

MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN
CITY OF BRANSON, MISSOURI
July 16, 2020

INTRODUCTORY

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Branson, Missouri met for a special meeting in the Council Chambers of the Branson City Hall on July 16, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Lisa Westfall called roll: Mayor Akers presiding, Jamie Whiteis, Bob Simmons, Bill Skains, Larry Milton and Jeff Seay. Absent: Kevin McConnell.

REGULAR AGENDA

BILL NO. 5837
POSTPONED

Amending Chapter 58 of the Branson Municipal Code pertaining to face coverings, public spaces and the spread of communicable diseases.

First Reading of Bill No. 5837, an ordinance amending Chapter 58 of the Branson Municipal Code pertaining to face coverings, public spaces and the spread of communicable diseases was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall and a staff report was presented by City Attorney Chris Lebeck, Police Chief Jeff Matthews, Dr. Shawn Usery and William Mahoney, President of Cox Medical Center Branson. Discussion. Mayor Akers asked for a motion approving Bill No. 5837. Alderman Skains so moved, seconded by Alderman Seay. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter.

Alderman Skains left the meeting at 3:26 p.m. and returned at 3:27 p.m.

Warren Hunter, introduced himself as a pastor of a church in Hollister, Missouri, who lives in Branson. He's originally from South Africa and came to America in 1982, attended Oral Roberts University, has a Master's Degree in Biochemistry and worked with virology in Oklahoma City. He mentioned he used to take the foreskins of babies and inject them to stimulate T cells to basically stimulate immunotherapy. Mr. Hunter wrote a 200 page paper in 1988 on interferon and immunotherapy and worked with a professor who was the head of the American Chemical Society. He explained he's trying to give the Board some of his qualifications and mentioned having also worked for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and visited contaminated facilities where he had to wear a space suit with a huge mask and cartridges that were changed every day. He referred to the mask he's currently wearing and said it's impossible for it or something like it to stop a virus or a person from breathing it in. Mr. Hunter explained one of his friends, Dr. Steven Katsis, Chairman of the Board of Directors for St. Francis Hospital, had cut out the world's biggest cancer tumor about 10 years ago and is in the Guinness Book of World Records for doing so and his sister is the head of a virology lab in New York and has worked with coronavirus for over 20 years. He'd like to address a couple of things as it seems people are swimming in a cesspool of ignorance and he mentioned he's traveled around the world for 35 years as a minister and has been to 50 countries. In South Africa, most people understand medical technology as South Africa has invented about 80% of the medical equipment there is today and its been the leading nation when it comes to medical technology and South Africa is already working on nanotechnology and robots going through the heart. When he came to America, he had to be put in advanced classes since America was so far behind on

education. Mr. Hunter reported the first thing South Africa did with coronavirus was doctors stopped the sale of cigarettes and alcohol. He feels it's interesting the first thing a nation so high in technology did was stop smoking and he doesn't know why this isn't discussed in America. When speaking with his friend Dr. Katsis three weeks ago, he reported in one of the wings of St. Francis Hospital there were 20 coronavirus patients all on breathing machines and respirators and the common factor was all of the 20 patients were long-term smokers. He discussed this with his sister who's the head of a virology lab in New York and she wouldn't go live with him over fears of getting fired. She told him the CDC came out with regulations pertaining to looking at the virus under a microscope in which they increased the number of zeros from 001 to 00001, so when the virus is found it's sometimes unrecognizable. He added, the coronavirus has been around for 20 years and she's convinced this has biologically been adapted. Another thing she told him that he found very interesting is after the tests are done the swabs are taken to the lab to do virology testing and about 85% of tests show they've possibly have had the virus. With the CDC guideline it can't be identified and is put down as presumptively positive when the person could have had it five years ago. He reported New York is showing most of the people tested must have had it and she told him people in America have had it almost six months ago. He questioned why the medical field is saying something now when it's taken them six months to consider the past and the journey of the coronavirus and talk to virologists. He asked where the educated people making correct decisions are and reiterated the CDC guidelines have made it harder when looking at it under a microscope. His sister believes if everyone in America were to get tested today, half of America would show they've already had the coronavirus and the scale would go up millions in a day. He mentioned the other thing being talked about is immunity and he said he has six kids and two grandchildren. All of his kids and grandkids were delivered at home and have never had vaccinations or shots, with the exception of one of his children who had a shot once. He recalled after receiving the shot his child was very sick for two weeks and he wondered how this could happen. His personal conviction is to not even allow it, and scripturally speaking there's something called the laying on of hands and baptism and a minister is supposed to pray for the sick. He respects social distancing and puts his mask on because he doesn't want someone elderly to get it, but he doesn't think this should be forced in certain places which the Board has to consider very carefully because everybody's in a different place. His real challenge is with the medical people getting up here, trying to convince everyone it's an emergency right now, while his sister says half of America has had this last year and some who have tested it's been in their blood stream for 20 years. He thinks the knowledge, statistics, Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and even Dr. Anthony Fauci are still on a learning curve and he knows this from doing virology himself. People are making judgements not really knowing all the information and he asked the Board to consider all the factors before making these decisions. He mentioned seeing Dr. Munshi, a local respiratory therapist, two years ago when he was flying back and forth from to South Africa. He recalled it was about six weeks of going back and forth from here to Africa around Christmas time, between 110 degree temperatures to freezing temperatures and he was struggling to breath. Dr. Munshi looked at his lungs and told him his lungs weren't used to going back and forth from the cold and hot and were having trouble adjusting, so he gave him an inhaler. Mr. Hunter explained the other day he had his face covering on and was really struggling to breathe and his doctor told him there's nothing he could really do about it except go home and practice breathing through it. After a while his lungs would get used to it kind of like working out in a gym they would adapt, but that's not the case with every person. He mentioned while doing his Masters Degree in biochemistry, one of the things he studied was synthesis and the affect contact lenses had on the eyes. He reported if kids experience fear or a traumatic experience, they would go to the doctor because they couldn't see clearly and were given glasses. Eventually they'd be wearing glasses all the time, so an experiment was done on about 100 kids who had their glasses taken off for the summer and by the end of the summer most of the kids never wore glasses again. He made the comparison if people start walking around with a respirator all the time, how will their lungs adjust after several months and how would their lungs recover. He referred to the glasses example and said if glasses are put on a kid, they're going to have glasses the rest of their lives, but if the glasses are taken off, their eyes are able to recover. He doesn't know if the medical community thinks about some of these things or ask why South Africa would say no smoking. He reported South Africa has some of the best recoveries right now and just yesterday the news reported people are in rehab getting free from smoking, their lungs are improving and they're recovering quicker.

Brian Seitz, 1805 Miller Drive, Branson, Missouri, introduced himself as a candidate for state representative and he's here today because he and thousands of citizens think the Board is about to make a grievous mistake if it passes a mask ordinance. He expressed concerns it will cripple the economy, restrict individual liberties and freedoms and would be an unjust government mandate making criminals out of individuals and businesses who refuse to comply. He believes this cannot happen and said he's not anti-mask, though the science behind the effectiveness of wearing a mask is widely debated and the act could be detrimental to the wearer. He supports the freedom to choose and does not support a government mandate requiring masks to be worn as it's an overreach of City power and an infringement on the freedoms of individual citizens. He feels Branson businesses and individuals have done a great job protecting both locals and visitors through various health and safety precautions instituted in their businesses and he applauds their ability to confront this threat head-on. What he and a multitude of others cannot accept is a government-mandated overreach that threatens fines for individuals and businesses and restricts liberty. Mr. Seitz commented, if a person wants to wear a mask they have that freedom and if a business wants to require masks while on their property, they have that freedom. If an individual or business does not want to wear or require masks, it's not the Board's or anyone else's business. The government exists to secure and safeguard freedom, not repress it through fear mongering or coercion. He's here to speak on behalf of the mask-less, those who feel marginalized and threatened by what is being proposed and those who want the Board to know that enough is enough. Currently, many are being made to wear masks at work by their employers and it's the employers' right to set that policy. However, when people get off of work to go shop, relax, visit friends or just enjoy some downtime, they do not want government bosses telling them to wear a mask and they want the freedom to make their own decisions. Visitors have also been speaking out against mask mandates and a Marine Veteran who reached out to him told him he was denied entry into multiple local stores due to not wearing a mask. This individual has severe PTSD and could not wear a mask, but that was not taken into account. Mr. Seitz said as a veteran himself, he finds this appalling. One business owner told him they stood to lose another \$100,000 after having previously lost income due to the shut-down. Customers have stated that they will not come back to Branson if they are not free to decide for themselves whether or not to wear a mask. Mandating mask-wearing in the City today sacrifices the success of tomorrow, because once some of these businesses shut down, it will be for good. He asked the Board not to make that decision for these individuals by passing this mandate because he believes they should continue setting their own policies and be in control of their own success or failure. The lifeblood of Branson comes from attracting people, not repelling them and he reported the City of Springfield passed a comparable mandate earlier this week and has already seen sizable backlash from people refusing to visit the City. Locals even vowed to do their grocery shopping in the surrounding communities without masks and he feels Branson will see the same, only once tourists go elsewhere and shows are forced to close due to lack of vital income, that's it and things will never be the same. He feels this mask mandate is practically unenforceable and is being driven by fear, plain and simple. He mentioned hearing City Attorney Chris Lebeck speaking about forced vaccinations, a police state, people showing their papers and putting up signage. He asked if people would have to wear a yellow star and feels this is absolutely ridiculous since this is America. Nationwide the liberal news media hammers home the narrative of the unmasked being the enemy, unless of course they're protesting. He recalled prior to the election many members of this Board used buzz words such as constitution, liberty and self-determination while voting down mask wearing and he asked the Board to remember those words again today. He reported only 0.21% of the citizens of Taney County have contracted this virus and he referenced the staff report given by the Emergency Management Director that mentions a 946% increase in positive cases. Mr. Seitz explained big numbers are scary and fear is the ultimate sales tactic. He speaks for the people when he says no to mandated mask-wearing and government overreach and he reminded the Board they're not masters, but public servants elected to secure people's freedom, not deny it. He urged them not to make the mistake many other local governments have by taking away the right of self-determination from free people, but rather remember that Branson stands for God, family, country and freedom.

Charles Kirkman, 126 Siena Boulevard, Branson, Missouri, said he can't add much to what's already been said, but he will say a few things. It's been mentioned what Arkansas and St. Louis have done and St. Louis has said there will be no mask police; it will be left up to the individuals whether or not they wear a mask. He commented St. Louis has quite a few attorneys and doctors and have come to that decision which he thinks should be good enough for Branson. He explained St. Louis isn't the most constitutionally-friendly government either, yet they came to that decision. He appreciates what's already

been said and mentioned he's a recently retired full-time pastor of 45 years who's preached around the country. He also taught at university and college level for over 30 years and specifically studied communism and its takeover of countries. More importantly, he has five children, 17 grandchildren and two great grandchildren and he doesn't like the template he's seen historically, being laid over this country. Mr. Kirkman explained, right now the United States is going towards the latter stages of what's happened in many other countries that are now under communism. There's no denying that and he feels it will be interesting to see when Black Lives Matter (BLM) shows up again at stores and venues, how much of this masking will be enforced. He expressed appreciation for the demeanor and tone of the Aldermen and for everything that's been said here today and he really appreciates the last two speakers. Historically speaking, he believes there have been two epical periods in this nation's history. One was when America's revolutionary ancestors fought and won its independence, framed a government that gave it the most prosperity, freedom and safety so it could become the greatest nation on the planet. The first epical period in America's history was when its founders got this freedom. He's not forgetting about the Civil War, but he doesn't think the Civil War was the second most epical period, but believes right now is the second most epical period, as it will determine whether or not America keeps its freedom. He explained that's what this meeting is all about today as there are a lot of things currently going on in the country right now that are not about racism, inequality or any of that. Most people are smart enough to have figured out by now that it's about liberty and the complete transformation of America which is being played out nationally, and now locally. Mr. Kirkman urged everyone to be very careful and realize what's happening. He believes a lot can be said with numbers as the doctor and pastor brought up, but people didn't hear the numbers of the populations involved. He mentioned hearing 1,000 lives were saved, which translates to 1,000 people who got well. The figures have been played with over and over and the CDC has been discredited again and again. He's not impressed with that or with what these big corporations are doing, because those same corporations are funding BLM and everything they stand for and they're not going to impress or influence him one bit. He explained the issue today is not gun rights, abortion or a number of other things, it's liberty and we will either keep it or give it away. For decades in this country freedoms have been eroded a little bit day-by-day, week-by-week, month-by-month and year-by-year. They've been slipped away from us, but as of late they've been arrested away from us and that's got to come to a stop. There's not going to be government, national, state or local, that helps us secure our freedom, but it's going to be the people who do it or it's not going to be done.

