there. Now, of course, the pool is not going to come open, unless these orders get lifted. So, we kept that on the list of places to keep open. ONEP, the same thing. As long as we're holding meetings there, we need to maintain the staff there. So, those are those two answers on that. The Governor's now, I'm not a lawyer, but the advice I'm getting from County Attorneys are, we can't, we can't close any offices that have lawyers in them. And so, like, you know, even though the Courts are on limited scheduling, you know, we can't close the Public Defenders, or any of that. We're still going to have elections. So, we can't close that. So, all of these offices that we identified as critical in nature or a necessary infrastructure to keep open, that's basically advice from reading the Governor's order and then a few added, just based on what the need may be. Weights & Measures is important to know, that it needs to stay open, even from home. If there are complaints about particular gas stations or whatever not following, you know, the rules, they have to be able to go and

deal with that. But the State Weights & Measures has advised that just routine going around to gas stations is not a critical function.

Councilmember Raben: Okay.

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: All the departments that... I'm sorry, go ahead.

Councilmember Raben: Well, before you get into the nonessential, just real quick. Some of, like EMA, Central Dispatch,

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: EMA is under the City.

Councilmember Raben: Area Plan, you didn't list those, but...

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: Okay, let me explain. APC was just, I just missed it. But they are under the direction of the County. And, they'd have to come up with a good plan that they submitted to me yesterday on critical staff in the office, and then all others remotely working to carry out their functions. And, by the way, I do want to say that, that every single office I've been in contact with, and department, they've been very, very cooperative in creating outside the box ways that we can stay open, whether in the building or remotely. And so, I'm very happy to report that. And, as far as EMA goes, that, that is a City lead department, and also, too Solid Waste. And so, they're running under direction of the Mayor, those two. So, the three that you mentioned that I didn't mention, I have APC, yes is managed under the County, and EMA and Central Dispatch. Central Dispatch, of course, would be a critical infrastructure office. And, so they're operating, just like the Sheriff's Office, and the other critical infrastructure one that I mentioned earlier. Any other...

Councilmember Montrastelle: Jeff, what about the Drug & Alcohol? You were going to say something about that, I think?

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: Drug & Alcohol is mainly under the Courts. Now, the, by arrangement and/or law, the Judges, the Clerk, Drug & Alcohol, Public Defenders, Prosecutors, you know, that's a system I will not touch. And, the Judges have their world under control. And, it's just one less thing that, that I have to contend with. And, nor would I pretend to run what they do. And, it's easier to, if you think about this, we have very good office holders, we have very good Judges, we have a very good Mayor, and it's very important in an emergency like this to make sure that all three entities are, you know, all buckets are working as one, so to speak, and we not get bogged down into any territorial disputes. And, so far that's not happened, and, you know, I would not participate in that. And, so, you know, when we talk about attorneys, attorney related things, the Governor has identified those areas in his Order as, you know, you cannot put them in a, a noncritical bucket. And, so there's been a lot cooperation happening.

President Shetler: Any other comments or questions?

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: The offices, just finishing this line of discussion, the departments that can exclusively work from home and continue to do their service includes Soil and Water, Veterans Services, the Co-Op Extension. And, I know that the Commissioners, we have sent our two employees to work from home remotely, and they've continued to do what we needed them to do. President Shetler told me yesterday that one employee in the Council's Office has, is also working remotely. That actually is the complete list of, of our government.

Councilmember Raben: Okay.

Councilmember Kiefer: Jeff, this Joe. I apologize, can you repeat what you said about the Building Commissioners? I, my phone blanked out on me for a second.

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: I'm sorry. The Building Commissioners are under the City.

Councilmember Kiefer: Okay. Alright, thank you. Sorry I missed that.

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: It's okay.

Councilmember Raben: Okay, so, Jeff, I think what's important, and I really want to compliment you on, on the manner for which you, you've grabbed this bull by the horns

and, and the dialogue that I've had with you I think everybody else that's, that's had any aspect or any workings within this whole quagmire we're in, I just have nothing but good things to say about your handling of this. And, you know, keep it up.

Councilmember Kiefer: Ditto.

Councilmember Raben: But I guess one important point to make is with the critical offices or departments that are still reporting to the Civic Center, I think it's important that you mention that they're working in a pretty stable, sanitary environment today, with it being closed to the public, and they can probably manage the social distancing part, and I don't know, maybe you can just elaborate on that for just a moment.

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: Myself?

Councilmember Raben: Yes.

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: Well, I know that the Building Authority is doing a wonderful job of extra cleaning. The, in my communications with all officeholders, department heads, the County Garage, there are a series of work rules, established by OSHA and established by the Department of Health, they're sort of a blend. For instance, at County Garage all employees have to stay six feet away from each other, that includes breaks and lunch. When they have to work near each other, and we've gone over this out there, and through communicating with the Teamsters and through our department head out there, there are PPE's that they must wear, under certain circumstances, and, those have been communicated. The, I will tell you this that companies that work strictly under OSHA, even my own personally, your efficiency rate does go down, but your safety goes way up. And, so, you know, it's just, we'll just have to put up with that for now. And, but, the most important thing, I think, that, you know, private industry I know is dealing with, you know, for the most part, and what I believe we have to do, is make sure we follow those rules, we know what they are. I did order posters for every office that Dave Rector is still waiting on, as deemed essential for all office places, not just government, but just everywhere in the United States, but that has an office with employees, you have to post what the rules are, the work rules are. We did order those posters, they are coming in, and those will get disseminated to every office, including the County Garage, but anyway, if you, the Department of Health does a very good job of giving you five or six, you know, rules to follow, and we all know what they are by now; wash your hands, correct PPE's, distancing. Those rules have to apply, we have to follow them, you know, we just have to. And, so that's being done, and I did ask our departments to sanitize any surfaces that are used a lot. Now this was, you know, discussed before we even closed the building, but regardless, we still have to do that to prevent spread amongst our employees. So, I know the Building Authority is doing everything it can, I know the staff at ONEP is, I know that all of our other remote locations are doing that as well. We talk about it a lot, so.

