

SEPTEMBER 3, 2020

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS OF THE
CITY OF ALBANY, GEORGIA
GOVT. CTR. – RM. 100 (Virtual Meeting)

PRESENT Mayor Bo Dorough
Mayor Pro Tem Jon Howard
Commissioners: Chad Warbington
City Attorney: Nathan Davis

Mayor Dorough called the (virtual) meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and confirmed the attendance of those on the virtual conference call as follows: City Manager Sharon Subadan, Commissioners Matt Fuller, BJ Fletcher, Bob Langstaff and Demetrius Young.

Mayor Dorough advised that this meeting is to have a second reading of an ordinance requiring the use of masks or face coverings in public during the COVID-19 outbreak. He clarified that the resolution passed at Tuesday's meeting; Mr. Davis agreed, and, he stated that personally, he thinks the ordinance passed; however, Commissioner Warbington raised a point of order, that since the ordinance did not pass unanimously, there is a requirement that there be a second reading. Commissioner Warbington stated that he was going on past procedure, in which there were second readings. Mayor Dorough countered that the motion was made to dispense with the second reading, with a vote being taken. However, he stated that since the point of order has been raised, the meeting will proceed and noted that 21 individuals have signed up to speak.

Commissioner Young asked if the record shows that a motion was made without stipulating the second reading or not. Mr. Davis reported that he does not have the minutes, but the second reading was mentioned in the motion; he is sure of that, adding that this is a second reading and supplants whatever occurred before. Commissioner Young stated that there are two opposing views and he thinks the public is entitled to see what the record shows, adding that he that it is unclear if Commissioners should even be meeting for this, depending on who is correct. Mayor Dorough asked Mr. Davis, based on Commissioner Young's point of order, if we had a final vote and do not need to be in here again. Mr. Davis advised that Robert's Rules of Order does not deal with second readings; they are required by the City's charter. This is a second reading; the ordinance came up at the meeting on Tuesday.

At this time, the meeting was briefly disrupted by an unruly citizen.

Mayor Dorough asked for the reading of the call.

Triquenski Hicks, Legislative Liaison read the call as follows:

September 2, 2020

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

There will be a Special Called City Commission virtual meeting on Thursday, September 3, 2020 at 2:00 p.m., in room 100 of the Government Center Building located at 222 Pine Ave., Albany, Georgia. The purpose of the meeting is for the Mayor and Board of Commissioners to discuss and approve the following ordinance:

1. Requiring the use of masks or face coverings in public during the COVID-19 Outbreak

Sincerely,

/s/ Sharon Subadan
SHARON SUBADAN,
CITY MANAGER

/s/ Bo Dorough
BO DOROUGH, MAYOR

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/s/ Jon Howard
JON HOWARD, WARD I
MAYOR PRO TEM

Notified via email
MATT FULLER, WARD II
CITY COMMISSIONER

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

/s/Demetrius Young
DEMETRIUS YOUNG, WARD VI
CITY COMMISSIONER

Mayor Dorough again advised that 21 individuals have signed up to speak, including most of those who spoke on Tuesday. He had suggested allowing speakers three minutes, but Commissioner Warbington feels that they should have five minutes, therefore, he asked that those who spoke Tuesday to limit their comments to three minutes.

Mayor Dorough recognized Jon Gosa.

Mr. Gosa stated that it is not clear if the Commission is voting today and asked if a vote will be taken today and, a brief discussion followed on whether a vote will be taken with Mayor Dorough replying twice to Mr. Gosa that he has five minutes to speak. Mr. Gosa stated that 21 people signed up to speak and if a vote is not going to be taken, there is no point in them talking; “please answer the question, are you going to vote today on this ordinance or not”? Mayor Dorough asked Mr. Gosa if he is going to speak. Mr. Gosa replied that is why he is asking about voting on the ordinance, he wants to speak and to address the ordinance – is the ordinance going to be passed in order to save lives to prevent premature deaths. He stated that: 5,665 people in Georgia have died of COVID-19; heart disease, not COVID, is the leading cause of death in Georgia/United States with cancer being number two and there is no effort to mandate shuttering fast food restaurants or /outlawing cigarettes/alcohol – major contributors to heart disease/cancer; why the extreme measures to mandate a physically, intrusive health measure causing people to have to cover their faces in public. He mentioned that since Tuesday, Albany has had two more murders; murderers are on the loose and Albany is mandating action that causes the entire population to conceal their identity while in public; how will criminals be caught. He mentioned an email he sent in which it has been determined by the American Psychological Association that crime correlates to wearing masks; he mentioned the Klu Klux Klan. The basis of this is that it causes people to lose their identity and humanity. He stated that Chief Persley has said that there is a lack of respect for human life in our community. This mandate will only serve to increase crime; encourage individuals to commit violent acts; tax our local police department, which is already over-taxed... Mayor Dorough advised Mr. Gosa that his time was up.

Mayor Dorough recognized Mark Meagher.

Mr. Meagher stated that he is not against masks; he wears one when required by buildings he enters but does not wear one outside in public or where social distancing is possible. He is urging the Commission to vote no on the mask mandate ordinance. It is a solution seeking a problem; it is unnecessary and unenforceable and will create more problems than it will solve here. In his career as a real estate appraiser, he collects and studies data all the time; which he did in his research on the percentage of the public wearing masks. His personal observation is that 90% of people are wearing masks where social distancing is difficult i.e. Walmart, Publix, Sam’s, Home Depot; where social distancing is fairly easy, approximately 50% are wearing masks. He sat in the parking lot of Sam’s for an hour and counting masked/unmasked people entering the store; 200 were masked (89%), 28 were unmasked (11%). He suggested that it will be the small businesses suffering the most harm if the ordinance is adopted and h discussed: those testing positive in Georgia has been declining for five weeks straight; the ordinance will be unenforceable, APD handing out masks and asking people to wear them will not be effective. Regarding APD, which is more important, solving crimes or handing out masks; law of unintended consequences, effect on out-of-town guests and those who work outside; treating

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citizens of Albany like children, most know when a mask is necessary. He again asked that the Commission not adopt the ordinance.

Mayor Dorough recognized Will Geer.