The meeting recessed at 3:53 p.m. and reconvened at 4:02 p.m.

Sarah Rein, 673 Rosewood Drive, Branson, Missouri, stated she's the owner of Branson Party Rentals and Rosewood Floral and she believes many do not realize how large of a wedding destination Branson is. Her business does hundreds of weddings a year and since the mandatory mask ordinance was put into effect in Springfield, her company's had 15 cancellations in just a couple of days. The cancellation numbers are rising for couples proceeding with their weddings and the wedding industry is very unique in how it functions and it differs from all others. On average, a couple spends \$33,900 on a wedding and reception and what people aren't factoring in is how much their guests spend when they come to the Branson area. If a wedding guest stays at a hotel and eats out one meal, that's approximately \$100 per person who attends and an average of 150 guests attend a wedding in this area. She calculated 150 guests at \$100 a person per day, multiplied by 500 weddings she personally does in a year, equates to \$7,500,000 of lost income in a year from cancellations. She pointed out when government mandates these laws it instills fear in couples planning their weddings and results in cancellations of events. This calculates into loss of income not just for her, but for the entire Branson area, and even if this mandate is lifted in 30 days, the damage will have already been done. She expressed her concerns this multimillion-dollar industry for the area cannot recuperate and she thanked the Board for its time and knows it will do the right thing.

Sheri Holloway, owner of Sherry Holloway photography, feels the Board has an important and extremely hard call to make, knowing there are people who support or are against this mandate. Those who are against it feel they have the right to choose whether or not to wear a mask. She explained there's evidence and opinions to prove both points, but what she personally would like to see is that the Board let individual businesses like hers decide whether or not masks are mandatory for their business. She added, because of the vastness of businesses, the vagueness of this is very hard, but the fact remains the Board can decide to have the mask mandated. She implored the Board that those who have once in a lifetime

circumstances such as getting married, graduating or going to a funeral be exempt. She asked the Board to reflect on these causes today, because there are exceptions to every rule. She noticed there were some exceptions the City Attorney spoke about, but a wedding party, bride and groom or photographer wasn't on that list. She asked for these to be included because she thinks they are very important. She pointed out most people get to decide their attire when they get married and she asked the Board to consider if they were told to wear a mask during their weddings. She explained she naturally social distances when photographing weddings and has long lenses she uses. She referred to Mr. Hunter's comments pertaining to smoking and mentioned she works on her health by walking every day to get her lungs and body in pristine shape which she believes is common sense to not get colds or the flu. She thanked the Board for thinking about her proposal and read a text message from Tate Womack who had to leave the meeting. His text message included a quote from Jerry Henry who said people who don't support masks are willing to travel and those who are in support of masks won't travel. Branson is home of the veterans and he asked if one could imagine welcoming them home with a mask on. Ms. Holloway thanked the Board for its time and hopes it will make the right decision.

Joshua Heston, 275 Brianna Drive, Hollister, Missouri, introduced himself as Editor In Chief of the State of the Ozarks and Co-Manager of the Hollister Farmers Market. He explained since March 15th people have lived through a time of mass social re-engineering. For weeks, the community has responded with respect and concern, especially in the early days when everyone was told there simply wasn't enough information to expect anything less than millions of deaths nationwide. However, over the last four months people have seen a constant list of contradictions and errors on the part of healthcare, government and media, and are now seeing a death rate a tiny fraction of what was first proposed. On a national level, it has been proven that the information presented by government, media and health care is not trustworthy and his company has experienced this firsthand. On Friday, June 12th, he was notified by the Taney County Health Department that a positive COVID-19 case had been at the Hollister Farmers Market from noon until 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9th. As part of public safety and contact tracing, KOLR 10, Branson Tri-Lakes News, KY3 and Springfield National Public Radio and others were also notified and he and his team spent the weekend fielding calls, texts and instant messages from the public. Many of those people demanded to know the identity of the vendor and consequently, the identity of the person. The following Monday, June 15th he learned from his vendor that the person in question had not been at the Hollister Farmers Market since May 26th. This was a full two weeks prior to the date told to the public by the Taney County Health Department. It was an error of location that also missed the mark by 14 days and as everyone knows the incubation period of this is said to be 14 days. Furthermore, the person in question who had been at the market, showed no signs of illness 14 days prior to the time they were said to have been at the market. The person was hospitalized, placed on a ventilator and died later that week, not from COVID-19, but from the malpractice of having their lung punctured by the ventilator itself. As a society, businesses and the most basic human-to-human interactions, people have been told this based on information they've been told not to question. This information is filled with errors and in place of community, there are hotlines to report violations, the erosion of public, medical privacy laws and the systemic destruction of lives and businesses in the name of public safety. Mr. Heston commented, until government, healthcare and mainstream media can make themselves transparent to trusted third-party audits, it's dangerous and inappropriate to enact these kinds of social changes, including but not limited to, mask mandates. He thanked the Board for its time.

Christina Smith, 368 Santa Fe Avenue, Branson, Missouri, introduced herself as part of the Hughes Family that owns the Hughes Brothers Theater. She recalled Yuri Bezmenov, former KGB agent that defected from Russia in the 1960s, gave an interview where he referred to something called ideological subversion. She explained as part of ideological subversion, people are given certain cues and there are responses they are supposed to have, similar to the Pavlov's dog experiment. What's seen a lot with COVID-19 is that a lot of people's responses on both sides when they hear certain terms, they either get afraid or get angry and she believes this has caused a huge disruption in people's ability to have civil discourse about what's going on right now. Through doing her research, she's tried to really listen to responses and research from both sides and not just have emotional responses. She believes there are economic, individual health and safety reasons why a mask mandate would not be in the best interest of Branson. There's a spectrum of people who are worried about COVID-19 as mentioned before, but the people coming to Branson are in the lower half of that, including a group of people who are coming because

they are not required to wear masks. Even if some people completely disagree or are angry with those people, it would be ignorant to assume that the businesses here can afford to turn away those paying customers, especially after the shutdowns. As Branson opens, cases will go up and she doesn't believe a spike in cases is a reason for a mask mandate. Everyone already knew as soon as it opened that would be the case and in fact, people were told to shut down to flatten the curve to give people time to prepare for people catching the disease. She expressed it's unfortunate if the medical professionals are saying they're not prepared, because they were given time to prepare. From a business standpoint, it's extremely disheartening to not have an end date or a timeline. No one is controlling this disease, but the fact that it isn't something that can be controlled is the exact reason choices negatively impacting the businesses in the area cannot be made since no one knows how long it will last. The eyes of all outstanding business owners and employees in the City are on the Board now to see if after they've complied with State-wide shut downs, they'll be disregarded and their livelihoods and welfare be put at risk by turning away a good percentage of paying customers over an inevitable increase of cases. If mask wearing does slow the spread of the virus, which she has reasons to believe they don't, she asked how can people take that as a comfort when they know it will surely mean mandates like this will be extended. If the numbers were rising in an extreme and abnormal way in this area, then a discussion about something like this would be more reasonable and understandable from a business owner's perspective. Looking at the evidence, she cannot say that if the Board goes forward with this that she has confidence in its representation of people's welfare. Beyond the negative economic consequences of this bill, this mandate is hurtful to the health of individuals and she doesn't want to disregard the importance of Branson's economic health. There are already people and businesses really struggling and suffering and their livelihoods and mental and physical health are dependent upon their ability to work and have income. Many people assume wearing a mask is easy for everyone which is a lie as many people with different conditions cannot wear masks for hours of their jobs without major health problems. She reported the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has a respirator standard for people in professions wearing masks. If an employer requires their employees to wear a mask, they have to have a medical evaluation first to make sure it's safe. She explained before OSHA had this respirator standard and medical evaluations, there were businesses that killed people, because they were having heart attacks due to lower oxygen. Known as hypoxia in the in the medical industry, it leads to several of the things already being seen in people, such as passing out, getting headaches and nausea. These are two of the first indicators the body is turning toxic in the blood. When people have these kinds of symptoms, there are not only physical effects, but mental health effects as well. It causes stress and she feels for the medical professionals required to wear masks all the time because she's heard they cannot keep doing this. Due to mask mandates in their workplace, they have lower oxygen and an increase of CO2 in the blood called hypercapnia which causes suppression of the immune system and could further lead to other cardiopulmonary considerations. She explained if people have any kind of heart problems or respiratory problems it can lead to brain damage, heart attacks, strokes and calcification of the arteries. Even just the suppression of the immune system alone when talking about COVID-19 and people being able to recover from it, she feels a mask mandate is the worst thing that could possibly be done for people supporting their own immune systems. She added, since it's a respiratory illness having oxygen in their lungs might be a good thing. She reported OSHA not only does a medical evaluation, but also requires a fit test for masks and require documentation and annual evaluations. Some businesses have a hard time keeping up with these regulations, but they do because they want their employees to wear masks and want to make sure they don't die or have serious health issues. She inquired why the City is casually considering making it a requirement for all working citizens of Branson to wear a mask as it's something that could get their workplaces in serious trouble without a medical evaluation and could lead to serious health problems and death. She mentioned hearing about hospital workers who go throughout a day without masks and they're just fine, but many workers are struggling due to having to wear masks in situations where they wouldn't normally. In normal hospital situations for surgeons performing surgeries, hospitals have to work closely with OSHA on their HVAC systems. Surgery rooms have more oxygen being supplied to it to so surgeons and nurses get enough oxygen to have normal O2 levels. She explained this is not being told to the public and she reported this was verified by someone who works for OSHA and has certification for hospitals. When people are told medical professionals do this all the time, they're not being given all the facts that they also have other things in their workplaces to make sure they're maintaining their health. Ms. Smith commented there are risks not only to the economy, but also to people's health and she addressed the effectiveness of masks. She knows there's a lot of information out there, but even an N95 mask which is one of the best and blocks some of smallest particulate matter can only block .3 micron. She

explained a coronavirus particulate is .125 microns which means it will not block the coronavirus particulate from getting through the mask. She explained that's an N95 mask, not a surgical mask or a cloth face covering, and in an effort to try to take down COVID-19 people are being put in masks which aren't completely effective. Ms. Smith believes in logical reasoning and believes the Board does too as they've had to make very important and difficult decisions, but sometimes emotions can make it hard to listen to what's logical. Just like in the Pavlov's dog experiment, people have a fearful response to COVID-19 which makes no sense. She reported 647,000 Americans die from heart disease each year which is one in four deaths and if cardiopulmonary considerations are a huge part of mask-wearing, people are being put at greater risk by wearing masks than not wearing masks. Currently the reported numbers of coronavirus worldwide is 585,000 and there are multiple opinions as to whether they're even accurate. This is less than the number of Americans who die from heart disease in one year. No one knows for sure what will come of coronavirus and in that regard it's difficult to make decisions, but choices must be based on evidence and data. Unfortunately there are people with vested financial monetary interests who are putting out information that's not in the interest of Americans. She expressed her gratitude for those who have put out information to be studied so people can tell whether they're telling the truth. Until the data shows Branson is in a true state of pandemic and can be seen, not just saying that it is, and until it's proven that masks are effective at stopping the spread, it's an ignorant choice and disservice to the community to mandate wearing masks. She commented the Board is here to decide whether this mandate is in the best of interest of Branson and she has presented clear information as to why this mandate would be harmful to the City's economy and health. If it still chooses to go forward with this mask mandate, knowing that it will be harmful, it calls into question whether there are motives other than the health of Branson's citizens and economy. After hearing the Board talk about what's going on with this bill, she has confidence that it will make the decision that's best for the economy and the individuals who live here.