Councilmember Raben: I just thought it was important since we have even some media folks that are listening in, that they were aware that you are working diligently to provide a secure...

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: Yes.

Councilmember Raben: ...sanitary, virus free environment for those that are reporting to that building every day. So, (Inaudible. Talking over each other.)

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: Well, we are following...

Councilmember Raben: (Inaudible comments.)

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: Yeah, we're definitely following guidelines from the governmental offices that study this all the time; OSHA, Department of Health, and that's in where we're getting all of our direction and information from. OSHA had already dealt with this issue already, and they had ready, made on order information dealing with this, as if they'd been studying it for 20 years. Not that they were, but they're that good at

what they do. And, similarly, our State and local Health Departments. And, so that's (Inaudible. Talking over each other.)

Councilmember Goebel: This is Mike Goebel.

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: Yeah, go ahead.

Councilmember Goebel: I'm sorry to interrupt. Jeff, I want to reiterate what everyone else has said, thank you for the great job you're doing, the communications have been fantastic. Also, from Council President Shetler, all this information and the Governor's, it's all coming directly to us, and I think we're staying a step ahead. As Councilmembers, we really appreciate that. I was going to ask, Sheriff Wedding is on, and maybe might not be the time right now, but are there any special needs for the jail, as far as the very important health precautions that you've just talked about?

Dave Wedding: Yes, the Sheriff's Office is desperately seeking PPE's to protect our jail staff and (Inaudible comments) staff as well. We've got orders placed, we've requested things from EMA, and we've talked to the State, and everything's in kind of a holding pattern, but each day that goes by we're putting our staff at tremendous risk as we put new inmates in. So, anything we can do to speed that process up may save us in the end, because the longer we wait, the more chances we have of infecting a large staff of Sheriff's Office employees.

Councilmember Raben: Sheriff, are you testing before they're admitted yet?

Dave Wedding: No, we have no way of administering a test. As a matter of fact, we just sent a person to the hospital yesterday that had Coronavirus style symptoms, and even that test we've got about a five-day turnaround. Now, we're using protocols, asking the questions about the fever, the cough, the short of breath, things like that, we've initiated that process, but often times people are answering no or negative to those, but they still could be carrying the virus, just not symptomatic.

Councilmember Raben: Are your medical staff or your medical department, are they checking temperature, at least checking temperature when someone's booked?

Dave Wedding: Yes, we are taking temperatures, that's correct. But, even if they have a temperature, that doesn't qualify them to be released, because it may be on a serious charge. So, we aren't an institution that can just turn you out the door.

Councilmember Raben: Yeah, but I would think that at least, that may builds an awareness that there might be issues with this person, where maybe it could lead to testing or something.

Dave Wedding: Oh, yes, now we're 100 percent cool with that, and we have negative airflow areas of the jail, and then we have a medical wing in the jail. We have areas we can kind of like isolate or quarantine, whatever you want to call it, but once again, our employees are coming face to face with these people, need the PPE to keep them safe. I'm a little bit miffed at the slow response we have with everybody that we've requested this equipment. We're a large jail, and we need the equipment. So, I would just beg, if anybody knows of a place to obtain this that they work with us to try to get it here as quickly as possible.

Councilmember Montrastelle: Hey, Sheriff?

Dave Wedding: Yes.

Councilmember Montrastelle: You know, I would think that issue you're having right now with the PPE's is probably happening throughout the State of Indiana. Is there a push to the Governor's Office, a call for that kind of equipment to all jails across the State?

Dave Wedding: Oh, yes, and I have been on a conference call three times already with the State. We call each other Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at 8:00 Central

Time to discuss these things. Some areas in smaller agencies are working well with their EMA's and Health Departments, they happen to have the PP&E's somehow or another, or the funding to go out and buy it. Now, we had put in a request to buy a large number, and apparently the equipment that we were trying to obtain was intercepted by the Federal government, and is no longer available for local governments. So, we're dealing with that as part of our impediments to the process.

Councilmember Montrastelle: Sheriff, can you just give us the definition of PP&E, please?

Dave Wedding: It's Personal Protection Equipment. It's like face masks, eye shields, gowns, gloves, and we have some of them, but we need face shields and masks is what we're desperately needing, because the transmission sites are the ears, excuse me, the eyes, nose and mouth is the quickest way to get the disease transmitted.

Councilmember Montrastelle: Yeah, I wonder if a call could be made here locally to private businesses and so on could step up and help our, you know, our local jail, and not wait on somebody from the, from a higher level to help us?

Dave Wedding: Yeah, we hope, well, and yeah there too, the hospitals, they're in dire need too, so we have several entities that are in dire need, and I don't know which one trumps the other, because I respect our medical professionals here in Evansville-Vanderburgh County too. So, I don't want to try to step on their toes, because they're fighting the same battle.

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: Sheriff, Hatfield here. You know, of course, if you watch any, you know, media, we've already been pleading for people to make masks, but I will tell you it's going to require our manufacturing sector to retool and make that. And, the reason why I say that is, just here locally it's estimated the need will be, will exceed a half a million masks. And, so...

Dave Wedding: I can believe it.

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: ... yeah, we have to understand that the entire nation is under distress of the necessary PPE's. And, just locally, between our hospitals and citizens in general and, of course, the jail, we're talking a need of in excess of, north of, dramatically north of a half a million masks.

Councilmember Kiefer: I have a question. Joe Kiefer, I have a question for the Sheriff. Dave, has, with the outbreak of everything, especially in the news talk, so much discussion, have you seen any decline in criminal activity?