Mr. Geer stated that he is concerned that the City of Albany is wasting resources and time regarding the mask mandate; he discussed major issues (violent crime, sewage spills, etc.), adding that the City does not have the resources to enforce this mandate. He mentioned police officers already being overworked and understaffed. Imagine having to respond to a non-compliance complaint for a mask, while a violent crime, like this morning's murder, takes place. He noted that Municipal Court has been closed for over four months, with a severe backlog of cases needing attention. Statistics show that 94% of those who died from COVID-19 had chronic/acute underlying health conditions, with only 6% having no other health conditions listed on the death certificate. He discussed other statistics related to the virus (age); having knowledge to make educated decisions; physicians/CDC declaration that only the N-95 mask are effective; time of exposure/direct contact to infected person; false sense of security by mandating masks; and those at risk need to wear shields and take more extreme precautions.

Commissioner Young mentioned the comments regarding the burden on APD enforcing the ordinance and questioned if they think it was the same burden on officers to enforce the saggy pants ordinance. He referenced Mr. Meagher's comment regarding saggy pants, noise, and panhandling ordinances not being enforced; however, there were 1,058 citations issued for saggy pants violations. Why is there a heavier burden on police resources to enforce the mask ordinance than the saggy pants ordinance?

Mr. Meagher stated that he was not aware of the data regarding saggy pants, but he still sees people wearing them and has never seen that ordinance specifically enforced. It seems a huge waste for officers to respond to a call and go to hand out masks to those not complying. If the saggy pants ordinance is being enforced, he is glad of that.

Mayor Dorough recognized Tom Gieryic.

Mr. Gieryic stated that he believes in wearing a face mask/covering in settings requiring one, as well as masks being effective in eradicating the coronavirus. While he is pro-mask, he opposes any mandate requiring individuals to wear one, with his main concern being enforcement, which he assumes will fall on APD. The ordinance has gray areas (medical/religious exemptions) and suggested that with the current environment of mistrust, even hatred of police officers, he feels this action will create a great deal of negative response from the citizens of Albany and those visiting our community. It is not something our police department needs to deal with; it is an unnecessary burden creating a negative atmosphere for law enforcement. Small businesses have the potential of facing irate customers by requiring masks and employees will be placed in dangerous situations since they are responsible for enforcing the mandate on those premises. He recommended a massive advertising campaign to educate the public on the importance of face coverings, adding that he believes most people do what is right for the entire community without being ordered to do so. He echoed Mr. Gosa's comments about citizens wasting their time today if there is not going to be a second vote. In closing he said that he is against the mandate.

Commissioner Warbington asked Mr. Gieryic his thoughts, as a small business owner, regarding putting a sign on his front door that he is not consenting to the order and, what negative ramifications does he anticipate. Mr. Gieryic suggested that it is almost a joking matter at his business. He mentioned requirements of Albany's sign ordinance, which limit the number of signs on a business's property. He mentioned the 'legal documents, in one-inch letters' taking up room, which are unsightly, adding that he may have to remove his business sign in order to not violate the sign ordinance, which is a joke. He said that he is opposed to having to post the sign; however, if it is required, he will leave it posted.

Commissioner Langstaff noted Mr. Gieryic having smoked three cigarettes during his discourse; the State outlawed smoking in restaurants 15 years ago. He feels Mr. Gieryic probably felt that

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took away his civil liberties at that time, but now, no one doubts the health benefit of that law. He asked if Mr. Gieryic's dispute about the masks is about the medicine assuming that he does not let people smoke in the office. Mr. Gieryic said he is correct, his dispute is not with the medicine, which has been proven; he wears masks. When customers come into his place of business, he requests that they put one on, but he does not force them to wear one. He said that he believes in the science and medical data and does not question that. He is here today, as everyone knows, he is an avid supporter of law enforcement, and his issue is tasking them with enforcing the mandate. Commissioner Langstaff stated that the penalty is more severe to enforce the smoking law than the mask, which also takes police away from their job. He stated that every job, including law enforcement, requires the person responsible to prioritize what they do; Chief Persley has assured him that will not change. He would like to know what this is really all about, adding that he does not see this as any different than not being allowed to smoke in a restaurant. Mr. Gieryic stated that he sees Commissioner Langstaff's point and the parallel of the two separate issues and that he recommends wearing the mask; however, the problem lies in forcing the public to wear them. Most everyone already wears one; he has never seen anyone go into a restaurant and light up a cigarette in defiance of the law. He feels that the public is being forced to wear a mask in places where it is not necessary.

Commissioner Young asked Mr. Gieryic if he supports the saggy pants ordinance. Mr. Gieryic suggested that it is a silly ordinance, but he does not support wearing saggy pants, it is inappropriate. People should be allowed to live their life as they see fit if they are not harming others, adding that he supports repealing that ordinance. In response to Commissioner Young, Mr. Gieryic stated that regardless of the mask ordinance, there are going to be those who will not wear one. He feels that a mandate is not necessary and will not increase the percentage of compliance. People become fearful when governments start mandating things of this nature.

Mayor Dorough recognized former City Commissioner, Henry Mathis.

Mr. Mathis stated that as of September 3, there have been 180 COVID-19 deaths with the breakdown in Albany by zip codes: 31721 (northwest Albany) – 22; 31707 (northwest Albany) – 35; 31705 (east Albany) – 41; 31701 (south/southwest) Albany – 80, with deaths overwhelmingly being black males and females. He referred to Thomas Hawke's 'social contract theory' of man being more interested in what affects him, than by those affected in the process. He believes that the Commission's intent is to do what is in the best interest of the public; if the ordinance is not completely passed, Albany will be harmed. He stated that as elected officials, they are obligated to protect those who entrusted them with the responsibility to make laws that serve the best interest of the public. Governor Kemp giving cities approval to pass local ordinances regarding mask mandates; science supporting the wearing of masks and social distancing to reduce the spread of the virus; the Constitution providing Congress the 'proper clause' to do what is necessary and proper to protect citizens (drunk driving, smoking banned in restaurants, texting while driving). He stated that he is asking the Commission to pass the ordinance requiring citizens to wear masks while around others. It would not be necessary to require a mask when they are driving alone, doing yard work, jogging, or are with others they are with day and night. He noted that the 'proper clause' is meant to protect those who are not engaged in the prohibited activity (drinking/texting while driving, smoking in public places), all those issues met opposition, just as this issue today. Addressing Commissioner Fuller, his Commissioner, he stated that constituents in Ward 2, overwhelmingly support the mask mandate, adding that the Commission will do what is in the best interests of the citizens of Albany.

Commissioner Fuller stated that he takes the issue seriously and mentioned those in his family who were infected with the virus.