Amber Thompson, commented she's known Mayor Akers since she was a little girl and Alderman Simmons is her neighbor, so if the Board can't listen to her for a few seconds there's a problem. She's been told she doesn't wear a mask because of a lack of compassion and she had a conversation with Mayor Akers not very long ago about some issues and he cut her short, so she feels this is her chance to speak. Ms. Thompson explained she was trying to get defense for herself, but didn't and she believes if the elected Board votes for people wearing masks all the time or they'll get arrested by the police, then they're not working for the people. She added, they're working for themselves and will be removed from office. She works with the Civil Defense Coalition as a volunteer and explained if someone is disabled and can't breathe, they can't be told that they're wearing their mask improperly. She asked for an apology to everyone in the room who was put in fear that they'd be arrested or possibly put in a mental institution. She mentioned the Civil Defense Coalition is her voluntary organization and people can meet with her to discuss this issue further and vote out masks and she reiterated the Board works for the people and the people are supposed to be in charge here. She recalled the City Attorney talked about 79.380 RSMo which she feels is why people are pushing heavily for people like Brian Seitz, Camille Lombardi-Olive and Steve Chentnik to get into office. People are not voting for socialism here and if the Board mandates an order, it's voting for the Chinese trying to condition everyone and it's humiliating to say people have to show up with a mask on. She asked if anybody in the room was clairvoyant and could tell she has a really bad headache, a breathing problem and a kidney problem. She feels it's a problem those in elected positions are not speaking about constitutional defense of personal rights and liberties to breathe in this country. Ms. Thompson asked how many people in the room were tired of wearing a mask all day and explained it's giving them calcified arteries and breathing problems. She inquired how many people were tired of the government not standing up for their rights and mentioned standing outside protesting for four hours holding some signs she made that might be offensive to some. She said she offends to defend and read her sign which says Mayor Akers can kill senior citizens with mask asphyxiation orders. She mentioned working in physical therapy as an assistant and if she were to put a mask on a senior citizen while doing their exercises it would have killed them and she would be a murderer. This is something she doesn't approve of and as all the preachers and devout constitutional liberty defenders have said, they're not going to defend anyone that pushes to kill or steal. She's tried to get the preachers in the community to not only speak about pro-life, but also pro-keep, meaning keep children in their biological family. She feels when the government gets to the point that they allow children to be taken from one family and given to another, its morals are so low it can't be trusted. Ms. Thompson commented everything goes one step at a time and mentioned going through Culver's drive thru which lies to people by saying they have to pay with credit cards because there's a shortage of U.S.

currency. Ms. Thompson explained people are being conditioned one step at a time to be made fools and is also why there's a push to defund the police. She asked the Board to stop mask order oppression and quit suffocating people's rights and feels they are paranoid schizophrenics. Ms. Thompson asked if the hospital director was still here because she wanted to ask a really important question about some rumors going around. She asked if the rumor was true that if someone has COVID-19 in the hospital, gets put on a ventilator and dies if the hospital gets \$30,000. She asked if anyone worked for the hospital and could verify that and feels this is the kind of stuff people need to be discussing with the Aldermen. She mentioned people have accused her of being crazy in order to steal away her children to strangers and she feels personal protective equipment (PPE) is product profit abuse because people are trying to get everyone to buy all these products for their abuse reasons. She urged everyone to vote out all incumbents because there is congressional stagnancy and they are not sticking up for people's rights. She expressed concerns for this ordinance violating the American Disabilities Act (ADA), because the City's allowing private businesses to tell people they have to wear a mask and people should have the right to sue them. The only thing they could possibly do is have people wear a sticker on their shirt that says they're exempt. She expressed concerns this issue will lead to predatorily entrapping calls made to the police to have those people arrested. She feels the Mayor doesn't respect her as much as other people since he knew her as a child, but she's not a child and she feels until this community treats adult women like herself with respect, people are not going to respect it. When interviewing for a job with Spinnaker Resorts, she was told with the hostility of the Mayor and the Police that she couldn't even interview for a job because she had dropped her mask to breathe as an asthmatic. She explained she was almost not allowed to speak at this meeting because she can't wear a mask and can't breathe well. She believes this is a constitutional violation and she asked the Mayor to have compassion and requested there be no mask order.

Doug Clark, 121 A Saint Andrews Street, Branson, Missouri, addressed the mask issue and fallacy behind the methodology for coming up with the numbers that are being used for the excuse to regress into face masks. He explained there are two tests being used, one is the RPCR test which the guy who invented it, Kary Mullis, said this test is not to be used for diagnosing a disease. There's a lot of reasons he felt this way and he had an ongoing debate with Dr. Anthony Fauci back in the late 1980s and early 1990s about it. Mr. Clark mentioned it had to do with the HIV virus as they were trying to say it caused AIDS. There were doctors who didn't believe that tract including Kary Mullis and he ended up getting a Nobel Peace Prize for that invention. Mr. Clark explained Dr. Anthony Fauci, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the World Health Organization (WHO) are all in cahoots to market a vaccine or protocol for treating a virus. He added, it has nothing to do with anything else and Mr. Mullis basically called those people a bunch of morons for trying to utilize that test for deciding whether someone had a viral disease. As this went along, he basically invented the disease, the company he was working for sold it to Raushe and they started using it just to test and see if they could figure out what the disease was going to be. He reiterated it doesn't test for a virus, but tests for a particle of DNA and has nothing to do with COVID-19 or any other virus. It has a lot of complications and if someone is trying to manipulate a disease to prove someone has an active case of something, it's wrong 80% of the time and is documented and can be found if anyone does a marginal amount of research. The test gives false negatives 80% of the time and false positives 30% of the time. The second test is a serology test which is almost as bad as the first test as there's not any logical testing to prove there's anything really going on other than the symptoms people are having. He reported half of the people who tested positive don't have any symptoms at all and it can't be proven they're asymptomatic or not. The problem he has is with the tests and the revised way of counting cases. He mentioned stumbling upon a City Council meeting online from Collin, Texas, in which a lady from its health department was explaining new changes in how it was going to record these diseases. He referred to their PowerPoint presentation and pointed out their Department of State Health Services distributed a new definition for COVID-19 issued May 11th. Mr. Clark explained during their May 18th meeting they discussed the confirmed case definition and the positive PR lab test, which doesn't really test anything. He encouraged anyone interested to pull up the May 18th County Commission meeting in Collin, Texas, which he believes the ignorant discussion they'll hear about implementation and counting will blow their minds. He explained when they have a person test positive, they do contact tracing and counters will make a list of anyone else who was around them. He added, they did not test or count them, they only counted the person who tested positive. Now, if the same person tested positive, they do the same thing except they're not requiring a test for any of the other people, but they're counted as cases. He asked the Board if they understood why cases were exploding and suggested they watch this video. Mr. Clark recalled one of the

Collin County Commission asked the lady what she thought this was going to do and she said it will cause more cases. He reiterated this is the reason behind the explosion of the cases, because there are not any more people testing positive as they cannot accurately test any of these things. When all of this started there wasn't any testing equipment and people were just guessing, and is basically what is being done now, but the problem is there's an enormous amount of money wrapped up in this from a variety of places. There's all kinds of corruption when it's a money-driven, marketed tool for the purpose of selling a vaccine to people and those like Dr. Anthony Fauci, Francis Collins and the CDC Director are not only in the government, but also have the ability to decide who gets the contracts. They have patents on all of these diseases and he asked why the government has a patent on a disease and explained it's because they artificially created it. He explained this one has a patent and so does SARS, Ebola, MERS and everything clear back to HIV as they're genetically altered viruses. HIV has been around since the mid-1980s and people have never been able to make a vaccine for that because as viruses mutate and by the time they go through four people, it's mutated any advantage of creating a vaccine is lost. There will never be a good vaccine that does anything to a virus, but there are other doctors around the country using other protocols and having success. Mr. Clark mentioned the doctor from Cox Health said he doesn't have anything else to offer, but there are other things to offer and reported a doctor in Boston was using hydroxychloroquine and had 100 cases at the time he brought this up publicly. He had not lost one patient and his protocol was hydroxychloroquine along with zinc and vitamin C intravenously. Mr. Clark explained the medical hierarchy directed by Dr. Fauci is trying to push a vaccine which has already had a lot of problems and about 400,000 people got maimed or died over it. Dr. Fauci wants to sell it because he has a piece of the action and Mr. Clark warned everyone not to take the vaccine if they wanted to maintain their existence. He reported another doctor named Dr. Richard Bartlett in Texas, appeared on a show a few weeks ago and shared how he's using a nebulizer with a certain steroid and he hasn't lost one COVID-19 patient since using this protocol. He added, but what happens to him or anyone else like this is they get their research grants yanked and never get reestablished in the research committee because they go against the grain of the protocols set by those who want to rip people off. He reported vacitamere is about \$1,500 on the low end and \$5,000 on the high end, but hydroxychloroquine is only \$9.00 a pill. That's the game being played here; it's about making money and has nothing to do with health, but has to do with power. He explained there are several aspects to the legal part of this and referred to the Nuremberg trials in which there were medical experiments conducted on humans without their consent. He mentioned the City Attorney put up a chart showing this can be done without any legal repercussions, but there are legal repercussions from here, clear on up to Dr. Fauci. Mr. Clark explained the reason he's giving the Board this information is to show if there's fraud in what they're doing on the top tier by using manipulations, marketing something that doesn't work or gaining financial benefits from it, it's violating the Constitution and the Sherman and Clayton Anti-Trust Acts. He added, there's another thing in the Constitution where people can't intermingle directorships of different companies to collude and put a product out they know is not going to work, because that's fraud. The exclusion is if there's fraudulent intent, that's the only thing people can get exempted from, but until that time they do get exempted from things. He explained if a vaccine was created right now and killed a lot of people, they've got indemnity against it and people can't sue them. This vaccine isn't tested and isn't even being tested on animals; it's went straight to human testing and half of the first batch has had all kinds of serious problems which is the one they're wanting to give people for COVID-19. He expressed his suspicions of government in general because of what he's figured out since he was a kid, reading about Vietnam and all that happened there. He doesn't trust anyone who tells him he needs to do certain things and mentioned our own people are doing this to us. He offered to share his information with anybody who wanted to see it and he reported the COVID-19 virus was created in a lab in North Carolina and is a genetically altered virus and its certification was transferred to the lab in Wuhan, China. He added, that's how it got over there, but no one hears anyone talking about that.

Camille Lombardi-Olive, 789 Everest Road, Galena, Missouri, commented she's running for congress and she shouldn't have to wear a mask because it violates the American Disabilities Act (ADA) and her right to privacy. She referred to a list of questions she has and invited the Board to look at them because she thought they were pertinent. She read a portion of the United States Constitution that's important and speaks to everything people are being denied and oppressed by. She read, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal. That they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." She

pointed out therein is the problem, they don't have the people's consent and they just keep adding rules and regulations. She referenced a poster board of data and explained it's specifically geared towards Missouri. She asked everyone to recall back in May, President Trump had said the curve was going down and the cases were declining, then protests, looting and thousands of people ran wild through the streets and then up went the numbers. She pointed out CNN, MSNBC, NBC, CBS, the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal and the Washington Post all said this had no effect on COVID-19, the spread or transmission of it. Either they're lying or something else is going on and she explained her data and graphs come from Worldometers which is a website that lists coronavirus by country and compiles all the information from hospitals. Ms. Lombardi-Olive commented now people are talking about how bad it is here, things need to be shut down and people have to mask. She showed everyone the curve is going down and Missouri has about 13,000 deaths which looks like the last four years just with the flu. She reported the deaths from 2017 to 2018, was 2,081 and 2016 to 2017 was 2,093. In 2014 to 2015 there were 2,937 deaths just from pneumonia-based flu and currently there's only 1,000 deaths from COVID-19, but yet it's a disaster. People are saying things have to shut down and have to mask themselves. She did a comparative analysis of South Dakota which never shut down, yet its curve is going down. She mentioned Italy, which was ground zero because everybody was dying, it locked down for two and a half months and they're back to living already. She pointed out Afghanistan and Pakistan are two countries bordering China and mentioned she was actually in Pakistan when this started and was in Afghanistan last year. Afghanistan only locked down for four weeks after Ramadan and they don't even wear masks anymore. She asked the Board why both of these countries' curves are going down because they don't have medical, 24-hour electricity, or access to clean water like the United States has. Yet this third world country that doesn't have access to all the privileges and advances, its curve and cases are going down. In Sweden which didn't lock down, it's the same thing, and she asked why the Board wants to lock Branson down, because a mask mandate is a continuation of the lock down. Ms. Lombardi-Olive commented this failure is not her failure or the President's failure; it's the failure of somebody who wanted to cause trouble and decided it's okay for thousands of people to run rampant in the streets and destroy things without worrying about being masked. There's no other way to explain this and she feels the United States is turning into Nazi Germany. Springfield has a number people can call and they can even call 911 to report a severe violation of the mask ordinance in a business. People are going to utilize the police that they want to defund, who put their lives on the line every single day. They are the front line of this disease, but yet one side of the country wants to defund them and replace them with social workers. Yet we're telling them they're going to have to ticket and arrest people. She told everyone to get their priorities straight, because they either support police, protect the law and make the law righteous. If it's not righteous, it doesn't exist and cannot stand which is what's happening in this country. She feels people's rights and freedoms have been taken away and people are dictated what they're supposed to do. She mentioned living in Afghanistan for 10 weeks last year and explained the only people with rights there are those holding the guns. The people holding the guns tell others what their rights are, and they really don't have any rights. If the police or military want to disappear a person over there, they disappear because as a human they don't have rights. She added, or if they think someone broke a rule they came up with. She feels the mask mandate is a kind of fascist rule to deny people their right to freedom and it's preventing her from breathing free. She invited the Board to read and consider her list of 20 questions that she thought were pertinent.