Dave Wedding: Well, so far there's been a little bit of lull in the criminal activity, but we're, you know, kind of pessimistically thinking that could change as we keep people isolated, we could have maybe more suicidal style runs, domestic violence style runs, and we think, you know, thefts and things like that could go on the rise the longer people are cooped up. So, we're prepared for things to change. Temporarily we've seen a decrease in criminal activity and/or arrests, but at some point, it will level out and then we'll start going back to making mandatory arrests. Because right now police are kind of being lax in their enforcement efforts. So, we're letting some things that would normally be subject to arrest, we're just either citing or just basically letting them go. But, at some point there will become a time where we won't be able to turn our heads anymore, and we'll have to make custodial arrests.

Councilmember Kiefer: Hopefully not turning your head on anything critical?

Dave Wedding: No, no, I mean, yeah, we have instructed them on things that we would feel does not require a custodial arrest, and things that absolutely are outside that scope.

Councilmember Kiefer: Okay, thank you. Hey, Tom, this is Joe again. Tom, can you maybe have, after we've (Inaudible comments) discussion, can you have Brian Gerth

make some comments? Because I know he's sent out a bunch of emails, you know, expressing some critical, you know, thoughts.

President Shetler: Brian, do you want to?

Brian Gerth: I mean, basically what I've talked to Council about was the same thing that Tom has alluded to in the beginning is, you know, we're going to have to watch our revenues, and we'll be watching them even closer. We just need to stress to the public to pay their property tax bills on the due date of May 11th. By doing that, it will ensure our case flow and help us guide us through the funding piece of this year. You know, Riverboat funding will take a hit immediately, along with, you know, the Local Option Income Tax and Public Safety money that we receive, shouldn't be affected this year, but we will see a definitely decrease in the next year or two. So, I mean, we're going to see a lot of these effects here in the future still to come. You know, I think we, hopefully we should be able to manage this year's budget, but we're going to have some even more challenging times in the next two budget cycles.

Councilmember Montrastelle: Hey, Brian, regarding that, have you looked into your crystal ball and put a percentage on how much down we might be at, like on Riverboat?

Brian Gerth: Not at this time.

Councilmember Montrastelle: Yeah, okay. Too early? Thanks.

President Shetler: Well, John, we bring in what, \$1.8, \$1.9?

Brian Gerth: We're bringing in between \$1.8 and \$1.9 right now. I mean...

President Shetler: Annually for the Riverboat?

Brian Gerth: For Riverboat.

President Shetler: Right.

Brian Gerth: Yeah, \$1.8-\$1.9 million. I mean, they just shut the casinos down what, within the last couple weeks? I mean, it's just we don't know how long it's going to be shut down. If they're shut down for a whole quarter, it's possible we receive that money quarterly, so in July's disbursement we may not receive anything.

President Shetler: Yeah, I mean, basically, you know, if you extrapolate that out, you're talking \$150,000 per month. So, that's, you know, three months would be half a million dollars, when you get down to it.

Councilmember Montrastelle: Yeah.

Councilmember Koehler Lindsey: This is Angela, and on that topic with the Riverboat, with the money, one of my questions I had earlier is, if you could talk a little bit, Brian, about the proposal that we're looking at here today with the PTO and it's extension, how's that going to impact our budget? Do we feel like we have enough in the budget to cover what we need to do for our employees at this point in time?

Brian Gerth: Well, I mean, we're still paying, you know, with employees working remotely, I mean, the budget is basically set. You know, we just need to ensure that the revenue side of things is going to hit what we projected. You know, again, the property tax is our biggest revenue source. You know, we'll know more once May 11th hits. I mean, if it gets delayed throughout the year, we're just going to have to watch it. You know, it might, we might need to borrow from additional funds, you know, whether it's a TIF related fund that we can pay back this year. I really don't, you know, the State might be, there might be a way that we can borrow from the Indiana Bond Bank, you know. It just, it's too early to tell at this time what the State's going to do, and how they're going to reimburse us.

President Shetler: Jeff...

Councilmember Raben: Hey, Brian?

President Shetler: I've got a question for Jeff Hatfield, Commissioner Hatfield, and that is, I know that there is some projects that the Commissioners are looking at in the way of some new construction, some things coming out of the TIF funds and stuff. Is there a way that we can, I don't know if the Commissioners have already acted on that or not, but maybe put a temporary hold on that until we see exactly what does come about? Because Brian just brought up a good point, we may have to borrowing from those funds to keep our cash flow here on track, so.

Councilmember Raben: That's where I was going to go too, Tom. Before you answer that, Jeff, and, Tom, I was going there too, and I think it's imperative, Jeff, that, you know, Tom and I sit on the Redevelopment Commission Board, and you have to a point with Cheryl and Ben, but I think it's imperative, and I think that needs to be our next matter of official business is to put a hold on all, on all projects. There's somewhere between \$15-\$20 million worth of cash laying within that TIF that we may need to borrow from. We may need to go to the legislature and have them change how the statute is written, but, and I would imagine that there's going to be other counties throughout the State, but I think it is probably the single biggest security play we could make is to hold, where we do have a big pot of gold, hold any projects, going forward, until we find out if we're going to need to pull from those funds.