Commissioner Fletcher asked Mr. Mathis, if, as a former Commissioner, he ever voted on a mandate before getting the details. Mr. Mathis stated that he is trying to recall if that ever occurred during his tenure on this Board. However, he stated that almost all of those in the medical field have advised that wearing masks as a sure-fire way to reduce the spread of COVID-19. In answer to Commissioner Fletcher, he stated that he has never voted on a mandate in which he did not have all the information.

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Commissioner Warbington referred to Mr. Mathis' comment about texting while driving and if he believes that there was substantial data to support the law regarding that issue. Mr. Mathis stated that he does not have the data, however, he is certain that the data would support the law. Commissioner Warbington asked the possibility of someone being infected with COVID-19 by someone wearing a mask. Mr. Mathis stated that it depends on the mask being worn. Mayor Dorough asked Mr. Mathis if he will allow Dr. Black to speak since his shift at the hospital is about to start.

Mayor Dorough recognized Dr. Edward Black.

Dr. Black agreed that wearing a mask is the most effective way to reduce COVID-19 when around others if social distancing is not possible. Masks are provided at the hospital, which cares about the citizens. He mentioned that professional, medical organizations endorse the wearing of masks and social distancing, along with urging personal hygiene (frequent handwashing), adding that there is no doubt that these measures greatly help to reduce the spread of the virus.

Mayor Pro Tem Howard asked Dr. Black if he is saying that everyone wears a mask outside will reduce the spread of the coronavirus. Dr. Black asked if he said 'wearing the mask outside'; Mayor Pro Tem Howard agreed. Dr. Black stated that the better approach is to wear one in the proximity of others, inside/outside. He is unsure if he is jogging alone at night, a mask would be necessary, which he does not do, but whenever his is around others, he wears a mask. Being inside/outside is not as a big concern for him as being in close proximity to someone else. Mayor Pro Tem Howard noted that the black community suffers a higher percentage of cases and asked Dr. Black if he feels that in search of a vaccine, should minorities be used in test trials. Dr. Black explained that the onerous of the vaccine makers is to ensure a cross section of society, not just minorities, and it would have to be volunteers. He mentioned the misinformation in the early days of the virus, adding that concentrating on any one segment of society is not the right answer. Mayor Pro Tem Howard stated that his ward is mostly minorities and asked how to educate and inform those who have a fear and mistrust of doctors. He mentioned the Tuskegee experiment in which blacks were used as guinea pigs and asked how they can be assured that will not happen in this day with the coronavirus. Dr. Black stated that he appreciates the historical reference, which did lead to a distrust of health care and there will be the same issues of trust when a vaccine is made available. He mentioned the anthrax vaccine when those in the military felt they were being use as guinea pigs. Medical professionals must communicate, acknowledge that mistakes were made in the past and earn the public's trust and assure them that they have the public's best interest at heart.

Commissioner Fletcher agreed with Mayor Pro Tem Howard that the public does not trust politicians. She commended Dr. Black and Phoebe for what the two have done during the virus and asked if any City leaders reached out to the Phoebe family for input on the mandate, so that accurate messages/information can be relayed to the public.

Commissioner Warbington asked which is more effective in preventing infection of the virus – masks or social distancing? Dr. Black stated that he is unsure if it is a matter of either/or as both work in concert adding that he believes limiting contact with others, wearing a mask and handwashing are all necessary. Regarding the mandate, it boils down to what can be enforced and what is practical; he does not believe that it will always be possible for people to stay six feet from each, however, there is no absolute. He suggested that establishing healthy habits that reduce time and not being in contact with someone who may be carrying and transmitting the virus will be effective. In reply to Commissioner Warbington, Dr. Black stated that the N-95 mask has a 99.5% effectiveness rate if properly fitted/worn. He mentioned asymptomatic carriers, which increase the need to wear masks. Commissioner Warbington asked if the ordinance should regulate the type masks that must be worn; a person could wear a bandana or even try to use a piece of paper as a mask. Dr. Black agreed that it would be helpful to have guidance regarding what constitutes a mask. Commissioner Warbington mentioned that the ordinance does not require anyone under ten to wear a mask, while the CDC recommends two-year-olds to wear them. He asked Dr. Black if he sees seven, eight, nine-year old's infected with the virus. Dr. Black replied in the affirmative; however, nothing compared to the number of adults, adding that he has seen infants/newborns with the virus. It will be difficult to impossible

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to make children wear a mask with the question being what is a suggestion/requirement/and can be enforced. He encouraged everyone to practice good personal hygiene, wear a mask, and social distancing everywhere, every day.

Mayor Dorough asked Dr. Black if he is aware of the threshold of more than 100 infections per 100,000 population being required to be considered a high rate of transmission; Dr. Black replied in the affirmative. Mayor Dorough advised that the threshold is a requirement of Governor Kemp's Executive Order before local governments can pass a mask ordinance and asked if there is almost universal agreement in the medical community that wearing a mask will reduce spreading the virus. Dr. Black explained that it is well accepted and endorsed by most medical organizations; however, there are the few exceptions. Mayor Dorough asked if it would be the recommendation of the staff of Phoebe that the City of Albany should have a mask mandate. Dr. Black stated that he cannot speak for the hospital, but all staff members are required to wear a mask and perform temperature tests daily, with/without the mandate, this is what they practice. Mayor Dorough asked if he is aware that social distancing is a legal requirement under the Governor's Executive Order; Dr. Black replied that he was not aware.

Mayor Dorough recognized Mr. Mathis to continue. Commissioner Warbington stated that he was referring to empirical data and asked if the statistic show that a person will not get the coronavirus if they wear a mask. Mr. Mathis replied that evidence shows that wearing a mask reduces the potential of the virus being spread. (Due to an echo, Mr. Mathis' comments became unintelligible.) Commissioner Warbington stated that if the intent is a near 100% reduction of the virus, there are other measures that could have been included in the ordinance; Mr. Mathis agreed; however, some are not enforceable (hand washing).

Commissioner Young asked Mr. Mathis the methods he employed as a Commissioner to get all the data before voting on a matter or did he just come to the meetings ready to vote. Mr. Mathis explained that he is a student of political science and that when he was a Commissioner, there were individuals who brought the research and data and when needed he would do his own research and networked with his colleagues in other states. Commissioner Young asked if it has been his experience that ordinances often come as a template for the City to follow and have already been researched and implemented in other cities, with the City knowing what it is getting by seeing what has happened in those cities. Mr. Mathis explained that the local governing body can tweak ordinances, it is entirely up to the City of Albany. Commissioner Young asked the date that the Commission first saw the draft ordinance; Commissioner Warbington referred to Mr. Davis' email of August 26.