Joshua Pope, Neihardt Street, Branson, Missouri, mentioned the Board heard him speak last month in support of Black Lives Matter (BLM) which he still supports. He never thought he'd have to come here and protest both racism and common sense in his lifetime as he thought this was going to be done during his parents and grandparents age, but here he is. He lives with his grandparents and his grandfather turns 73 and grandmother turns 77 this year. His grandmother has a cancerous nodule on her lungs, she's often on oxygen and she feels like the air is being choked out of her. He imagines the 3 million people who've had COVID-19 would tell people the same thing, but instead there's anti-mask rhetoric going around. People are relying on false science, not listening to the experts and people will never be able to change their minds. He knows the economic harm of this pandemic as he worked at Rib Crib as a manager. He recalled finishing his management training the day it closed down and now it's closed in Branson. He made a lot of friends there who were like family to him and he enjoyed what he did at Rib Crib. He supported the lockdown, still supports it and he thinks it was the right call. He never once regretted the decision because he felt what he was giving up temporarily was worth saving the lives of many others. He can't believe he's the first one to say this besides doctors who work at Cox. Pandemics in this country have been throughout

history and all throughout the world. He mentioned he's a history student and reported with measles and smallpox people had no resistance to it, just as there's no resistance to COVID-19. It killed millions and they were conquered afterwards. He referenced the bubonic plague for which people didn't have the technology to understand what was causing it at a time and about one third of Europe died and it was centuries before it returned back to what it used to be. The Spanish flu which would be in his great-grandparents memory, killed 675,000 Americans, 50 million people across the world and it had a lot of similarities to this disease. He reported St. Louis and Philadelphia contrasted in how people handled the Spanish flu which spread in similar ways to COVID-19. St. Louis enacted strict measures for social distancing, masks and so forth and had 358 deaths per 100,000 people. Philadelphia disregarded science, held events, rallies, protests, parades, lived their lives like normal and had 748 deaths per 100,000 people. He believes this shows how many people can be saved by just following some simple measures. He doesn't believe that infringes on people's freedoms because by not following those measures, people are infringing on the freedoms of every other citizen the right to live. They are infringing on people like his grandmother who COVID-19 would be a death sentence for or his sister who has severe asthma and is hospitalized over it constantly. Mr. Pope shared neither of them are against this mandate and he's legally disabled and is not against this mandate and doesn't feel like it is discriminating against him or his family. He commented, in order to say wearing a simple face covering is infringing on freedoms as American citizen completely neglects and disregards the fact that by people not wearing a mask, are potentially infringing on the right to live by other people. He reported 20% of all cases according to the World Health Organization (WHO) lead to hospitalization. Taney County has a population of 56,000 people and in March, the Governor of New York estimated that 40% to 80% of its citizens would get COVID-19. California estimated 56% and the Imperial College of London said that 81% of the United States would get COVID-19 without proper measures put in place. Following that math he estimates if 40% of Taney County gets COVID-19, 22,400 people would have the virus and if 20% get hospitalized that's 4,480 people. Following the standard death rate that most models follow of 5%, 1,120 people will be in the morgues in Taney County. He told everyone to ask any medical professional, doctor or funeral home in the area and the Taney County Health Department if they can handle such an influx of patients at one time or dead bodies. If people think tourism was hurting because of the virus, the Ride The Ducks incident, Black Lives Matter protests and the KKK, he asked them to imagine it if the news says Branson infects thousands of tourists before returning home where they infect thousands more. Branson would have a catastrophic public image and tourism would be hurt far more than by having mandatory masks. He believes it's important to mention a significant number of victims hospitalized have organ damage since the virus is avascular and causes heart failure, strokes and kidney failure in young patients. Tissues of the lungs, heart, kidneys and other organs have been collected and studied and those studies have found that many victims will have irreversible organ damage for the rest of their lives, likely shortening their lifespan by decades. The mortality rate, permanent damage and hospital rates of victims drastically increase with age and Branson has a large senior population and hosts many elderly visitors every year. He explained Branson has a unique situation that Springfield, St. Louis, California or any other place doesn't have to deal with due to its industry and small size. He addressed misinformation he believes anti-masking rhetoric spreads such as people comparing it to the flu, claiming masks don't help, it's their body and their choice and if others wear masks why should they. Mr. Pope explained the reason why surgical mask boxes claim they don't protect against COVID-19 is because they don't protect against COVID, they protect other people. If a person enters a contaminated environment and breathes in COVID-19 with a mask on, it would protect some but not much. If a person breathes out moisture and what is projected is blocked and shielded by these masks, it helps save people who aren't wearing masks. If both people have masks on, according to some studies it would only be a 1.5% transmission rate, but it's 70% if one person is wearing a mask and the person who's a COVID-19 carrier is not. He compared it to a cold weather day when moisture droplets in people's breath are visible due to the cold. If a person was a COVID-19 carrier, those would all be infectious. He gave another analogy of if everyone were naked and someone pees on someone else they would get wet, but if both people wear pants and one pees, only the person peeing gets themselves wet. He feels the argument that it's their choice and their body is invalid because the decision not to wear a mask puts others in danger. Coke, cigarettes and alcohol aren't banned for killing people in the end, because only the person who is doing it to themselves is at fault and will have those consequences. This mandate is different because by not wearing a mask, people are not just putting themselves at risk but putting others at risk and jeopardizing their lives. It's infringing on their freedoms to be forced to stay home and mentioned his grandmother would love to be able to go shopping at Kohl's, but it's too dangerous for her at the current moment. He's not

disregarding the economic impact of this since he's lived through it, lost his job, lost his friends and lost where he worked, but feels the inconvenience to save lives should not even be up for debate. If people use the argument that they're pro-choice, that it's their body and right, they can no longer say they are pro-life. He added, because that same argument is one that every woman makes when saying she's pro-choice. It's the same argument being used to go against the mask mandate when people say a woman is murdering a fetus, but they will potentially murder countless other people by not wearing a mask. From October 2019 to April 2020, the flu killed up to 62,000 people, but this pandemic hasn't been around for nearly as long and has doubled that. COVID-19 has a lot of similarities to the flu and people don't take the same measures as the flu because there are vaccines and resistance to the flu. People know what to expect, how to handle it and have the medication to do so. People still die, but people are in a much better position with the flu than with COVID-19 because there's nothing to help with that except the measures to help protect and save lives, even if it's at the inconvenience of other people. Mr. Pope stated there's been a wide-sweeping measure across the country to enact mask mandates and he named the 22 states that currently have mandates. He believes these states have chosen to lead and protect their people, following the studies of science and the effectiveness of masks. The University of California said if everybody wore a mask, or even 80% of the people wore a mask, it would have a much stronger effect on COVID-19 than a lockdown ever would. This would save a lot more money for Branson and tourism and would keep everyone safer. He mentioned this doesn't include all the cities that have done it and feels if Branson denies this mandate it's claiming to know better or not care enough to follow what these places believe is a credible threat. He feels it's easy to look at each death, case and statistic as just that, but each case is someone dealing with a potentially life-threatening battle, suffering and a lifetime of complications. Each death is a person with relatives and while they may be just a number to everybody here, they are the world to someone else and they are people. He asked everyone not to trust his word or studies of research, but to research for themselves with an attempt at unbiased and look at the countless sources of experts who agree with him. He added, ask doctors, health experts, hospital staff and those who have contracted COVID-19 and lived to tell the tale. He supports the mask mandate and believes people have an incredible advantage their ancestors didn't as they have the lessons of history, access to information they ever dreamed possible and the opportunity to be an example to other communities by protecting people and tourists. He mentioned the numbers he gave earlier are just for Taney County and he questioned what Branson would do when tourists come here, get sick and are not well enough to go home. They will be in Branson's hospitals and health care facilities and if they're stressed enough dealing with Branson's own people, he asked how it's going to take in all the people from around the country and the world. He feels it's selfless and would show everyone will suffer this together to accept the inconvenience and discomfort of wearing a mask and do everything possible to help everybody live. Mr. Pope knows he'd want everyone to do that for his grandmother and is why he wears his mask to protect others.

Audrey Richards, 265 Buzz Street, Branson, Missouri, introduced herself as an independent Congressional candidate to represent the Missouri 7th District. She grew up in the Branson area and while attending college in Washington D.C., she told everybody she was from Branson because she loves its values and is proud to be from here. She voiced her support for the amendment the Board is discussing and while she has the utmost respect for City Administrator Stan Dobbins, she thinks having elected officials make that decision is the more prudent way to go. Branson is known for two things, faith and freedom and her church was a big part of her personal development. This belief system forms her actions and she's willing to bet it formed a lot of others' here who were showed compassion to her whenever she had to sit down because she didn't bring extra shoes. She explained that same compassion forms her decision to wear a mask and people claim deciding not to wear a mask is an individual risk and the fatality rate is low, but there have already been three deaths in the County. She mentioned Candidate Brian Seitz said enough is enough, but she asked how many lives people are willing to risk when enough is enough. She reported the number of cases was 130 when she came to this meeting, but now the medical professionals are saying 142 and it keeps going up every day. All throughout the Bible it says to value individuals as children of God and every life has value, so she feels the preventable loss of even one life is not reflective of Christian values. People are in the middle of a pandemic that's getting worse and this ordinance is a safeguard against it getting worse. She doesn't know what constitutes a true pandemic, as someone said earlier, or what the difference really is and if someone coughs on her she's not going to be very happy about it. She feels masking is a minor inconvenience, with about eight different exceptions the City Attorney listed out. It's a minor inconvenience that can save dozens or even hundreds of lives in the City and County and it's

inexpensive and incredibly effective. She referenced John's first letter in the Bible where he questions how God's love abides in anyone who has the world's goods, but sees a brother or sister in need and refuses to help. She believes people don't need the world's goods, they just need masks and if this measure can save even one life people have the responsibility to abide by it. Everyone likes to believe they would be the Good Samaritan that puts their well-being above that of someone else and this is their chance to prove it. Ms. Richards stated every argument against this mask requirement begins and ends with freedom and it is true America is a free society where people are able to make choices for themselves. However, in this country no one gets to make choices that put the well-being of others in danger. The CDC released a statement on Tuesday which said the main protection individuals gain from masking occurs when others in their communities also wear face coverings. With this in mind, she argued masking is not in contradiction to people's freedoms as Americans, but is a core part of who they are as Branson citizens. They are people who care about others and are willing to go to any lengths to make sure this town can remain open without risking the health of residents and tourists. She added, that's what makes Branson look good on the national stage; compassion, willingness to listen, taking risks that may not exactly be comfortable and caring about the people who come to town. In order to keep Branson open and prevent it from bouncing all the way back to Phase I, once this becomes a true pandemic people must limit the spread of this virus. If everyone wears a mask, businesses are free to operate because everyone is at a lower-risk and if everyone wears a mask, tourists are free to go see Clay Cooper and other shows because the audience and staff are at a lower risk. If everyone wears a mask it frees up hospital beds, lifting the burden on local hospitals and healthcare workers and that is the sort of freedom people should be celebrating. She believes everyone who comes up here to speak is really just saying their personal choices are more important than the well-being of everyone around them. She urged the Board to pass this measure because the lives of others are not theirs to risk and if one life doesn't matter, none do.