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: First I want to say something that I haven't mentioned yet, and then I'll get to those subject matters. Commissioner Musgrave and Shoulders too, how we've ran this so far is we divvy up responsibilities and stuff, and they too have really done a wonderful job. And, I want to say that, I don't want the day to go by without me saying that. Number two, nothing's been decided officially, of course not, we've had two emergency meetings that are still in recess, dealing exclusively with this emergency. Number three, there has been, certainly, questions from the County Engineer's Office to us regarding these projects, and my comment back to the Engineer's Office is to hold bidding on ready projects. Not necessarily for your reasons, which are certainly credible and timely and on point, but from our thinking is that through the stimulus package passed yesterday or last night of two trillion, we are anticipating help to communities for infrastructure projects that we may, and John's aware to keep a look out on opportunities to apply for these funds to help us with these projects that are shovel ready, and to possibly alleviate the need for, you know, going after the TIF money. So, we are thinking about those things. And, but I can tell you no official discussions have taken place, but pausing for a couple weeks, moving forward on those is already occurring, and I fully expect the Redevelopment Commission, the four that you've mentioned plus the President of that, to deal with these subject matters. I'm certainly not on Redevelopment, but I have full faith in the five that are on there to have these discussions when you meet next. And, so, there's my answer to that.

Councilmember Raben: Okay. Thank you. Just anything you can do to help drive that, at least for the interim period.

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: Yes. Yeah, we've already done that. There is a pause. Meaning a pause from the Engineering Department to proceed with bidding on two rather large projects, just until this dust is settling. Now, I can't guarantee the dust will ever settle in the near future, but the Commissioners are very aware of the enormity of all of our challenges.

Councilmember Goebel: Thank you, Jeff. This is Mike again. I think if I read it correctly, and Jeff might know more about it. In this new stimulus package or emergency funding package from Congress, \$150 billion will be laid out to the State and local governments?

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: Yes.

Councilmember Goebel: And, you'll keep us posted, as soon as you find out, I'm sure what kind of funds might be available here locally, if any? Thank you.

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: Yeah. Yes, sir.

President Shetler: Okay, anybody else have any questions of department heads or anyone else? If not, we'll get back to really the subject there at hand, and that is the extending of leave benefits to the county employees. Do we have any questions about, and again we're just centering on those first two points I'm taking it that there's no objection or question dealing with point number one? Which is, with permission of the officeholder or department head, our county employees may take personal time off by using their saved PTO hours, their sick days or unpaid leave, whatever works best for their family situation. Is there any question about that?

Councilmember Koehler Lindsey: This is Angela.

President Shetler: Yes, Angela?

Councilmember Raben: And then, after they run out of that, then 50 percent of their pay going forward? Is that how I understand it?

Councilmember Kiefer: Can we, this is Joe. Can we set a timeframe on this? Like, hey, this is set for 30 days, 60 days, whatever? And, then we can revisit, renewing that?

President Shetler: Yeah, the time period will be to April the 7th, as it is now.

Councilmember Kiefer: Okay.

President Shetler: That is what the Governor's request to, I don't know if it's called a shut down or a scaling down.

Councilmember Kiefer: Right.

President Shetler: (Inaudible comments) the State until April 7th.

Councilmember Kiefer: Okay, I just wanted to make that clear.

Councilmember Koehler Lindsey: Okay.

President Shetler: So, it would coincide with the Governor.

Jeff Hatfield: Hey, Mr. President?

Councilmember Koehler Lindsey: Angela again.

President Shetler: Angela?

Councilmember Koehler Lindsey: Just real quick question. If, before we take a vote on this, how do these two points differ, particularly the first one, from what is currently in play in the handbook? Don't they currently get permission of the officeholder or department head and take leave? So, I mean, just kind of explain that to me a little bit about what the current policy versus what this is?

President Shetler: I'm not.

Brian Gerth: Tom, I'll take it.

President Shetler: Okay, Brian.

Brian Gerth: Angela, this is Brian.

Councilmember Koehler Lindsey: Hi, Brian.

Brian Gerth: Basically, I think this will, what number one is doing, it will relax how you can take your personal, sick, vacation time, you know, and I believe all officeholders and

department heads are kind of relaxed on this already. You know, as long as they have time, they can use it. But what this also does is, they'll be able to take unpaid leave. So, basically, if they choose, if their situation they just don't want to take their time, the officeholder or department head can allow them to be paid, or not work and not have to use their accruals.

President Shetler: Because, currently, I believe that the handbook says...

Councilmember Koehler Lindsey: Okay.

President Shetler: ... they must use the PTO hours or sick days before they're able to take unpaid leave. Is that correct?

Brian Gerth: Correct.

President Shetler: Yeah, so, if someone wants to take off, unpaid, they're not really allowed to, unless they go through, maybe they want to save those sick days and other things for another point and they would just as soon not get paid. That's not really permissible underneath the current guidelines. So, we're trying to, I guess, memorialize that so that it's allowed to do that through this meeting.

Councilmember Koehler Lindsey: Okay, thank you. That clarifies that. And, we're putting the time period on here running with the Governor's decree of April the 7th, and then we'll look at extending this? Is that correct?

President Shetler: That is correct. So, the top line...

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: Mr....

President Shetler: ...where it says Vanderburgh County...

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: ...President? Mr. President?

President Shetler: Yes, Jeff?

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: Tom? Let me just say this, and it's very important for you to know this, in tying this to a specific date. Just know that the Commissioners and the Mayor are taking the serious advice of our local Health Department, and the administrators at Deaconess and St. Vincent about our own local challenge. And, so we tie our decision making on running our emergency declaration. In other words, there's a variety of people we've taken, listen to. But, when we determine what length of time, we have our emergency orders, we listen first to our Department of Health and the administrators at Deaconess and St. Vincent, tied to specific information about our county and city. And, of course, it matters what the Governor's Office determines how long they think the State should be under their emergency order, but I will tell you that this type of situation is, has to be handled from a closer to ground level on determining lengths of emergency orders, depending on our specific situation. And, so, what could happen, I'm not saying it will, but what could happen is on April 7th, if the Governor lifts his, we may not decide to lift ours, based on what our local Health Department and the administrator's at Deaconess and St. Vincent are telling us. So, do keep that in mind when you tie it directly to the Governor's order, that that could happen. In other words, you might see it not necessarily April 7th, but at some future date where the Governor lifts it for the entire State, but our local county does not lift it here. So, it could happen. I'm not saying it will, but it could.