Mayor Dorough recognized Brandon Jones.

Mr. Jones stated that he is a business owner with his home office here since 1976; he has run the company since 2000 and there are 11 locations throughout the southeast. He said that he has a grave concern about the ordinance requiring masks. Those not currently wearing masks are conventionally not wearing them; he is not one of them, but he has family members, customers, employees who have good reasons for not wearing the masks as opposed to not thinking it is wise. He advised that will not change when the ordinance is passed; they are the kind who look at authority with a leery eye to begin with. He, too, wonders how it will be enforced, especially when it appears that more than half the population disagrees with the mandate. Fearing a violent backlash, he cautioned Commissioners that they have not dealt with the type individuals he deals with (welding and construction business) and it is very disconcerting. He stated that unless the Commission's motive is political, it will not have the desired result, adding that he hopes that political reasons would not be a factor to infringe on personal liberties. This city needs unity, with the ordinance doing everything but regarding the virus; it will become an 'us vs them' mentality at a maximum level. He added that the people who are not going to wear masks, regardless of what is in the ordinance, are customers/constituents of his and they will not shop locally but shop online. He does not have a strong online presence and cannot compete with big box stores. He knows this because he has family members who will not frequent stores requiring masks, they shop online. He stated that there are no experts regarding new viruses; doctors do not all agree, the CDC has contradicted itself several times; public policy is being made in the

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dark through infringing upon people's personal liberty and threatening our economy in Albany during this pandemic.

Commissioner Warbington asked Mr. Jones if any of his other operations are located where masks are mandated. Mr. Jones replied in the affirmative; however, those locations are not enforcing their mask mandate. The customers coming into those locations could care less about masks/social distancing. Action being taken by this Board will only divide and take away liberties; those already refusing to wear a mask will not be convinced to wear one to protect themselves or others. Commissioner Warbington asked if he has seen a decline or any changes in his business at those locations. Mr. Jones stated that they have seen a 'tightening' at those locations, with Tallahassee seeming to be the worst, adding that they have lost approximately 25% of walk-in business at that store. Commissioner Warbington asked if he chooses to exempt out, has he seen the sign he must post. Mr. Jones stated that it is his contention it will be an 'us vs. them' and 'me vs. you'; while some are happy, others are offended, and it will only serve to divide. Commissioner Warbington asked if the sign on his door will detract customer when coming in and see it. Mr. Jones stated that it will most likely hurt him.

Commissioner Young asked if Mr. Jones is afraid of the customers he may lose because he has more of those kind of customers in his store. Mr. Jones replied that he has far more customers opposed to the mandate. Commissioner Young asked if he is afraid of losing customers who may feel unsafe going into his store. Mr. Jones replied that he has been following the CDC recommendations regarding how they operate their business; they require social distancing, have multiple hand-sanitizing stations throughout the businesses and those who are high risk are encouraged to wear a mask. His issue is that he does not mandate that they do those things. People know how to take care of themselves and cannot be told what is best for them. Most people are already taking steps to protect themselves; the issue is telling/making people what to do. He, along with the City of Albany, depend on him having that business and customers. Commissioner Young asked if he feels he can have that business if there is a repeat of the previous shutdown. Mr. Jones replied that if Albany has another shutdown, he is leaving here; he cannot take another shutdown. Commissioner Young asked if he thinks it is beneficial to stop the spread of COVID-19. Mr. Jones suggested that giving people the ability to make decisions for themselves far out-weigh any benefits that would be gained with a mask mandate, that may or may not be backed by science. He reiterated that with coronavirus being a new virus, there are no experts. An exchange between Commissioner Young and Mr. Jones ensued regarding: coronavirus being new; experts on the virus; the shutdown here; New York starting to open back up; California's mitigation standards; and the issue becoming political.

Mayor Dorough told Mr. Jones that there are 35 have states with mask mandates. Mr. Jones asked the relevancy of this to his argument. Mayor Dorough advised that the mask ordinance does not require anything of business owners inside the confines of their business. Mr. Jones apologized for being loud and passionate and suggested that most of the population do not read City ordinances. What they will read is the media headline reading "Mask Mandate in Albany" and that is all that they will care about, which will be enough to drive business online and outside of Albany. Mayor Dorough advised that if Mr. Jones is not aware, he has the right to opt out of requiring customers to wear masks. Mr. Jones stated that he is aware, but his concern is customers from outside Albany who will forego shopping here since there is the mandate, but an opt-out for business owners will create more confusion than they want to deal with. The general public does not know anything about the ordinance other than it mandates wearing mask and they will either avoid Albany or just not abide by the ordinance.

Mayor Dorough recognized Candice Moree; Dougherty County Coroner Michael Fowler and Dr. Joseph Stubbs, who were not present to speak when recognized.

Mayor Dorough recognized Heather Holton.

Ms. Holton referred to discussion regarding the N-95 mask, which blocks 95% of particles. Some think that a scarf, T-shirt, bandana will suffice and not realize that they will not provide the same level of protection, as well as providing a false sense of security. She mentioned an article of the American Association of Physicians and Surgeons, with detailed discussion and

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comparisons of masks. She stated that the people showing up today, who are against the mandate, is indicative of the need that the motion to table should have passed on Tuesday due to lacking correct information. Governor Kemp provided cities the ability to pass ordinances, the template from GMA should have been used to tailor an ordinance for Albany. She advised that the numbers are driving the ordinance and the need to have it in place; where are the numbers coming from; Phoebe serves the entire region, are those numbers being counted against the citizens of Albany. She explained that citizens from outside Albany/Dougherty County being treated at Phoebe, which if counted in with cases from within Albany/Dougherty County, the number/percentages are skewed and should be fully and publicly disclosed. She mentioned the exemptions in Governor Kemp's Executive Order (religious, medical) with it being stated on Tuesday that that is not anything that needs to be decided on the street; it will be decided in front of the courts. As previously stated today, there is a backlog in the court system here, with 78 murder cases being delayed because of the shutdown caused by the virus. She said that it is evident that the issue requires further discussion; the vote should not have been taken Tuesday and should have been tabled until there had been more information/discussion. The Americans with Disabilities Act prohibit asking someone why they are not wearing a mask and the medical reason, that is protected information between a patient/physician and violations come with a fine. She stated that based on the speakers today, more are opposed to this action than previously thought; she encouraged Commissioners to have an open mind and use their wisdom to follow the right course.