Alderman Skains left the meeting at 5:21 p.m. and returned at 5:23 p.m.

Pearl Haining, said she lives in Branson, Missouri and apologized for cutting in line and explained she's becoming extremely fatigued and would like to speak before she cannot. She began with a quote and said, "She's an immunocompromised and not wearing a mask, shame on her." She explained that was not directed at the Board, but was directed at her after she spoke at the May 4th Council Meeting which addressed whether or not to mandate masks. Ms. Haining explained her answer is a resounding yes because she did not and will not wear a mask as a responsibility for her health and the health of those around her. She knows that with an easily compromised immune system, if she wears a mask it will quickly compromise her health, causing her to become ill, putting those around her at risk. Since the May 4th meeting, she has not experienced any illness or caused any illness amongst her friends. Instead of asking why she won't wear a mask, a better question is why would she wear a mask. She explained the COVID-19 virus is significantly smaller than anything a cloth mask will filter and while people say the virus spreads through droplets and a cloth mask can prevent a person from spreading droplets, this is wrong. Droplet precaution is a legitimate medical protocol requiring doctors and staff tending symptomatic patients to wear a sterile mask, gloves and gown while with one patient. Then those items should be immediately discarded upon exiting that patient's room to prevent the healthy individuals from physically carrying any droplets expelled by the sick patient on their clothes or skin. She added, it's all or nothing, they don't just put on a mask and call it good. She addressed the doctor's statement from earlier and said it was correct; the space around the ear loops do allow air to circulate, but it also allows viruses and bacteria to escape. Although that mask provides little protection by itself to begin with, if people touch the mask at all and then touch other surfaces, they completely nullified the point of wearing a mask. Ms. Haining reported proper personal protective equipment (PPE) has become extremely rare and overpriced due to the extremely high current demand, making it very hard for healthcare providers to acquire. Cox health may be sufficiently provided for at this time, but there are thousands of other independent healthcare providers that are having an extremely difficult time trying to procure it and several in Branson are struggling with that. By mandating masks or face coverings to be worn by the general public, she guarantees it will result in further depleting those resources for all healthcare providers and further stressing the already burdened, understaffed and now under-financed healthcare systems. Ms. Haining explained the universal masking of seemingly healthy individuals is not a droplet precaution protocol and is ill proven to stop any transmission from asymptomatics. She addressed the example of Great Clips Hair Salon, but feels a better question is what about China. Universal mask-wearing has been extremely common in China since 2002, yet that is where

this outbreak sprang from and stroke, heart disease, COPD and lung cancer are consistently their top four causes of death. She added, so don't tell her if somebody contracts COVID-19 it's going to result in long-term damage to them and so everyone should wear masks to prevent those individuals from contracting it. By mandating everyone wear masks, it will coincidentally cause long-term damage to everyone because in an attempt to filter the air coming in or out, the only result is bacteria, virus and pollution gets held against the face to fester, grow and be repeatedly inhaled. Mandatory masking does little to protect others and puts the wearer at a greater risk of infection, stroke, cancer and even death. This bill is not a reasonable proposal as the City Attorney presented it, because the Board is considering requiring all employers mandate their staff and customers to wear masks without any knowledge of their medical needs. Any employee whose health is damaged after being forced to wear a mask, without medical conditions being considered and reasonably accommodated, has extreme grounds to sue their employer and those employers would then have extreme grounds to sue the City. The bill being considered poses multiple affronts to legal business procedures and Branson's businesses cannot legally be forced to put their employees' safety at risk or refuse service to a customer who is physically unable to comply with this proposal. No business can force an individual to present legal documentation of medical history on the spot; that is a gross violation of HIPAA and terminating an employee because they cannot wear a face covering is clear violation of the ADA which is punishable by a \$75,000 fine for the first offense. She believes this proposal is unlawful, unenforceable and will create division and turmoil like the City has never seen. It will hurt citizens, repel visitors and severely hinder the Police at a time when they need support more than ever. It's not about freedom, although freedoms as Americans are very important, they are important because that's what gives people the right to make the decisions for their own health. She knows firsthand that if she takes care of her health she's way more likely to be taking care of the health of those around her. If the Board forces the Branson population and visitors to be consistently wearing face masks, their immune systems will quickly go down and will put the community at a much greater risk. The proposed signage tells visitors they must wear face coverings, but there's no mention of the exceptions and she asked how it's welcoming to any visitor and explained it's not and is an immediate turnoff. She suggested asking any of the shows in town that are consistently getting calls at their box office from people asking if they are requiring masks. When told no, they say good, because if they were they wouldn't come. She asked is it not ironically impractical for a City whose Mayor just last month issued a proclamation of how Branson is committed to providing a welcoming an inclusive environment for all citizens and visitors, to institute such a divisive, discriminatory and often times hostile policy. She's here today in spite of the City Administrator's attempt to refuse entrance to people without a mask which is a direct violation of state law that mandates this meeting be open to the public, with no mention of wearing a face covering. She recommended it be addressed immediately following this meeting and strongly urged the Board and Mayor never enact a policy like the one being proposed today. This proposal does not reflect the Branson she knows and loves and it does not reflect a desire to protect the health and well-being of citizens or visitors. This proposal also doesn't reflect the Branson she and thousands of residents and visitors will choose not to patronize if this ordinance passes.

Michael Cooper, 350 Mark Twain Drive, Branson West, Missouri, thanked Pearl Haining for the great talk she gave and mentioned he owns perfect signs in Hollister and has made his living off of the businesses here in Branson. He also teaches economics and business at Ozarks Technical Community College (OTC) and prior to that he taught economics and business at Crowder College. He explained he's going to talk about unintended and economic consequences and he mentioned there are a lot of medical professionals who will line up all day long and tell everyone about how masks save lives and how they'll benefit public safety. There's not a lot of economists out there telling people how these measures destroy businesses, steal livelihoods and kill people and he explained these measures kill people by taking livelihoods and shutting down businesses. For the last 50 years, economists have been doing studies on how economic recessions and downturns cost health and lives. One of the most important studies showed 54,000 people die in this country every year with a 1% increase in unemployment, because a 1% increase in unemployment causes heart attacks, suicides, homicides, depression and death by despair which is a real thing. He knows the Aldermen and Mayor are good men with good hearts and mean to do the right thing for their constituents and the City, but he believes there are unintended consequences sometimes. In May when the City was shut down, it was a real blow to the businesses of this town and it hurt. He mentioned working on the bucket truck the day after that, installing a billboard for Encore Theater and a police car drove up and told him he couldn't do that because his business is non-essential. His business was shut down during that time and it would have been shut down anyway because all of his customers were shut

down. There are huge, unintended consequences for measures like that such as health and economic impacts that really cause tremendous damage and hardship. The number of personal and business bankruptcies have already begun to sky rocket as well as the number of businesses that shut down, moved out of town or will never reopen. When the City layers on additional draconian measures like this, it will just cause more businesses to go bankrupt. Visitors don't come to Branson if they have to wear a mask, they come here to be free and to have a good time and enjoy the shows. His friend runs a hotel in town and says every time someone comes in they ask if they have to wear mask and if they're told yes, they turn around and walk out. People won't come here and the City will have so many theaters, shows, restaurants and hotels, that are already hemorrhaging and dying, that will have to shut down, leave town, go bankrupt and go out of business. This measure is going to cause people to die from financial ruin and loss of livelihood. People can't trade a theory, belief or hope that this is going to save lives for a guarantee of a loss of a lot of livelihoods which will also cost lives. He implored the Board to not make that decision, add salt to the wound or give another crushing blow to the businesses that are already badly suffering here in Branson. He thanked the Board for its time.

The meeting recessed at 5:38 p.m. and reconvened at 5:48 p.m.

Jody Wobser, mentioned she's lived in Branson as of a year and a half ago when a Category 5 hurricane blew her house away in Florida and of all the places she could possibly live, she chose Branson. She's listened to a lot of the speakers and facts and she believes every word they say and a lot of what she was going to say has already been said. She recalled the Mayor started the meeting with a prayer and mentioned laws are based a lot on the Bible. The Bible gives laws and a lot of other wonderful information, including how to deal with a pandemic by quarantining the sick. Ms. Wobser explained healthy people are not quarantined, locked behind doors or walk around with masks on their faces. She added, with a lot of respect to the doctors and nurses dealing with this, those are sick people in the hospitals and that's why they are there. She expressed her thankfulness for the healthcare system and mentioned when she was coming in the door tonight, people left because they had to wear a mask. They were coming here to say the same thing she's saying; that masks are unnecessary and facts and statistics are showing this is the case. She chose Branson because of what she heard about it and how it's a town that honors God, family, veterans, government and everything this wonderful country stands for. She sees this every day in the people who live and work here and even in the people who come as tourists. Ms. Wobster commented it doesn't even bother her to get in a long line of traffic on 76 Country Boulevard and she gives prayers of thanks for them, because they're here boosting the economy. They feel the same way about the City that she and everybody else here feels and she doesn't believe any of the Board members are political, but what they're doing is because they love this City too. She admonished the Board to please be leaders and not follow the status quo just because Springfield or other cities do something. She believes people will come here if the Board takes a stand to be different, be men and say they're not going to follow these ridiculous laws and mandates. She believes the Board are men of conviction, will do the right thing and it would grieve her heart to see the City follow the way of every other City. If the Board refuses to bow to this thing, she believes people are going to flood this place because they want to come to a place that's not in bondage with laws and regulations messing with people's freedoms. She added, people are nice here, they do social distancing, they don't want to get sick or make somebody else sick. The people of Branson are decent, God-fearing people and she asked the Board to please keep that in mind. She commented people are social distancing, sanitizing their hands and trying to think of other people before themselves and she believes that is sufficient. She thinks all the facts everyone has mentioned tonight has proven that.