Councilmember Raben: Jeff, but I sense, I think this motion is, I mean, we deal with that, I think the motion is from today through April 7th. We can, I think we'll have to take other action, possibly, between now and that time, but for now, I think this motion, this motion to stick with the Governor's guidelines, and then we can take your approach if need to be at that time, on April 7th.

President Shetler: And, indeed, what my, what I'm thinking is that we will have a meeting again on April the 1st, basically a week from today, perhaps at this same time, if it's

available at 10:00, and then we can extend that based on local Health Officer's opinions at the time, and/or a revision in what the Governor's date is. So, we can take all of those into account if we need to extend that and revise what we're doing today.

Councilmember Raben: Tom, I would say, I'm not looking at a calendar, but maybe April the 1st might be a little soon. Maybe we need to make it for like the 5th that would give us a little more time for this to wash out. The 7th is on a Tuesday, so we could maybe act on April the 6th? Have our next meeting on April the 6th? I think we'll have a good feel for what the Governor's going to do by then.

President Shetler: I don't have a problem with that. And, then our, Jeff, what we would be looking to do is extending this to whatever the Governor or our local health officials would recommend at that time.

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: Yes, sir.

President Shetler: So, I think it sounds like we're going along with what you're saying there.

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: Yes, sir.

Councilmember Montrastelle: Tom? Tom, this is John.

President Shetler: Yes, John?

Councilmember Montrastelle: I would like to make a motion, and I would like to make it to read, for a period ending April 7th, with the permission of all officeholders/departments heads, county employees may take personal time off by using their saved PTO hours, their sick days or unpaid leave, whatever works best for a family situation.

Councilmember Terry: This is Stephanie. I second the motion.

President Shetler: Alright, that was Stephanie?

Councilmember Terry: Yes.

President Shetler: Alright, so we have a motion and a second. Do we have any question about that motion?

Dave Wedding: This is the Sheriff. I have a question. Do they just take this, I want a day off because I think I might have a sickness in my family? Do we have urgent needs, because we can't just have 20 employees decide they all want to take a personal day off now because they think there might be a sickness, or they think the jail is contaminated? We have some little tougher situations if we have 20 people that decide to take off.

President Shetler: Well, that's why, Sheriff...

Councilmember Montrastelle: Well...

President Shetler: ...we start that motion off with saying, with permission of the officeholder or department head.

Councilmember Montrastelle: Yes, yes.

Dave Wedding: Okay, perfect.

President Shetler: So...

Dave Wedding: Yeah, I just want to make sure we don't open the door for people to just, because some people will take advantage of this, you know, and we have to be very cautious in how we approach this.

President Shetler: Agreed.

Dave Wedding: Thank you.

President Shetler: Jeff? Jeff Ahlers has a question.

Jeff Ahlers: Yeah, the only thing I want to do is just clarify. So, points two and three we're not considering and are not part of the motion. So, the only thing we have, I just want to make sure everybody's on the same page and that the motion would be that the Vanderburgh County Council would support for a period ending April 7, 2020 wages and benefits for county employees affected by the COVID-19 public health emergency, with the permission of the officeholder or department head, the county employees may take personal time off by using their saved PTO hours, their sick days or unpaid leave. Is that the motion?

Councilmember Montrastelle: Yeah, well, let me, let me amend my motion. I did not add, and I will add at this time, where for a period ending April 7, 2020, wages and benefits for a county employee affected by COVID-19 public health emergency, and then go on with the rest of my motion, with permission of office/department head, county employees make take personal time off by using their saved PTO hours, their sick days, unpaid leave, whatever works best for their family situation.

Councilmember Terry: This is Stephanie. I second the amended motion.

Jeff Ahlers: So, that's the entire...

Councilmember Kiefer: Under discussion, this is Joe. So, under discussion, this is Joe. Hey, Jeff Ahlers, can you clarify for anybody in the public, or any non-Councilmember, that we've been approved by the State to vote through this online process and not be in person? Just so there's no confusion.

President Shetler: Could you repeat that, Joe?

Councilmember Kiefer: We have the authority to vote the way we're doing today through this teleconference and not have to be live in person. Just, you know, stating this for the public knowledge that we have the authority to do this vote today like this.

Jeff Ahlers: Yes.

President Shetler: That was your attorney speaking.

Councilmember Kiefer: Oh, okay. Good, I mean, I just, I knew that we did, but I just wanted to clarify it for any public, members of the public. That's the only comment I wanted to make.

President Shetler: Any other questions or comments? Well, we have to do a roll call vote. That's part of the stipulation of the law here. So, roll call.

Kathy Glaser: Councilmember Terry?

Councilmember Terry: Yes.

Kathy Glaser: Councilmember Montrastelle?

Councilmember Montrastelle: Yes.

Kathy Glaser: Councilmember Kiefer?

Councilmember Kiefer: Yes.

Kathy Glaser: Councilmember Goebel?

Councilmember Goebel: Yes.

Kathy Glaser: Councilmember Raben?

Councilmember Raben: Yes.

Kathy Glaser: Councilmember Koehler Lindsey?

Councilmember Koehler Lindsey: Yes.

Kathy Glaser: President Shetler?

President Shetler: Yes. There being seven ayes and no nays, the motion carries.

(Motion approved 7-0)

**Second Point – Reimburse Employees affected by the State of
Emergency/COVID19-Coronavirus 24 hours of PTO set to expire on April 7, 2020**

President Shetler: Do we want to take up the second proposal, which was that if an illness or unexpected, if an employee needs to be off of work, through an illness or unexpected Family Leave care, to receive 50 percent off of PTO, up to a maximum of 24 hours? I was going to suggest up to a maximum of 24 hours of the PTO time could be added to their bank as such, but do we want to take up that particular point?