Commissioner Warbington asked Ms. Holton if she is aware that there are masks being sold carrying a disclaimer on a label that the mask does not prevent coronavirus; Ms. Holton replied in the affirmative. Commissioner Warbington asked if the Commission passes the ordinance, does she think it would be advantageous to specify the type mask as opposed to an ordinance allowing faces to be covered by anything. Ms. Holton replied that the loose guidelines (making a mask with rubber bands and a bandana) proves the point that the masks are not effective against the virus. She advised that the N-95 masks must be stick-tested every year; unless the mandate also requires training on how to properly apply the correct mask, she feels that is the only feasible way to require masks be worn.

Dr. Stubbs asked for an opportunity to rebut some of Ms. Holton's comments. Ms. Holton interjected that she did not know that speakers were able to rebut each other's comments.

Regarding the spread of COVID and face coverings, Commissioner Young asked Ms. Holton if something is better than nothing. Ms. Holton replied that it depends on what that 'something is'; some coverings people use are contaminated as well as not properly putting on an approved mask; people can be breathing in particles that reach their lungs while wearing the mask. Commissioner Young stated that she is getting away from his questions "in terms of the person-to-person spread of COVID-19 is something better than nothing as far as face coverings. Person-to-person because that is what we are speaking about, being less of a threat to another person". He said that the concept of wearing a mask is everyone protecting each other. "Is wearing something better than nothing, person-to-person?" Ms. Holton replied that she does not believe that wearing something is better than nothing. If she is not sick and wearing a mask, what is she protecting him from. Commissioner Young countered that she does not know that she is sick; cases have been documented about carriers who did not know they had contracted the virus. Ms. Holton replied that published studies have refuted the asymptomatic spreader and the pre-symptomatic spreader. As stated by Mr. Jones, we can all find experts to support our position; that is what we are getting into by trying to legislate how people take care of their health.

Mayor Dorough recognized Dr. Joseph Stubbs.

Dr. Stubbs stated that a hospital setting is totally different from what we are talking about in terms of a public health attempt to tamp down this serious pandemic. He suggested making it a clear-cut statement and to not delay it, especially with the flu season approaching and more cases than ever mixed in with the virus. Cloth masks have been looked at many times regarding their ability to protect against the virus, while they do not keep out every particle of the virus, they substantially reduce the spread of the virus, which has been demonstrated in countries/states with mask mandates, as well as case studies. He mentioned Ms. Holton's studies that state otherwise;

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however, the vast majority of public health experts strongly support the use of masks. In time it may be possible to help people learn how to make masks more effective, but even covering the face with a cloth mask is important. He feels that the ordinance will help businesses avoid conflict with people who are not wearing masks by pointing out that it is the law in Albany. He advised that he strongly disagrees with Ms. Holton; it is the pre-illness where there are extreme loads of the virus in people, with the virus being spread the most by asymptomatic carriers. He fully supports wearing masks and does not believe that it will be a burden on the police. It will also send a message to the community that there is a need to look at this issue much the same as when smoking was banned in indoor public places. And as with banning indoor smoking, it will become common practice and the complaints will cease. It is a relatively minor practice we can all do to protect ourselves and others.

A brief discussion between Commissioner Warbington and Dr. Stubbs consisted of: Dr. Stubbs having read the ordinance, which was written in general/vague terms to get people to wear a mask; get the general mandate out now and later add the descriptive details; Dr. Stubbs' business not opting out, he has required masks for quite a while; if Dr. Stubbs did not opt out, a patient in his office could call the police on a violator, changing the parameters of enforcement at his office; people understanding the concern regarding the virus and problems will not escalate to the level anticipated; businesses having the privilege of whether or not to require masks;

Commissioner Young posed the question to Dr. Stubbs that he asked Ms. Holton – is some type of face covering better than nothing at stopping the transmission of COVID person-to-person. Dr. Stubbs stated that despite his respect for Ms. Holton, he disagrees with her; having a face covering is better than nothing.

Mayor Dorough recognized Reverend Lorenzo Heard.

Reverend Heard discussed comments about loss of capital if there is a mask enforcement; however, the loss of human capital because of COVID-19 in Albany is of far more importance. He personally knows many who succumbed to the disease. The loss is particularly devastating when young families lose a father, mother or in some cases, both and the lack of leadership and guidance in those homes now. Also, we need to help guard the health of those we entrust to help us take care of own health, the doctors, nurses, CNAs, and all others in the medical field. For sound advice, he wants to listen to Drs. Kitchen, Stubbs, and Black; those with the highest level of leadership and intellect regarding the mandating of masks. He added that he has never had a doctor say that it does not make a difference, there is no advantage (to wearing masks). He has heard it said 'you will run people off'; however, when shopping/eating out/etc., he does not patronize those establishments where masks are *not* required.

Commissioner Warbington asked Reverend Heard how he, as a leader, would engage more citizens and aiming for a 25% participation rate. Reverend Heard replied that he would have positive role models in the community helping spread the information; using all types of media; and for those who have lost loved ones to relate their stories to the 'disbelievers' and help them realize the facts of this deadly threat.

Commissioner Young mentioned people developing a comfort level regarding COVID-19 and starting to accept the number of deaths. Reverend Heard related stories of personal loss due to COVID; he has been unable to properly grieve because of the repaid succession of deaths. He referred to the discussion about smoking; people did not lose business/close, and people still came to Albany. If a community values human capital over financial capital, it will always win.

Mayor Dorough mentioned that he sees the mask mandate as a reasonable measure for the public to take. What is disturbing is the callousness of those who are opposed, who seem to feel that the lives of the elderly with underlying health issues is less worthy than others.

Mayor Dorough recognized Reverend John Severson.

Reverend Severson advocated heeding the advice of the experts in the medical community. Slowing the spread of the virus will help those in the medical field get a handle on it. He has

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seen the suffering caused by the virus and has lost many family members and friends. He urged the Commission to pass the ordinance. Referencing the Bible, he stated that we are our brother's keeper, we need to do the right thing and pass the ordinance.

Commissioner Fletcher stated that her comments are directed to Mayor Dorough and Commissioner Young, stating that they almost try to come off...because people do not think the way they think, that they might be non-caring; or, you do not know how others feel. She does not want anyone on the Zoom meeting to think... Mayor Dorough tried to speak, with Commissioner Fletcher interrupting, saying 'no, no, you sit here and make these comments and you need to be able to take the fact that there is a comment that could come back. There are people out here..you cannot say, Mayor, that you do not know who people have lost and what they have lost. And Commissioner Young, you cannot say that people are just being lax about this. Mayor Dorough tried to interrupt; Commissioner Fletcher stated that it is not right. Mayor Dorough stated that there will be discussion in a minute; Commissioner Fletcher replied that she has just had her discussion; there is division in this community that is not good, and it needs to stop.