Joy Davis, introduced herself as a resident of Branson for 44 years and she agrees with Ms. Wobser and some of the other speakers. She's had a business for 44 years with her husband and explained she cares about people and about loss. She lost her husband about a year ago, she still grieves and doesn't want to see lives lost. She knows how it feels to have a hole in her life from someone she's lived with for so long. Ms. Davis expressed she cares about this nation and those living here and she feels she should at least share about the people who come in and talk to her at her restaurant. She explained people feel everything's been wrong, blown out of proportion and they don't believe the CDC's numbers since they've been wrong too many times. She doesn't have all the facts and didn't have time because she runs a business, but wishes she had after listening to everyone and learning. She reiterated, people don't trust the numbers and she believes as individuals people need to be responsible for themselves. She's 71 years old

and is getting close to the mark of being higher risk, but she does a lot to build up her immune system. She mentioned taking vitamins, minerals and zinc and said the first thing she'd want if she got sick is hydroxychloroquine, because she's heard people speak about how within hours they felt so much better and normal again. Ms. Davis doesn't know why the medical professional didn't mention hydroxychloroquine, because many doctors across the nation are having great success with it and it's good to know there's something that's worked for many people and patients have not been lost because of it. She mentioned thinking about the numbers and what they say about Missouri and provided the Board with a handout from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. It says the total cases for Missouri is 29,714 and the total deaths are 1,102. She explained those are cases and it's known those cases are up higher because there's so much more testing being done than when this first started. There wasn't any testing done at first, but of the number of those who have it, they are not necessarily sick or hospitalized, they just tested positive. She calculates she has a .037% chance of death from COVID-19 and has a lot greater chance of dying from pneumonia. Missouri's deaths this season for pneumonia and influenza was 1,967 deaths and the numbers are recent through the 15th. She understands every death is important, but pointed out Missouri's deaths have spiked, but is going down and is not showing there's a big crisis here. She added, so what if Walmart or other big corporations and places are making these decisions. As she would ask her kids growing up, if everyone else jumped off a cliff, would they also jump off. She expressed her appreciation for all the speakers this evening and she agrees with them. She has 12 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren and her granddaughter sent something to her at the beginning of COVID-19. She explained things have been a lot tougher for her without her husband in trying to make these decisions and she tries not to stress and trust the Lord, but it's still been tough. She read the quote her granddaughter gave her from Benjamin Franklin which says if we give up liberty for security, we have neither. Ms. Davis explained people may be doing this innocently, but they're still giving up liberty for security and no government can promise all these securities or even life. They can't even find a cure for cancer which is what her husband and a couple of friends died of just this year. She asked how many years the war has been going on for that and there's still not a cure. She thanked the Board for its time. (See attached handout)

Chris Meyer, 269 State Highway 248, Branson, Missouri, said the last time he talked to the Board it did the right thing and he hopes it will do that again. This is an interesting time and he loves to see the passion of people on this passionate topic. He's guessing when the Aldermen signed up to be on the Board they didn't realize they were going to sit through hours of testimony about medical stuff. He's not a medical person and isn't going to talk much about medical things, but thinks the narrative needs to be changed. He referred to the ordinance's ninth whereas which states Taney County has seen an 846% increase and explained this is fear mongering. Mr. Meyer reported on what's happening in other tourist destinations and said in Orlando County there are almost 20,000 cases, in Vegas County there are 30,000 cases and in Myrtle Beach there's over 6,000 cases. The county that's the closest to Branson's is Sevier County which includes Pigeon Forge, Gatlinburg and Sevierville Tennessee, which has 978 cases. Branson is at 146 identified cases and that is one of the best in the country for major tourism destinations, but it's being spun like a fear-mongering place. He thinks people have to look at it in a different light and when the City puts this whereas in the ordinance talking about increases, he thinks it also needs to put 99.82% of Taney County Residents don't have it based on a population of 55,000 people. He explained when people talk about cases they also have to talk about recovery as only 94 cases in the County are in active status. What's coming out of the City is disheartening; it's scaring people and has been felt at local businesses when people call, and in some cases, now they're not calling. The narrative has got to change that this is a very safe place. He recalled when he spoke here last time, he estimated over the next three months it was going to cost Branson about \$80 million in revenue. When looking at the tourism tax on hotels, attractions, restaurants and theaters for March, April and May, it cost Branson \$74 million compared to last year. It's going to cost even more because June is not going to go back to 100% and the Board knows this because it's going to have to deal with the tax consequences. When people say Branson's not going to be down, it's already down 72% to 80% in these businesses and the TCED tax is down over 50% as well. In his business, folks are wearing masks, but he feels the difference with this is Branson needs to be as welcoming as possible. Part of that welcoming is business saying what they're going to do to be responsible to customers and how they're going to take care of them. He explained if he goes into a business and they're not doing anything, he might just leave, but feels it's up to the individual businesses. They don't need more government control, they need more encouragement and he thinks the City needs to be the cheerleader. He asked the Board not to mandate or control it, because it comes back to personal responsibility. Some

people have said the reason this ordinance is needed is because there's a bunch of stupid people out there and he asked if this ordinance is passed if these people are all of a sudden going to get smart. He asked if these people live in a cave and don't know coronavirus is going on or that masks are cool. Mr. Meyer explained those people are still going to be stupid when the ordinance is passed and they're not all of a sudden going to start wearing a mask just because the Board told them to. He added, if the Board thinks so it has more power than he thinks it has. Mr. Meyer said if the Board decides to pass this, he'd like to give some suggestions and clarified he's not saying he's in favor of it, but thinks this bill could be better. He mentioned discussions about face coverings and noticed no one's talked about eye coverings. He explained people can get coronavirus through their eyes which should be considered if the City's going to truly do this and be consistent. He commented if he doesn't know he has coronavirus and kisses his wife should kissing be outlawed. He referred to the ordinance pertaining to face coverings and mentioned it talks about ties, loops or elastic, but noticed someone in the audience wearing a neck gator which doesn't have those and he feels they should be allowed. He expressed concerns over the Police issuing tourists \$100 tickets because he'd rather have them work on people selling drugs, beating their wives or involved with child pornography. There are much bigger issues to deal with in the community and they only have a limited amount of time and he asked if they would be pulled off these types of criminal cases to go fight the mask people. He feels this will make more people criminals and believes it needs to be taken from a positive standpoint of public relations by encouraging guests and citizens to wear masks. He referred to Section 58-387 (2) of the ordinance where it talks about any person with a health condition documented by a medical professional that prohibits wearing a face covering. The way he reads this is a person has to go get documented, which means there's a medical expense to that person because the only way to get a document from a medical professional is to go there and pay them. So once again, the City's going to require undue burden on certain people and he asked the Board to take this into account. He explained there will also be additional labor costs, because people will have to police this in their businesses. Right now most businesses are short staffed because people don't want to work because they're getting great unemployment benefits and there aren't J1s, so businesses don't have time to police this. Mr. Meyer addressed the signage required for business operations which he personally finds extremely tacky, because every door in this town people go into they're going to see a white sign with big red letters. He discussed this with a City official today who told him the sign can be made in different styles, but it's pretty clear in the ordinance that says it has to be ½ inch high on white background. Mr. Meyer explained he followed the ½" high guideline, put the exact wording on it and couldn't get it to fit on an 8 ½" by 11" inch paper, so no one really tested this to see if that was actually accurate. He provided the Board with an example of the signage and feels the signage portion needs to be changed if the Board is going to pass the ordinance. He asked if people wanted the town to look tacky and he emphasized design matters and people need to think about design in what they do. He doesn't think everybody would be able to do this by the 20th since tomorrow is Friday and the sign people probably go home on the weekend. He added, although they would love this because they'll make a lot of money, but that's not the point. He feels people need to think smart, because every time someone sees this it really says they're not welcome and he suggested putting welcome to Branson and just encourage them to wear a mask. Mr. Meyer referenced Section 4 of the ordinance, which he thinks gives two people a lot of power to make the decision on-going. The Board was elected by the people of Branson and he doesn't hear anybody saying it shouldn't have that power as an elected Board, but he expressed concerns over two unelected staff members making these decisions. He clarified he loves City Staff and that's not the issue, but what is the magic number when it's okay not to wear a mask. He commented if other tourism destinations have 20,000 cases and Disney is opening more theme parks, there will be a lot of cases there. At the end of the day, this is all about risk and people determine every day when they walk out the door what their risk level is going to be. It's a choice and he's talked to people who are at high risk and are choosing to stay home which is great, but as an individual he's determining what risks he wants to take. Mr. Meyer said if he gets in his car he's taking a risk; someone might be drunk, they might hit him and he might die, but he's still taking that risk when he goes out and takes a car ride. He explained he would much rather have freedom than safety and security and feels it's really easy to give up freedom for a little more safety and security. He added, but when people give up a little here, a little there and a little more, it's a whole bunch and it's always just a little at a time. He believes it comes back to personal responsibility and thinks if the Board has faith in the community, then it has to trust them. If the Board doesn't trust the community then vote for it, but if trusts the community it should let people determine it. There's no sense operating out of fear, because this is a community of faith and he would much rather operate out of faith than fear. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak. (See attached handout)

Lindel Gore, 301 Sunset Drive, Hollister, Missouri, stated he first wants to say something that's really important which is he sees a nation that he loves being ripped to pieces. People can pick any topic, even tying shoelaces in a square knot or half knot, and people are going to kill other people over it in this country. This really tears his heart to pieces and he believes everyone should be ashamed for letting that happen. Mr. Gore expressed this imposes a lot of fear on him and he's been so happy living in the Branson area for about 10 years. He mentioned he and his wife came here on vacation 10 years ago, they never left, they love it and feel safe here. He mentioned being in the military for a while and he goes to Branson shows where they honor the military, police officers, family and everything this country stands for. He explained these are divisive situations coming through this country and ripping it to pieces. He sees a young man here this evening who is pro-mask and while he hates that, he's an American and he loves him and is glad he stood up here to say what he had to say. In this country the dollar bills say In God We Trust and he wonders what would have happened in Nazi Germany if when Hitler told the Jews they had to wear a Star of David on their arms to identify themselves and that they would be a reprobates of society, if the German people would have said no. He wonders if there would have been a holocaust. He expressed appreciation for the Aldermen and Mayor because they have one heck of a job and he doesn't envy them because they're going to upset a lot of people no matter what they vote. Mr. Gore explained if he has to wear a mask, he's going to put the Star of David and a shower head on it with a caption under it that says shut your mouth and get in the shower. He's afraid, but God says don't be afraid because He will always be with him. He recalled when he was a kid and got his first car, car insurance was really cheap and it was easy to get his car fixed if he got in an accident. He could go pay for it himself, but whenever car insurance became mandatory, he couldn't afford it or afford to get his car fixed. If masks are going to be mandatory, all of a sudden people are going to have to take out a loan to buy one because people are going to make a lot of money from them. He asked everyone to please learn three things: God loves them, so love everybody else, God forgives them, so forgive everybody else and speak kind words no matter what happens. Mr. Gore said people in Branson need to reach out to everybody and be kind, even to the people who are rioting, because people need to love and forgive them.

Ruth Haining, Branson, Missouri, pointed out the Lysol wipes are supposed to kill 99.9% of germs so she doesn't know why people can't use the same one until it's dry. She mentioned speaking on behalf of herself and others who have struggled with or are currently experiencing domestic violence, domestic abuse, sex abuse, sex trafficking, panic disorders, anxiety disorders, CPTSD, PTSD of any kind, both combat-related and non-combat-related. Anxiety and non-combat PTSD are issues she personally struggles with on a daily basis and because of these issues she's connected with several others like herself. Those who deal with the daily project of trying to keep calm in a crowd, run regular or essential errands without having panic attacks, anxiety meltdowns or other things of that nature. She explained causes such as when somebody rubs against them, cuts in front of them or even just being in a crowd or a number of other panic driven triggers. In spite of the six foot social distancing, people still rub against her so there's no such thing as six feet in stores and she doesn't believe it can be made to happen. Ms. Haining explained non-visible triggers are different for everyone depending on where their trauma came from. From her first-hand experience, anxiety or escalated anxiety presents an elevated heart rate or labored breathing which masks complicate tremendously. Stress levels directly impact weight which also makes it difficult to breathe, but because of stress, losing weight can be nearly impossible sometimes. To struggle with any level of these issues already is challenging and putting a mask on people's faces makes it ten times worse. She's chosen to endure it today to be a voice for those who cannot and mentioned she and many others have a tendency to become extremely light-headed, putting her at risk of fainting, cardiac arrest and heart attack. She added, this was even verified by medical doctors today and these are normal everyday circumstances and struggles for people with PTSD, CPTSD and anxiety disorders. Ms. Haining said Branson is and always has been a town that upholds and highly respects veterans and active-duty military personnel. Many of them struggle with PTSD and anxiety disorders and some days life is a horror story for veterans and they can't handle one more thing. For many veterans, wearing a mask is a service-related trigger, representing a nightmare that many cannot even imagine. Forcing them to wear a mask is nothing short of inhumane, and as Mr. Seitz pointed out earlier, people are being denied access when they claim a medical disorder such as this. Speaking on behalf of domestic violence victims, many of them have at one point, experienced someone forcing their hand over their mouth as a way of suppression and control to get out of them what their abuser wants. For them, wearing a mask over their face is a mental revisiting of past abuse and

becomes a constant trigger they cannot get away from. She feels this bill is proposing that their trauma doesn't matter, because there might be a small chance they could possibly be carrying a virus. This is a huge violation of their mental peace, emotional well-being and it prohibits their ability to heal. The privacy of people fighting these issues is legally protected and they cannot and should not be forced to publicly explain the demons they face. She believes it's important for everyone to be responsible for their own health and well-being. Nobody, whether or not they're wearing a mask, knows how to properly care for her health besides herself and nobody, whether or not they're wearing a mask, can know how to properly care for their own health better than themselves. She mentioned studying and taking data from individuals who have these kinds of medical conditions, but these kinds of issues and conditions are widely not respected as a medical condition and it's very difficult to get medical doctors to write a note for these kinds of conditions. It's been proven by many sources and her doctor attested to this earlier today, that wearing a mask does not protect the wearer, but protects others. So it only affects how far the spray projects, but does not protect the wearer from being affected. So even though she's wearing a mask for others sake, she can still catch whatever virus is coming her way. If people are supposed to wear a mask on behalf of someone else, but are not allowed to properly and accurately care for their own mental and physical health first, they are in fact putting more people at risk. The ordinance being considered puts Branson at a greater risk which is the exact opposite of its intent and she urged the Board to vote against it.