Councilmember Raben: Tom, I guess, that's after they use their other time?

President Shetler: This does not say that. This is basically implying or indicating that if they needed to take time off for sick purposes or family care, that they would receive up to three additional, I'm saying up to three additional days, or 24 hours could be, would basically, originally I had said 50 percent, but we would strike the 50 percent and they would get up to 24 hours of PTO would be added to it because of the, I think the extenuating circumstances that you're dealing with this virus.

Councilmember Raben: Okay, I guess my question is, I'm struggling with figuring out why they would want to do that? I mean, they can get reimbursed, they use their accrued leave time, they get paid 100 percent. Why would they, why would anybody say don't pay me my 100 percent, just pay me 50?

President Shetler: I'm striking that to receive up to 50 percent. It would say through illness or unexpected Family Leave care, up to 24 hours of PTO.

Jeff Ahlers: And, again, that would be prefaced that it would be up to April 7th. That would not carry over. Once April 7th comes, if that is not used, it would expire. It would not become a part of your permanent bank. Now, when Council meets again...

Councilmember Montrastelle: So, James. Hey, James, James, I have a question on your question. Do you mean that why would anyone use that if they have PTO and they could take that and receive 100 percent of their pay?

Councilmember Raben: Right.

Councilmember Montrastelle: Is that what you meant?

Councilmember Raben: Right, that's my question.

Councilmember Montrastelle: Yeah, I agree with you. Yeah, why would anyone take that? And, if this is through until April the 7th, I don't know if anyone, maybe there's a few out there that have used up all their PTO time.

President Shetler: Well, Brian wants to express a little bit. Could you help with a little bit of clarity?

Brian Gerth: Maybe this will clarify what he is saying. It's not that they would, why would they want to? You're basically saying you're going to give them three more days that they can use during this time frame if someone is sick.

Councilmember Montrastelle: Oh, in addition to?

Brian Gerth: So, 24 hours would be added to their PTO time.

Jeff Ahlers: If they already had the PTO it would be used, and if April 7th if these additional 24 hours aren't used, they would be eliminated unless Council later, if you meet on say April 6th, you could extend or do whatever you want to do. But, in other words, it wouldn't be permanently added to the bank. It's only for purposes of the COVID-19.

Councilmember Montrastelle: So, Jeff, based on what...

Councilmember Raben: Back to point one...

Councilmember Montrastelle: So, Jeff...

Councilmember Raben: ...if I take off for a week, and I use a week's worth of, I use five days' worth of my accumulated leave, you're going to reimburse me for three of them?

Brian Gerth: Correct. That's what they're...

Councilmember Raben: Five come off and you reimburse me for three. So, I get it then. Is that correct? Is my understanding now right?

President Shetler: Yes.

Councilmember Raben: Okay, I get it then. Okay.

Dave Wedding: Hey, this is the Sheriff. I have a question. If we have an employee with 400 hours sick time in the bank, why would we give them more time off to use their sick time? That's why they have it in reserve. Why would we give them time, when they already have it on their books?

Unidentified caller: (Inappropriate explicit comment.)

Dave Wedding: You know, I just don't understand that premise. I mean, that's what people are supposed to save their sick time for emergencies like this, or unexpected illnesses. So, we have a lot of people with sick balances of two, four, 600 hours, and if we're going to give them time off for free when they have that on their books, I don't understand that premise. I think it would be only for people who don't have time available.

Councilmember Montrastelle: Good, great point, Sheriff. I've got a question. This is John. Do we know what the average amount of PTO people have, our employees have? I mean, you've got people out there with 20, 25, 30 days of PTO a year, and some with, you know...

Brian Gerth: John, this is Brian. I don't know the average, but I can tell you when I looked up the accruals, this is about a week old, you know, I looked to see, there was like 19 employees throughout the whole county that had less than 40 hours. Eighteen of them were basically people that hired in this year. So, obviously, they're new hires, and they haven't even received their personal time or sick time yet. So, I think that's explainable. You know, I will say, since the Sheriff's on the phone, 12 of them were Confinement Officers. We have nobody in the county that had between 40-80 hours, which means they have more. There were 28 employees that had two and three weeks remaining, and of 18 of those, those were people that were hired basically towards the end of '19. You know, so people have two to three weeks of vacation. I do agree with the Sheriff's point, you know, when you have people that have two, three, four, 500 hours of PTO time built up, they don't, those are the employees that have been responsible with their time, and

they've prepared for this. As we all know, there's other employees that have abused their time and don't have it. So, I can see where the rub would be as far as giving them three more days. But I think with this proposal, due to this COVID-19 related illness is why this is being proposed. So, I will (Inaudible. Talking over each other.)

Councilmember Montrastelle: Right, and to that point and to Sheriff, the motion should be whether it is in regards to a state of emergency through the illness of COVID-19.

Unidentified: There you go.

Jeff Ahlers: You may want to have President Shetler read it, and then somebody make the motion, because we're making changes here to it, so that maybe, we've added, it's not the same as what's on your paper.

Councilmember Koehler Lindsey: Okay, this is Angela.

President Shetler: Yes, Angela?

Councilmember Koehler Lindsey: I can make, I think I can make a motion. We would suggest a plan to reimburse, let me go back, the Vanderburgh County Council would support for up to a period ending April 7th, wages and benefits affected by the COVID-19 public health emergency, we would suggest a plan to reimburse employees affected by the State of Emergency through COVID-19 illness, or to unexpected Family Leave care through COVID-19 to receive up to 24 additional PTO hours.

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: Okay.

President Shetler: Is that what you were looking at, Tom? Or maybe you need to read it.

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: That's what you're looking at.

Councilmember Montrastelle: No, I like that. I like that. This is John. I second that.

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: This is Hatfield...