Mayor Dorough recognized Bishop White.

Bishop White reported that his stance on Tuesday has not changed; he is an advocate of wearing masks. He is a COVID survivor, as well as losing family, friends, church members, and acquaintances, to a virus that has wreaked havoc across this nation, and he knows what the virus can do. People sympathize with those who have lost loved ones, but until it hits home, and they lose someone close, they cannot begin to imagine the devastation. He stated that this is not permanent; it is only a season. He prays that Commissioners get past the politics and pressure from constituents; how would they feel to be facing the loss of a loved one to this ruthless virus. He issued a challenge that the right decision for all men be made today.

Commissioner Fletcher mentioned comments she has heard from citizens such as "I'm just going to wear pantyhose" (as a mask); there is nothing in the mandate prohibiting them from doing so. She said that the issue is clarity. She mentioned a discussion she had with Rachelle Beasley, Director of the Convention and Visitors Bureau, in which she asked her 'what kind of mandate does the City need to pass to make visitors comfortable when visiting this community'. Ms. Beasley replied that a clear-cut mandate in which there are no ifs/ands/buts with everything spelled out plainly and clearly. She referred to those who do not take it seriously, will not wear a mask and not respect others, by sneezing/coughing around them. Bishop White stated that most of us know, or should know, what a mask is; those who want to rebel and threaten to wear just anything on their face are the ones who will not follow rules/policies in the first place. Commissioner Fletcher stated that her frustration arises from questions that she cannot answer about the mandate.

Commissioner Warbington clarified the location of Bishop White's church, saying that mask usage there is low. Bishop White countered that there are many in that area without access to mask; but the church will be giving them away. Commissioner Warbington agreed that access to masks is a major hindrance; would not one of the best strategies in his area be to increase the availability/access to masks. Bishop White agreed, adding that, education is also key. Commissioner Warbington mentioned the ordinance becoming effective upon adoption, how fair is it to the people in his area without access to masks. Bishop White stated that there would have to be time allowed for the public to obtain a mask. Commissioner Warbington asked who is responsible for distributing masks; Bishop White stated that he has not yet read the mandate. Commissioner Warbington advised that the responsibility is put on police officers; however, he contends that if we are serious about masks, we need to be part of the solution by purchasing/paying, distributing, partnering with organizations in the community. Commissioner Warbington advised that the City has spent \$10,000 on COVID prevention; he feels that if the City of Albany, with a \$300.0 million budget, would have spent a great deal more, if truly committed. He brings this up from the standpoint that we really need to get masks out to the citizens first before passing a mandate; it is unfair to a large majority of Albany's citizens. Commissioner Young referred to Commissioner Warbington's comments, asking Bishop White how hard it would be for someone from the southside to get a mask or put on some type of face

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covering. Bishop White stated that those from the southside are challenged to obtain a mask. Relating an incident in which his wife gave masks to a couple of men near her shop; they put them on immediately and were appreciative. This is what those who are concerned do; they make it happen. Commissioner Young asked Chief Persley if it has been a hardship on officers to hand out masks, based on the quantity at their disposal. Chief Persley reported that when the Mask Up campaign was initiated, masks were donated to the City. As part of the order, additional masks have been secured from the storeroom and will be passed out. He encouraged community efforts to also help donate masks. As far as a drain on resources, that is yet to be seen and will be determined once it has been evaluated. In reply to Commissioner Young, Chief Persley stated that issues occurring on City buses are handled by Albany Transit; he cannot say that anyone not wearing a mask has become irate for being denied riding the bus.

Dr. Harriett Gainer encouraged the Commission to vote yes on the mandate. She asked that the City look at mandates of the CDC, which might provide clarity and remove confusion. She stated that rather than nitpicking, the goal should be to help our people. She cannot understand the bickering among those trying to save people. Her asked that Commissioners say yes to the ordinance and add recommendations of the CDC. She added that she, too, hands out mask when she sees those without them.

Commissioner Fletcher asked Dr. Gainer what she would do if she tried to give someone a mask, which they refused due to a medical reason. Dr. Gainer replied that if they tell her they have a medical condition, there is nothing she can do about that except pray for them.

Commissioner Warbington asked Dr. Gainer if she is a pastor of a church; what is her background. Dr. Gainer replied that she is a retired teacher (31 years in Dougherty County) as well as being a preacher since 1979. In reply to Commissioner Warbington, she said that her church is not currently meeting in-person. Commissioner Warbington asked what the City can do to provide better access to masks where her church is located. Dr. Gainer stated that she walks and drive in the community; when she sees a gathering, she'll stop, talk, hand out masks and share the gospel with them.

Commissioner Young advised that during the Mask Up campaign, the City distributed over 100,000 masks through various charities, churches, organizations, etc. He feels that with her, the City and other partners, masks are being made available to those who otherwise would not have one.

Mayor Dorough recognized Robin E. Calhoun.

Ms. Calhoun stated that has been a resident of Dougherty County since 1962, is a professional educator and was educated in Albany except for her undergraduate work in Ohio. She feels that we should all come together and reason together. She is affected by how children are impacted by this virus within our community. Because of a high viral load in the community, what is in the community greatly impacts our children. She mentioned the poverty, food deserts, etc. here with the children being the most impacted by disease making the ordinance important to her. With it now being known that children, too, are at high risk, it is important that the ordinance is passed to help the community. Time is of the essence; we do not have the time to go through every question/concern to find the answer before acting. Commissioners have the power to make an informed decision and draw conclusions on what is true. She implored the Commission to look out for the children of this community by passing an ordinance that will promote health as well as prevent this disease.

Commissioner Warbington asked Ms. Calhoun's input regarding the requirement of children over ten to wear a mask; is ten the right age? Ms. Calhoun replied that she does not know how the age of ten was arrived at; however, children are carriers, and some have lost their lives. Research would be necessary to know definitively the correct age. She said that wearing masks protects everyone; her three-year old grandchild's classroom is small, social distancing is practiced and every child wears a mask.

Mayor Dorough recognized Reverend Michael Ephraim.

