

JULY 20, 2021

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
CITY OF ALBANY, GEORGIA  
GOVT CENTER – ROOM 100 (virtual and in-person)

PRESENT Mayor Bo Dorough  
Mayor Pro Tem Matt Fuller (virtual)  
City Commissioners: Jon Howard B. J. Fletcher, Chad Warbington and  
Demetrius Young  
Virtual Attendee: Bob Langstaff, Jr.  
Interim City Mgr.: Steven Carter  
City Attorney: Nathan Davis

Mayor Dorough called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

The Clerk read the call as follows:

Mayor and Board of City Commissioners  
P.O. Box 447  
Albany, Georgia

There will be a Special Called City Commission virtual meeting on Tuesday, July 20, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and/or approve the following resolutions:

1. Amending Article 11 of Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Albany changing the July Regular Meeting
2. Rescinding the requirement of Masks or Face Coverings in City owned Buildings

Sincerely,

/s/ Steven Carter  
Interim City Manager

/s/ Bo Dorough  
MAYOR

Notified via email  
JON HOWARD, WARD I  
CITY COMMISSIONER

Notified via email  
MATT FULLER, WARD II  
MAYOR PRO TEM

Notified via email  
BJ FLETCHER, WARD III  
CITY COMMISSIONER

Notified via email  
CHAD WARBINGTON, WARD IV  
CITY COMMISSIONER

Notified via email  
BOB LANGSTAFF, JR., WARD V  
CITY COMMISSIONER

Notified via email  
DEMETRIUS YOUNG, WARD VI  
CITY COMMISSIONER

Mayor Dorough advised that the request to change the date of the regular meeting is due to a redistricting public hearing scheduled for July 27, 2021, from 5-7 p.m. He stated that the ordinance will change the meeting to Wednesday July 28 to accommodate Commissioners desiring to attend this meeting.

Commissioner Howard stated that the location of the meeting will be at Albany State University-West campus.

Commissioner Howard introduced

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AN ORDINANCE NO. 12-120

Amending Article II of Chapter 2 of the Code or Ordinances for the City of Albany changing  
July Regular Meeting

Commissioner Howard then offered the motion and asked for unanimous consent to dispense with the second reading and asked for its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Young and, following a roll call vote, the motion unanimously carried

Mayor Dorough advised that the following request is to rescind masks in City-owned buildings and commented on following CDC guidelines regarding vaccinations and wearing masks.

Commissioner Howard expressed concern regarding the health and welfare of employees and suggested that masks continue to be required due to the new variant of the virus.

Mayor Pro Tem Fuller asked to continue encouraging vaccinations.

Commissioner Langstaff stated that the County rescinded the use of masks and said he is ok with rescinding ours.

Commissioner Young agreed with the comments of Commissioner Howard, suggesting the County probably decided earlier to rescind the wearing of masks prior to the new variant of the virus. He recommended keeping the mask requirement in place, washing hands, practicing social distancing, etc.

Mayor Dorough noted other areas in the world where people are fully vaccinated and can still get the virus; however, it is on a lower scale. He said his motivation is that we cannot enforce the policy on the book since this is a jointly owned building by the City/County and suggested to continue encouraging all citizens and maybe require employees to continue to wear masks. He then introduced

AN ORDINANCE NO. 21-121

Rescinding the requirement of masks or face coverings in City owned buildings

Mayor Dorough then offered the motion and asked for unanimous consent to dispense with the second reading and asked for its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher.

Commissioner Howard agreed that it is hard to enforce; however, he suggested to require continuing use of masks and social distancing at Commission meetings.

Commissioner Warbington asked if an ordinance is required to put signs on the door, etc., without Commission approval. Mr. Carter stated that he can mandate City employees wearing masks even though we share a building. In reply to Commissioner Warbington, Mr. Carter said he did not think the County adopted an ordinance. Commissioner Warbington suggested that Mr. Carter and County Administrator Michael McCoy collaborate together to make these type decisions so that it will not have to come back to the Commission to mandate.

Commissioner Young stated that this is a public safety and health issue and asked to be guided by science, adding that masks work regarding the health of citizens and employees. Even though it cannot be mandated, we can consider public safety and health by requiring protecting each other by use of masks.

Mayor Dorough reiterated that the ordinance will not interfere with the City Manager's authority regarding City employees, adding that the County has decided to not use masks and there is no mandate.

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Hearing no additional comments and, following a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-2 with  
Commissioners Howard and Young voting no.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 a.m.

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MAYOR

ATTEST

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CITY CLERK