Councilmember Koehler Lindsey: Okay.

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: ...this is Hatfield. Just understand, and I'm no scientist or doctor, but I've been on these 5:00 p.m. calls, Coronavirus is the virus, COVID-19 is the disease that is, that you end up with. And, so, be clear if you say COVID-19, just remember that having the Coronavirus, the Coronavirus is as dangerous as actually having the symptoms of COVID-19. So, I just wanted to make that point. If you're trying things (Inaudible. Talking over each other.)

Councilmember Kiefer: (Inaudible. Talking over each other.) both those?

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: I would. It's splitting hairs, but it's...

Councilmember Kiefer: Because I've been using those as one in the same.

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: The Coronavirus is what is contagious. The COVID-19 is the potential outcome of the virus. I'm no doctor, believe me, these doctors are explaining this stuff to me. So, I just wanted to make that clear. If you're mentioning the word COVID-19, you really need to use the words Coronavirus as well.

Councilmember Koehler Lindsey: Okay, this is Angela. I can amend the motion to add COVID-19/Coronavirus in both those places. I think what we're doing here is just putting in a plan for those employees that would need this, because as Tom was talking earlier, maybe there's somebody that just came back off maternity leave, they're a new employee, they've used all their time, and then all of a sudden they've got to stay home and take care of somebody with this virus, or they get the virus. So, I would amend my motion to add Coronavirus/COVID-19.

Councilmember Montrastelle: And this is John, I second that motion.

Councilmember Goebel: Mike Goebel, with one comment.

President Shetler: Go ahead.

Councilmember Goebel: Would we have to have verification? Obviously, the tests now take, as currently set up, take five to seven days. Will they have to produce a written note from the doctor's office that this illness was related to the Coronavirus/COVID-19? Or do we just take their word for it? That's all. That's my question.

President Shetler: I'm going to say, after (Inaudible comments) and the whole business there, that we're going to have to take their word for it. We're not going to get, by the time we get information back it's going to be too late to have done anything about it really, so.

Councilmember Koehler Lindsey: I agree with the leave it as is. And, again, Brian, my phone was kind of cutting in and out, but we don't anticipate that there's a large number of employees, or maybe no employees that would actually need this. This is kind of a just in case deal?

Brian Gerth: I mean, I would agree with that. I mean, it's something to help the employees out if they do have the symptoms for the next two weeks.

Councilmember Raben: You know, I think one thing it is doing, it is encouraging them to take off at least three day, regardless.

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: Keep in mind too...

Councilmember Raben: (Inaudible. Talking over each other.) and, I'm going to get paid for it 100 percent and get reimbursed 100 percent for three days.

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: I don't think so, Jim.

Councilmember Raben: (Inaudible comments).

Councilmember Goebel: That's kind of why I asked the question. If, I mean, I know it would be retroactive, but if they prove that they went to the doctor because of the symptoms, and can verify that, then they get the sick days. If they just take off, say call in and say I've got symptoms, they'll be doing that, I think.

Commissioner Jeff Hatfield: This is Hatfield here.

Councilmember Montrastelle: Well, hey, this is John. This is John. How about if we add to the motion, with the permission of the officeholder/department head? So, they can monitor that themselves?

Unidentified: Oh.

President Shetler: I think that's a good suggestion.

Councilmember Raben: And, I think the other thing is, remember this is only through the 7th anyway. This is a good test...

President Shetler: Right.

Councilmember Raben: ...if we have to continue it on, we'll know, we'll know if it was taken advantage of or if everybody worked fair with it. So, I would say let's go on. It's not like it's an eternity. Let's (Inaudible. Talking over each other.) and vote on it.

President Shetler: I think we may want to make clear on the motion. So, I guess I'll do this in asking a question. Angela and John, the motion will expire on April the 7th, and if

they did not use those three days, that it will expire at that point in time, not added to their bank where they could carry them on. Is that...

Jeff Ahlers: I mean, does the motion maker and the seconder agree to that remark by President Shetler?

Councilmember Koehler Lindsey: Can you state it again please? There's too many people I think that have unmuted. So, I'm going to unmute, or I'm going to mute and I think I agree, but still please read it again, Tom.

President Shetler: Okay, the issue is whether or not the, to make sure that if it actually expires on April the 7th, and that those days are not carried forward, and extended to PTO banks or anything of that nature. So, if they needed to use those during that period of time, that's perfectly fine, that's what this is about, but it is not about extending or adding to the bank perpetually or for the next six months or 20 months or whatever, that those three days expire April 7th.

Councilmember Montrastelle: I would agree to that, Mr. President, but, but, but I would like for the motion to include with the permission of the officeholder/department head, so they can monitor it a little bit.

Councilmember Koehler Lindsey: Okay, let me read the motion again. Are you guys ready? My motion is...

Jeff Ahlers: This is going to be...

Councilmember Koehler Lindsey: My motion would say with permission of the officeholder or department head, we would suggest a plan to reimburse the employees affected by the State of Emergency through illness of COVID-19/Coronavirus illness or unexpected Family Leave care for the COVID-19/Coronavirus illness to receive up to 24 hours, or three additional days, of PTO, not to be added to the sick leave bank, but will expire April 7th.

Jeff Ahlers: And, are we putting in with the approval of the department head?

Brian Gerth: Yeah, that started it.

Councilmember Koehler Lindsey: Yes.

Jeff Ahlers: Okay, does the seconder accept that motion? John, do you accept that?

Councilmember Montrastelle: I do accept it.

Jeff Ahlers: Okay, so we have a motion and a second.

President Shetler: Okay, so, any further questions? Any further clarity that needs to be on the motion? Roll call vote please.

Kathy Glaser: Councilmember Terry?

Councilmember Terry: Yes.

Kathy Glaser: Councilmember Montrastelle?