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Reverend Ephraim stated that he would like to reiterate how important it is to wear a mask, for the greater good and as an act of love. He believes that two things can be true at the same time; the requirement made and educate at the same time. He mentioned the 10 Commandments, does everyone follow them – no; we have laws in this country, does everyone follow them – no; everyone will not do this, but this is about the health of everyone and it only takes one to contaminate others. He feels that the details can be worked out, this is not rocket science. There will always be the rebellious ones, but we must appeal to the greater good; let's work out the details and go forth in the name of love.

Mayor Dorough announced that this concludes public comments.

Following a brief discussion regarding the vote taken at the September 1 Special Called Meeting, Mayor Dorough introduced for a second reading:

AN ORDINANCE NO. 20-112

Requiring the use of masks or face coverings in public during the COVID-19 outbreak

Mayor Dorough offered the ordinance and asked for its adoption, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Howard.

Mayor Dorough asked Mr. Davis if his interpretation is correct: to resolve any doubt, a second reading was necessary. Mr. Davis replied in the affirmative, adding that this is a second reading and making it necessary to go into what happened at the first reading. Mayor Dorough mentioned an email he sent yesterday with a proposal to keep this from happening again. He explained that he will entertain a motion to dispense with the second reading for all ordinances on the agenda for that evening. If someone insists on a second reading, they can, but that would be once a separate vote is taken. Commissioner Young mentioned that Mayor Dorough and Commissioner Warbington had opposing views and nothing was ever rectified. Mayor Dorough recalled Mr. Davis contacting Rushi Patel at GMA, who referred to Section 18, which requires a second reading. Commissioner Young suggested going back to the record and determine the voting, which will not look proper.

Mayor Pro Tem Howard explained his reason for voting yes and he hopes that the rest of the Commission will support it as well. He commended and thanked the speakers for their input today. Referring to experts in epidemiology, who have said that the virus can be halted, not cured, if the public will wear masks. He briefly discussed the issue of the ordinance being enforced.

Commissioner Fuller also thanked those who spoke today; it is apparent that the community is concerned, he supports wearing masks, education, and to help get masks to those needing them. However, this is not something that he feels our police force needs to be tasked with.

Commissioner Fletcher thanked the speakers; it is good to have the community engaged. She said that she believes in masking up, practicing social distancing, sanitizing and doing whatever is possible to combat this horrible disease that has ripped through this Commission; however, there are too many cracks in the document/mandate. She knows she cannot explain everything she will be asked about the mandate; she cannot support the document as it is; her vote will be no.

Commissioner Warbington agreed with Commissioner Young 'something is better than nothing'. What the Commission is doing here is nothing; the ordinance is nothing. It will only put a headline on the news with the media printing 'A Mask Mandate'; it is not enforceable, has loopholes and other problems. Between today and Tuesday, this issue has been discussed eight hours; why has there been no discussion on financial resources for COVID prevention. Why have we not put a mask sign on every billboard in town? The majority of the \$10,000 the City spent was on City property, not out in the community. Referring to Mr. White's comments, 'how do you get individuals walking the streets, congregating at convenience stores, in the front yards of houses' etc., how do you encourage...this ordinance is going to do nothing. He would

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like to do something better than nothing with this ordinance being nothing. He stated that he has questions, should he ask Mr. Davis or the Mayor.

Mayor Dorough replied that now is not the time and mentioned the motion. Commissioner Warbington asked how he could say that, we have to take a vote, so why is now not the time to do it? Mayor Dorough stated that he cannot oppose it and then ask to change it, you have to have a legitimate motion on the table. He stated that if you say ‘I support the ordinance with A, B, C changes’ is different than saying ‘I want you to change A, B, C and I’m still going to vote against it. Commissioner Warbington interjected that he is putting words in his mouth, he never said...are you speaking for me or am I speaking for myself. He stated that he has questions for Mr. Davis and leave it at that.

Directing his comments to Mr. Davis, Commissioner Warbington mentioned discussion he has had with Commissioner Langstaff, asking if he is aware of the State exemption for sporting competitions. Mr. Davis replied, ‘not in detail’. Commissioner Warbington stated that it goes from MBAA to professional sports and as phrased to him ‘any organization that has 40 competitions is exempt’ and will have their own policy for masks. He explained that his reason for bringing this up is due to a kickball tournament at the Highland Sports Park on Slappey. He was told that there were no masks, no social distancing, will sporting competitions be exempt from the ordinance. He mentioned Darton’s cross-country meet, with 1,000 in attendance; are GSA and home-schooled events exempt from the policy. Mr. Davis replied that he has not seen anything on that point; exemptions are in Section 1, starting with D.

Commissioner Langstaff stated that his point is the number of Executive Orders in existence. The ordinance being considered is specifically applicable to mask with the questions being ‘do you have to wear masks to sporting events’; the reason that Georgia football can take place is the ability to limit fans in their 25,000-seat arena. The Governor has an order that every sport, whether pro, college, or high school is bound by the rules of their member organization. Commissioner Langstaff stated that he thinks that is what Commissioner Warbington is referring to.

Commissioner Warbington advised that he has been told that these events that are happening in town with hundreds in attendance, are they exempt because of being it a sporting event sanctioned by a league. He stated that if we do not have the answer, that is fine; we are voting on something for which we have no answer. He referred to the ordinance from GMA, asking if what is being voted on is exactly the same GMA ordinance minus the one highlighted item; Mr. Davis agreed. Commissioner Warbington stated that Mr. Gieryic brought up a good point about signage, will the sign add to their square foot regarding sign requirements on the front of their building. Mr. Davis replied that that is the opt-out provision, with the sign requirement existing on large billboards, but he cannot answer the question exactly. Commissioner Warbington asked who provides the official ‘100 per 100,000’ (threshold) number; is it DDA, Department of Public Health. Mr. Davis replied that it does not specify where to get it from, only what the numbers must be. He feels it would be a professional organization that gathers the information daily, most likely as Commissioner Warbington stated, the Georgia Department of Public Health. He does not feel there is a defect in the ordinance because it does not say exactly where the data must be obtained. Commissioner Warbington stated that he puts a lot of numbers out, which he is told are wrong; where does he get the correct numbers; he got his from the Department of Public Health. The minute that the BBH hits 99, the ordinance is off the table or is someone able to rebut that with another number from a different organization. Mr. Davis interjected that it states, ‘according to the Georgia Department of Public Health’. Commissioner clarified that we will be using the numbers from Georgia Department of Public Health; Mr. Davis replied in the affirmative. Commissioner Warbington announced that our number has dropped again, we are at 176; we have gone from 192 to 176 in four days. He recommended that we get the answers to his questions, especially since we have received notice of the sporting events that are coming, before voting on this. He cannot believe that we would take the ordinance from the Georgia Municipal Association and pass it with changing five word, that we would not have any more input, changes, upgrades with better clarification than what we have. He recommended that funding be discussed if the ordinance is passed, we owe it to citizens to partner, make available, advertise, and get the word out on the ordinance and the usage of masks.