Kelly Slabach, lives in Hollister, Missouri, and is here representing Branson residents who, because of work and health issues, are not able to attend. She shared some good news and reported in the last four months in Taney County there has been 4,665 COVID tests and of those tests, 96.87% came back negative which is great. She mentioned the perspective change that Mr. Meyer spoke of earlier and believes it's the perspective change and the scare mongering. She pointed out the County is up to 146 cases, but that's over four months. People can look at the actual data and those that came back positive deserve care and attention, but the many that came back negative deserve to live their lives as if they are not sick. Quarantine the sick and protect those who are at risk, but the majority of people are not sick or at risk and if they are, they choose to take that risk. As another gentleman said, she had to make a risk assessment getting in her car to drive here and she has to do that every time she gets in the car. She feels this mask mandate is like saying even a really good driver might kill somebody in a car accident, so no more cars. It's not looking at how to better care for people who are at risk or do get it. It's just looking at taking away one little area of risk which doesn't stop death. Ms. Slabach said Table Rock Lake has a ton of boating deaths and asked if boats were going to be outlawed. She asked how many people have died in a bicycle accidents, she's known of one in her lifetime, but they do happen. Death is an everyday occurrence, so people do what they do responsibly and she resents the language, that even the City sent out, that people should wear masks because they love others or because they care. She explained she loves Jesus who says to love others and how she loves others is by respecting their social distance, washing her hands frequently, using hand sanitizer and staying home when she's sick. She's an adult and has that choice, but by saying regardless of the fact that nearly 97% of cases are negative, everyone still has to act and live like they're sick is a problem. She addressed the way the doctor described Taney County as only having this many cases when it locked down, but now since it opened it has this many. She asked the Board how many tests Taney County Health Department started with and reported it was zero and then went up to two. She pointed out the jump that was seen two weeks ago is because Taney County did a free testing event where anybody who wanted to could get tested, so of course people are going to see jumps. Ms. Slabach explained the CDC's literature even mentions their antibody testing and all other testing can trigger a false positive if people have a cold caused by a coronavirus or have had a flu shot. She explained, so there's going to be a jump in positives and they're false for the most part and that's not saying these issues aren't real, but looking at the active positive cases right now only 11 are hospitalized. This means the majority are not sick enough to require ventilators and only 21% are hospitalized. Obviously any hospitalization and death is tragic, but death is 100% guaranteed for every single person in this room. To say this prevents a death or illness is foolhardy and for the CDC Director to say what he did without backing it up with actual data is also foolhardy. He didn't back it up with actual data, but with an anecdotal study and said people can the virus grind into the ground in four to six weeks. Ms. Slabach asked what will happen when the masks don't work or what will happen in a month. According to this bill as it's written, two unelected officials just get to decide to make it indefinite and everyone has already expressed a lot of issue with that. She knows there is a lot of divided opinions and evidence on masks, because for every doctor saying masks work and must be mandated, others say they do not work and are very dangerous. She commented, this isn't a 9 out of 10

dentists recommend masks because there is a wide divide. Sadly, she wished there would have been medical professionals here courageous enough or willing to come speak. She understands from friends in the medical field, that their livelihoods are threatened if they speak out against the narrative which their higher-ups and CEOs of their hospitals have made clear. If they tell her anything, it's anonymously and she feels this shouldn't be the case and there should not be censorship on truth. She added, but there is and these people are afraid of losing their livelihoods by speaking up for truth. She's not a medical professional, but has many friends who are and they sent her data which she's bringing to the Board since they can't speak for it. Ms. Slabach said she loves Branson, grew up in Branson, moved away for 10 years, but returned once she had her own family because there's no place on earth like Branson. So to say it needs to become like every other place on Earth, she doesn't want that and is why she moved here. She addressed the economic issues and mentioned when Silver Dollar City (SDC) decided it was going to mandate masks upon entry, the overwhelming majority of people commenting on their Facebook and Instagram posts and said they were not coming. Any rational, reasonable person knows that being out in a hundred degree, very humid temperatures, wearing a mask is very foolhardy and she mentioned driving by SDC's parking lots in the middle of the day, last Saturday, in the middle of July and their lots were almost completely empty when it should have been one of their busiest days. In talking with several different SDC employees, they said it's bringing in far less than 50% of normal attendance. She asked the Board what that's going to do to Branson, how many people are not going to wear masks walking the Strip because it's hot and how many are not going to sit in a show and wear a mask. Entertainers like Clay Cooper have done a really admirable job exhibiting what social distancing in a show would look like, but she can guarantee if she were to count the price of each seat that sits empty, Clay Cooper is losing money. She believes he's doing it because he loves Branson, wants people to come and is going to do everything he can to make them feel comfortable, but if masks are forced he will have to close his theater. She asked anyone who says they care about the people of Branson or has felt the economic pain of the lockdown, if they lost their business that they worked for their entire life or had to send employees home because they couldn't afford to pay them. She knows the gentlemen on the Board are businessmen in town and they care about Branson. There have been a lot of triggering words used out of passion and she asked the Board to please understand no one here is calling them Hitler or Nazis. People know they have Branson's best interest at heart and have received a lot of very loud pressure from the other side to mandate this. She personally knows what it feels like when somebody says she doesn't love people, but feels the reason people are making Nazi Germany comparisons is because it's happened before and started with something innocuous. Ms. Slabach explained Hitler didn't propose the golden star, it was a Jew who felt people should be proud to wear it because it marked their heritage and showed they were good for the community. It also showed who wasn't compliant, because they were the ones who wouldn't wear it and were punished the quickest and those who were compliant were targeted. She clarified people aren't saying the Board is doing that, but are cautioning it about the precedent it sets that cannot be easily backtracked. She asked the Board to please trust its citizens because their livelihoods are the tourism and they're not going to try to infect people. Every store and restaurant she's been in has been extra careful and if anything, it's showed her how wonderful Branson is because of how much they have gone over and above to make people feel comfortable. She believes a mask mandate will kill everything that's good about Branson and people are worried about this unending thing being rolled over again and again. She hates to break it to the Board, but feels this is an act that in three months, there may not be a town to govern because it may tank that fast. She asked the Board to trust its citizens because they love people and those coming to visit Branson and they're doing everything they can to make them feel comfortable. Ms. Slabach asked the Board to please also trust that people know what's best for their health, the health of their families and they're not going to put them at risk to make somebody feel comfortable for something that's scientifically not proven to actually work.

Stephanie Holloway, 144 Bull Run Road, Branson, Missouri, introduced herself as a teacher and pastor and said she hopes the Board will take the time to listen to what she has to say. She expressed her appreciation for the Board and knows from the corrections it's already made to the proposed mandate that it's listening. She prays the Board's eyes and ears will be fully open to what the people of the community are saying and what God is trying to tell them. Ms. Holloway commented what these people have said is true and explained America is headed into a socialist society if it keeps making mandates on people like this which is heartbreaking for her and for her six kids who didn't want to grow up in a land like this. She commented on the veil she's wearing and said a lot of people have probably glanced at her thinking it's

some kind of mockery, but explained she has a lot of reasons for wearing it. Someone pointed out it might catch snot while allowing air to still get through it. She has skin allergies, asthma and ocular migraines which are three great reasons not to be forced to wear a mask. She explained the people here wearing surgical masks are probably more at risk than she is, because they're supposed to be thrown away after 20 to 30 minutes and used in sterile environments. She explained the veil also provides a little eye covering, so she has a good mask on, but she's going to take it off. Ms. Holloway stated she's not anti-mask or pro mask, but anti-mandatory mask. She teaches in a school district outside of Branson and preaches in the Branson area. She mentioned taking a job today, knowing she'll have to wear a mask to teach, because kids are going to need some teachers if they even go back to school this fall. She cares about them that much that she's going to put her life and health at risk to teach the next generation of kids. At the same time she would really like for this to be a community she can come home to and have freedom and liberty. This is a great community that is founded on Godly principles and people will make good decisions, be cautious and careful, will not try to harm people and will stay home when they're sick. She doesn't trust the CDC, the WHO or the numbers they've put out and mentioned she has a math degree and pointed out the 907% jump mentioned previously is because there were very little tests at first. Since then there's been a lot of testing, so yes the COVID-19 cases are going to rise and she explained this is not how percentages are figured, because statistics don't work that way. Another reason besides health reasons for her wearing a veil is because the church is at stake and everyone knows what's being done in California and people don't want that in Branson. She commented people such as the expert who came up here, base their arguments off of science, but where is the control group for Great Clips Hair Salon. Everyone's touting about the two mask wearers in the same building and no one got sick. She knows from science learned in grade school that it doesn't work that way, there has to be a control group. People can't compare it to another town with unmasked people in a choir group with different people, because it doesn't work that way, it's not science but is a scare tactic. She prays the Board doesn't base its decisions off of emotions and explained Biblically, people are supposed to walk by the spirit, not by fear. She explained all across the globe people are saying there are four reasons behind all of these mandates which are fear, greed, shame and guilt. She knows some people have loved ones who are immune-compromised like she and others in this room are and she asked them to let her put their hearts to rest just a little bit. She mentioned her 26 year-old daughter was posed with a question about whether or not Jesus would wear a mask and she replied he would curse it, rebuke it, command it to shrivel up and die and walk on. He would do this just like the fig tree because he didn't have fear and people shouldn't have fear if they have Jesus in them which she hopes everyone does. She asked the audience for a show of hands how many people are in favor of and opposed to the mandate passing and told the Board that's some statistics for them. The experts want to quote things from the CDC and the WHO, but these organizations are ran by fear, greed and have agendas. Whereas her personal doctor who delivered four of her babies and probably 90% of the babies in this County told her if she gets COVID-19, to treat it like the flu. She explained she thought she might have had it during the lockdown. Ms. Holloway shared that her girls are not vaccinated and survived the swine flu and he was their doctor and he said to treat it like the flu and gargle warm salt water three times a day, six days straight, so she did and it helped her throat get better. He told her if her throat and cough got better to go down to three or four times a day, drink plenty of fluids and stay away from others and that's what she did. She doesn't know if she had it or not because she had some of the symptoms, but no one was testing then. She stated people don't have to base it off of fear and explained when Jesus said to turn the other cheek, he wasn't saying you slapped us on the cheek, you made us go into quarantine and lockdown and now you can mandate masks. That's not what turn the other cheek means in historical context. It means you already slapped us on the cheek with lockdowns and quarantines and you shouldn't have, so go ahead and take my life if you want. She says this because there's too much shaming against Christians right now who are against mandated mask-wearing and she knows some people here are Christians and she doesn't want them to base it out of guilt or shame. Jesus wouldn't do that, she doesn't do that and she feels true Christians can be pro-mask or anti-mask, but no one should be shaming anyone. She thanked the Board for listening.