Councilmember Montrastelle: Yes.

Kathy Glaser: Councilmember Kiefer?

Councilmember Kiefer: Yes.

Kathy Glaser: Councilmember Goebel?

Councilmember Goebel: Yes.

Kathy Glaser: Councilmember Raben?

Councilmember Raben: Yes.

Kathy Glaser: Councilmember Koehler Lindsey?

Councilmember Koehler Lindsey: Yes.

Kathy Glaser: President Shetler?

President Shetler: Yes. There being seven ayes and no nays, the motion carries.

(Motion approved 7-0)

NEXT MEETING DATE, TIME & LOCATION

President Shetler: The last order of business then would be to establish another date for the follow-up meeting, and that would be recommended to do on April the 6th.

Jeff Ahlers: Only recess and not adjourning.

President Shetler: Okay. And, that would be at 10 o'clock in the morning, if the room is available. We'll get that checked out. Any questions about that?

Councilmember Kiefer: Say that again Tom.

President Shetler: The next meeting that we would set up, would be for April the 6th at 10:00 a.m. same location, same process of getting onboard with the meeting.

Councilmember Kiefer: Would the group entertain using like Webinar or meetings or Zoom or one of these other ones? Or, is everyone satisfied with doing the audio only?

Jeff Ahlers: Well, it's on Facebook Live as well. And, we can look into those things.

Councilmember Kiefer: Oh, okay.

Jeff Ahlers: What I, what I, okay. This is Ahlers. What I want to do is to make sure we're clarifying in order to comply with the Governor's Executive Order. This meeting is not being adjourned. This meeting will be continued, so our next meeting will not be a new meeting, it will be a continuation of this current meeting. The meeting is just being temporarily recessed, and will resume on April 6th at 10:00 a.m. at the same location, which is the Old National Events Plaza, Locust Meeting Room BC. And so, Mr. Shetler, if he wants to recess at that, but I want to clarify that it's just a recess, not an adjournment, and is a continuation of this meeting,

RECESS

President Shetler: So, if there would be no other business to come before Council today, then I suggest someone make a motion for recess.

Councilmember Koehler Lindsey: I have a question? This is Angela.

President Shetler: Yes.

Councilmember Koehler Lindsey: Did, the agenda that we received for April 1st, is everything on hold there, or will we need to look at any of that?

President Shetler: Go ahead Teri.

Teri Lukeman: Angela, I had canceled that meeting. So, at this point, those matters are on hold.

Councilmember Kiefer: Is that going to negatively affect...

Councilmember Koehler Lindsey: (Inaudible comments.)

Councilmember Kiefer: Has any Office holder complained that they, you know, are any items critical that we need to address on normal regular business?

Teri Lukeman: I have not heard anything from any of the...

President Shetler: No, we, no one has complained or are even voiced any questions about it whatsoever. I think everybody fully understands the situation as it is today. And, it's, it's not pretty for anyone. So, I think they understand.

Councilmember Kiefer: Okay, I just want to make sure we're not holding up anybody from doing some kind of business that they may need to do, so.

Councilmember Raben: Most of what we've got is either CVB related. Then we've got Operation City Beautiful. And, one request for the Auditor's Office. Outside of that, there's a handful of transfers, but, I think we're alright.

Councilmember Kiefer: Perfect. So, Jeff Ahlers?

President Shetler: Go ahead.

Councilmember Kiefer: Go ahead. I'm sorry.

President Shetler: Well, go ahead. I was just going to ask for a recess? But, go ahead.

Councilmember Kiefer: No, no, no. That's what I was clarifying, that it was just, you need, did I need to make, does somebody need to make a motion to recess?

President Shetler: I think so.

Councilmember Kiefer: If so, I'll make a motion for recess.

President Shetler: Alright...

Councilmember Koehler Lindsey: This is Angela, I'll second it.

President Shetler: We have a motion to recess to April 6th at 10 o'clock.

Jeff Ahlers: At the same location. And, then you've got to take a roll call now that there was a motion. Is there a second? And, now that's it's a motion, all motions have to be voted by roll call because of everyone not being here.

Councilmember Koehler Lindsey: Okay, this is Angela, and I did second that.

President Shetler: Roll call please?

Kathy Glaser: Councilmember Terry?

Councilmember Terry: Yes.

Kathy Glaser: Councilmember Montrastelle?

Councilmember Montrastelle: Yes. And, I also want to say, Tom, well run meeting. And, Teri, good job. Commissioner Hatfield, thank you for being on the phone. And, with your input, good meeting. Thank you guys. Yes.

Kathy Glaser: Councilmember Kiefer?

Councilmember Kiefer: I'd like to ditto John's remarks. Great meeting. And, thanks Jeff for all of your hard work, Commissioner Jeff, for your hard work. So, thank you. And, I vote yes.

Kathy Glaser: Councilmember Goebel?

Councilmember Goebel: Yes.

Kathy Glaser: Councilmember Raben?

Councilmember Raben: Yes.

Kathy Glaser: Councilmember Koehler Lindsey?

Councilmember Koehler Lindsey: Ditto to previous remarks from Councilman Kiefer and Councilman Montrastelle. And, I vote yes.

Kathy Glaser: President Shetler?

President Shetler: I vote yes.

(Motion approved 7-0)

President Shetler: And, I would like to add to it, the Sheriff and also Jeff and Brian’s input have been very valuable today as far as giving the perspective on their offices, and what’s going on in County Hall. So, I appreciate it. If there’s not, I’ll see everybody, or not see, we’ll hear everybody on April 6th. Thank you.

(There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.)

SIGNATURES

VANDERBURGH COUNTY COUNCIL

President Tom Shetler, Jr.

Vice-Pres. Angela Koehler Lindsey

James Raben

Joe Kiefer

Mike Goebel

John Montrastelle

Stephanie Terry