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Commissioner Langstaff said that if you Google it, the governor's guide regarding sporting events is all over the internet; from the high school level and up. Governor Kemp signed Executive Orders on August 15 and 31, giving local governments the power to enact local mask ordinances under very specific circumstances and in very limited ways. When the governor does something, he gives great deference to what he does, as well as giving great deference to the medical doctors who spoke today and Tuesday. If Governor Kemp was not convinced that a local mask ordinance was needed in certain parts of the state; he did not allow it everywhere, why would he have signed an Executive Order allowing them? Mostly likely, Governor Kemp has much better information than any of us. To enforce a mask ordinance, it must meet the governor's infection threshold, with Albany/Dougherty County being almost double that. Albany's numbers are dropping, and he hopes the numbers reach the point there is no need to enforce the ordinance. He referred to the August 31 order, which states the experts with whom Governor Kemp consulted before implementing the order. Anyone thinking that Governor Kemp does not have access to every medical mind in the state is crazy. He asked if the naysayers opposing the mask ordinance believe they have access to better scientific medical information about the effectiveness of masks or information about the best inspection threshold, than the governor of the State of Georgia...he asked that everyone read the August 31 Executive Order, which answers a lot of the questions. He added that the order refers to everything, not just masks; sports are in there; if it is not in the August 31 order, it is in the one from August 15. He referred to the August 31 order, page 13, 'restaurants workers shall wear masks when interacting with patrons' and he heard no complaints about that; why would we not want every establishment we patronize have employees wear masks. He stated that some just do not buy the 'greater good' argument, they value liberty above everything else, and people have already made up their minds about the ordinance and cannot abide by a mandate of any kind. There were revolts about seatbelts, smoking, etc. and he understands, he personally does not care for mandates. To help those who think the mandate is crazy – Mark Meagher stated that we are all adults; however, after thinking about it, he concluded that we are not. He discussed young, 20-something, single people who are not taking this seriously and will not follow the rules laid down by the governor. The virus is not limited to one part of town, nor to particular gatherings of young people. He listed places where many young people gather (dragstrip, restaurants, private school parties), on all sides of town, and are contracting the virus. To the naysayers, he asked where they think the young people eat and shop and how many others have they passed the virus onto before they are quarantined, if they are ever quarantined. By then, they may have infected their family, friends, co-workers, and the cycle continues. Young people are not going to stop pushing the envelope. His rhetorical question is "do you really want one of your loved ones standing in line at a restaurant, grocery store, or anywhere else behind some person who is not doing what they are supposed to do and chose to attend one of those events". They have contracted the virus, do not yet know it and according to all the medical doctors, we are most contagious when unaware that we have it; so here we have an unknown number of young people having no symptoms, being highly contagious and not wearing a mask while gathering in public/private places with others. If everyone will wear a mask whenever out in public places, we are all more likely to be okay and able to get through the imminent flu season. He advised that Governor Kemp's August 31 Executive Order, which allows masks, expires at midnight September 15, unless he extends it. He has extended other Executive Orders, but has not extended that one, technically Commissioners have passed an ordinance that can only be enforced until midnight September 15 unless the governor extends it. He himself will take the advice of Drs. Stubbs and Kitchens and trust that the governor of Georgia knows what he is doing, and he will vote yes.

Commissioner Young mentioned the jockeying back and forth about minor details and what the ordinance means. We have no farther to look than at what happened today; a citizen trying to push their way in without a mask, with police having to remove them. In any other place where someone wants to defy regulations of a business owners requiring patrons to mask up, that is the exact situation under discussion. These type people do not care about making people safe or complying with the law. There is a need to be careful about making allowances and justifications for antagonistic people like that, who are not going to wear a mask. Those who claim to support masking up, but do not want to make people angry is ridiculous. Leaders who truly believe that wearing a mask works stops the spread of the virus, they should be trying to make it happen. To those who proclaim that he does not have the right to force them to do

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whatever they do not want to do, he would tell them that they do not have the right to make him sick or possibly kill him. The masks are for protection; they are not about freedom or infringing on anyone's rights. It is only temporary, and he appreciates all the comments, even those with which he fervently disagrees. He appreciates the passion of those who came down and boisterously banged on doors, but he believes they are on the wrong side of this issue. We need to protect Albany and the work we have done to decrease the spread of the virus needs to continue with the goal of making life normal again.

Mayor Dorough pointed out that Albany was an epicenter in the early days of COVID-19, with one of the highest infection rates in the country. To this day, students of the Dougherty County School System are not in classrooms, neither are those at Albany Tech. Dr. Frederick, President of Albany State University, is doing all she can to keep students on campus and requires masks on campus. He hopes that his colleagues who pointed out flaws in the ordinance are not just looking for reasons to vote against it. He noted that most of the opposition came from those for whom it is not a safety concern, it was a matter of their perception of what their rights are as citizens. As one person stated 'it is not about education, everybody knows you should wear a mask'; if we need to make masks more accessible, we will do it. He feels that it is a great measure that the police department can deliver masks to those who do not have them. He realizes that there is going to be percentage of those who will not wear a mask regardless. However, every physician who spoke recommended passing this ordinance; the ministers who spoke have seen first-hand the loss of human life. He said that 35 states have a mask requirement; Georgia is a red zone and is one of four states in the red zone that does not have a state-wide mandate, with the cities of Atlanta, Columbus, Athens, and Savannah having mandates. The City of Albany is not going against the grain and is in fact 'late to the party' based on what we have been through. He disagrees with the threshold; a mask mandate is necessary until the virus is under control. He fears that Albany will be required to suspend its ordinance, only to have to reinstate it due to an increase of the virus when people do not have to wear a mask.

Hearing no further comments, the motion carried 4-3 with Commissioners Fuller, Fletcher and Warbington voting no.

Mayor Dorough referred to the personal comment Commissioner Fletcher made about him and Commissioner Young. According to Roberts Rules of Order, he thinks it was inappropriate, and once the minutes are available the City Attorney will provide an opinion.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5: 58 p.m.

MAYOR

ATTEST

ASST. CITY CLERK