Wayne Mcauley, 200 Boxelder Lane, Forsyth, Missouri, said he lives mostly at 116 Gretna Road in Branson and a lot of what he was going to talk about has already been discussed, but there are some things from personal experience pertaining to working with a mask he'd like to discuss. He used to work as a digital photographer and there was a saying, don't go by the guidelines, go by the physical evidence. He explained physical evidence is what he's about to give and mentioned working for Premium Retail Services

for five years which was an amazing job for some supplemental income, but then COVID-19 came around and corporate America started to mandate masks for their employees. He reported his company had Target and Best Buy and he loved it because it gave him the opportunity to use his technical expertise to make things that amazed people. A few weeks ago he was working a return at Target and the return took three hours, when it should have taken an hour and a half had he not been wearing a mask. He feels if he had been required to climb a ladder towards the end of that three hours he would have fallen on his head and split his skull open, because he was that close to passing out. He explained he complies when someone asks him to do something and mentioned the people who work for these places have told him they have the same issues. They are about to pass out by the end of their work day, their work takes longer and it's literally costing corporate America a lot more to have people working with masks on because they hold them back and cut down on production. He explained the Board can't do anything about corporate America, but can make sure people have the option to wear or not wear masks, because it becomes dangerous when enforced. He understands choices and accountability and that the virus is very serious because he went through it. He quarantined for about six days, piled blankets on top of him to raise his temperature to make sure the virus was completely destroyed. He drank a solution of Himalayan pink salt which has iodine and citric acid in it and he recovered. There are ways to get over the virus and if people are smart instead of making decisions according to emotion, they will pull through this and defeat the virus.

Dirk Myers, 118 West Hensley, Branson, Missouri, stated he owns Dirk D. Myers Photography and Service with a Style Consulting. The lockdown and quarantine hit his business really hard, which he doesn't have to tell the Board because most of them own a business in one form or fashion. He's here to speak for some people who are really glad to be back open that have tried really hard to make sure it stays that way. He explained he specifically thinks of Stacy who manages the gym he goes to, who has done a really good job making sure everything stays clean and she works really hard to make sure that happens. He also thinks of Gabe and Jolene who he works with at restaurants at the Branson Landing. He explained they wear masks, take care of people and work really hard to make sure customer service happens and everything's clean. He expressed their concerns about the mask mandate and explained 16 year-old-hostesses are going to have to be replaced with someone who's going to be able to watch the door, because restaurants are not going to put that person in a situation where they have to mandate people coming in the door. They're not generally geared to handle that and he explained managers are going to have to get away from what they're doing, their day-to-day stuff and they're going to have to do more stuff. Corporate only gives them so many hours to manage what they've got already and they're working really hard to keep things clean. He also thinks of Matthew and Destiny and all of the other people who own restaurants and bars in this area. Mr. Myers explained they're working really hard to put that in place, they're all customer service oriented and professionals at what they do. He's been a service professional for well over 25 years in addition to being in ministry and a photographer, among other things. He explained he takes care of people when doing a photoshoot and a lot of seniors are finally getting excited again about having their pictures taken. He believes with a mask mandate, he's going to have cancellations, but feels the good news is there are a bunch of professionals and a whole lot of people who are really good at what they do. Mr. Myers asked the Board to trust them to do their jobs because they don't need it's help. They're really good at what they do and he asked the Board to let people do their jobs managing restaurants and keeping people safe. He asked the Board to keep people free because that's all they need and he explained people trusted the Board members when they voted for them and it's up to the Board to trust them now. He reported Walmart, Walgreens and all of these other companies have mask mandates, so the Board doesn't have to worry about it, because everybody else is doing the job for them and he asked them to vote no. Mr. Myers commented people walking at the Branson Landing, in 105 degrees with a cloth petri dish on their face, know when they need to take it down for a few minutes and when they need to put it back up. He walks a lot and when he walks home from work, if he sees somebody who's sick, elderly or looks like they might have an issue, he's courteous and gives them their distance. He asked the Board to let people do their jobs, because they're hospitality professionals, they're good at what they do and Branson is known for its hospitality, so it's got this.

Kevin VanStory said he doesn't live in Branson, but his oldest daughter does and tomorrow she graduates from a drug program after 14 months of being clean after 14 years of being lost in drug addiction. He introduced himself as a candidate for congress for the 7th District, running against Billy Long in the Republican primary. He said he's way outside his wheelhouse as he's had two jobs in 36 years and has

lived in Neosho since September of 1984. He's sold motorcycles and has been a real estate agent and broker for seven years and is really good at his job. He mentioned Branson is built on commercial activity and is about the same size as Neosho. He reported Neosho plays Branson in football, but Branson makes a lot more money than Neosho and has a lot nicer facilities. He's here to talk about masks and feels it's a face diaper because it catches waste and shortly becomes very toxic by making people wear them. He's been here for about five and a half hours and they are only good for about 30 minutes and he pointed out the Board members have been wearing theirs for this long also. He explained masks will have more of a negative than positive effect and mentioned having also dealt with this issue at the Joplin, Springfield, Neosho and Nixa City Council meetings. Mr. VanStory commented this Board is older than Nixa's City Council and he believes this is a little more of a conservative area than Springfield and has a tremendous opportunity. He mentioned addressing Neosho's City Council and he knows all the people on its Board since he's lived in Neosho since 1984. He was the first one to ask them to go 180 degrees of what they were thinking and then several other people came behind him and hammered it home because of their passion and steadfastness. He referred to all the people here who are line up still wanting to speak waiting to talk to the Board to get its attention. He explained everyone here are adults and don't need a daddy state to tell people they need to wear masks. He mentioned being ordained in the ministry in 2018 and two weeks later the Lord woke him up in the middle of the night and said he needed to run for Billy Long's office, so he's operating outside of his comfort zone. Mr. VanStory feels there's an opportunity for Branson with Springfield shutting down and he reported Nixa is going to be voting next Monday and will be shutting down too. They're going to put a mask on everybody and Branson's going to have a tremendous opportunity for business and growth, but if Branson mandates masks it might as well just shut the town down. He's seen this town in December and January and feels if the mask is mandated, it should just close down because it will be doing the same thing. Neosho's City Council decided to go with whatever the Governor says and Governor Parsons already said he will not mandate masks. If it comes down from the Governor, he's not going to be happy about it because it's a personal liberty issue for him. God gave people this wonderful set of sinuses and lungs so they can breathe and He wants to see their faces while they worship Him and by covering up their faces, people can't see or hear anything. He reported the first weekend Neosho went without restrictions, its local Walmart had over a thousand more customers than normal and last Saturday, the Lowe's in the middle of town had 700 more customers. Walmart is doing a corporate shutdown, or corporate mask requirement, and is going to have to deal with it and the economic repercussions. With any of these stores doing that, people will find another way because that's what commerce allows and he encouraged people to shop local. He commented people can't sanitize the universe because microbes are absolutely everywhere and the battle for winning the COVID-19 war is within our own immune systems. God has given people the ability to always fight viruses and bacteria since the beginning of time and they should absolutely take care of the vulnerable, but recognize they can't run away from COVID-19. As those in the healthcare industry call it, herd immunity, he doesn't believe his fellow citizens are animals so he calls it crowd immunity. Mr. VanStory reported there are 58,000 people in Taney County and 146 total cases which he calculates to be two out of 1,000 people and out of those cases, probably 60% of them are asymptomatic. The World Health Organization a couple of weeks ago came out with a video in which they said asymptomatic people do not transmit the virus and it completely walked back everything it had been saying up until this time. At every Council meeting, the medical professionals have all done the same song and dance which is always really emotional and always pulls on people's emotional strings. He explained this is all part of Saul Alinsky's tactic and people are following in that direction, but they need to stop, turn around and go back the other way. There are two documents people can rely on; the Holy Bible and the United States Constitution, which are two of the greatest documents ever written. He's not here to do political grandstanding, because he's got a lot of other things he could do, but is pleading with the Board to vote no, go the other direction, open the town up and give its citizens a chance. He commented there might not be another cares act or umbrella for some more money and he explained this whole situation is about the money. For Health Department officials, for every positive case, somehow and someday there's a lot of money coming down and believe's it's about \$9,000 or \$10,000 for every positive case of COVID-19. For every death, there's \$39,000 and he asked where this money was coming from and where it's going to. He said he doesn't know, but knows it's about the money and it's about an agenda. When talking about two out of 1,000 people who get sick, he asked the Board not to blow its City and people up or do anything rash or unreasonable.

Bo Dejager, South Drive, Branson, Missouri, commented he's here today because he believes wearing masks should be a choice. He referred to the Mayor's protocol of wiping down and sanitizing the microphone and pointed out people should have been wiping down the entire desk if everyone's talking about safety and sanitizing. He mentioned Clorox wipes are 99% effective, not 100% effective. He made a comparison to the percentage of cases and deaths which is 1% or 2% and asked if the 99% effective rate on the Clorox wipes is good and they're sent everywhere, how is that not comparable. At this meeting he wished there would have been an opportunity for people to ask those initially presenting the arguments some questions because they left as soon as they were done. Mr. Dejager explained he would have liked to ask them some questions on why they believe masks are effective because they're supposedly the doctors in this area fighting for their cause. One of the first people who spoke said that masks are 100% effective and Mr. Dejager commented, if they're that effective he would have liked for them to go into a little bit of detail. He inquired if masks were effective if one person is wearing it or if both people have to be wearing it. He addressed the argument that both people have to be wearing a mask and said that tells him one side of the mask doesn't work. When looking at a mask he feels this kind of contradicts how masks work in the construction field and asked if people couldn't just turn the mask inside out and then the virus shouldn't come into contact with them. He feels this is kind of common sense that masks should be stopping things whether it's one way or the other because it's made from the same material inside and out. He's a little confused on how it's beneficial if both or just one person is wearing a mask and thinks it's necessary for the most vulnerable people to take precautions. He doesn't feel high-risk people should be going out as they have the safety of their own homes and do things for their own safety, but that's a choice, it's not forced. He explained no one is forcing people to stay home or wear a mask and feels it should be a choice to wear a mask and masks are only as good as the person wearing it. He expressed everyone cares about each other as everyone before him has said the same thing. He mentioned there is a man here who had gotten COVID-19, but is still standing here today. He clarified he's not downplaying the severity of it, but is just saying he's still standing here today. He commented it may be tough, but he feels people can't scare everybody and asked if people were scared of getting it or scared of dying from it because there's a difference. Mr. Dejager explained the way he was raised is he believes people should have a certain amount of germs in their bodies because that's what keeps the immune system strong. He gave the example of when people tell their kids to go on and get dirty because it helps them get strong. Now people are being told to clean themselves 100% and he's noticed the people he's come into contact with who are more accustomed to using sanitizer and things like that are generally the ones who are getting sick more often and more severely. Now people are being told to wear masks to contain it to themselves, but it's wearing down their own immune systems. While people need to work on their own health, it shouldn't be mandatory and as previously stated, there's herd immunity for people in good health. He explained some scientists have found as viruses go along, they get weaker as they prolong and go through people. He's in good standing health and believes he should have the choice to maybe get it and even if he does get it, he'll live with the circumstances. He believes his good health and good immune system will fight it off and create a weaker COVID-19 down the road. He still thinks it's a matter of choice and said he hates to compare the two, but if people want to force a society and community to wear masks for the sake of other people's lives, it should be the same argument when it comes to abortion. He asked, if people are saying they need to care for the lives of others, then when does a child become an actual person? Is it when it has a heartbeat, limbs, hair or when is that line? If people say it's ok to have a late-term abortion, it's a child that already has all the same features of a person and is committing murder by killing somebody. He explained it's considered a personal choice, but now people are talking about masks and it's not a choice anymore. He reiterated this needs to be left in the hands of personal choice and the people at risk can make their own personal choices. He asked if the mask really helps if it's just one mask, because there's been no scientific proof that it takes two masks. He compared it to wearing a condom and asked if people wear one or do they put on a second one because they're not sure the first one is effective. He explained the point is people don't need a second type of protection if the first one's supposed to do the job.

Unknown Speaker (didn't provide name), he commented the science surrounding the efficacy of cloths masks is simply not as established or concrete as people are led to believe. There's a scientific intention, but there's certainly not a universal consensus on this issue. He reported most of the recent studies that support the mask theory are mechanistic or something extrapolated from recent data being released regarding COVID-19 transmission across the world. This data is almost certainly flawed as it has been since the beginning of this pandemic. All the credible studies that purport to show the usefulness of

masks come with several caveats such as there are no gaps in the mask, that it is regularly cleaned and sanitized and the use of extra measures such as social distancing and hand washing are adhered to. Without these extra measures being enforced, these studies are rendered nearly useless. He explained it's been documented that in order to be useful, face masks must be worn properly and cleaned regularly and if they aren't, or are touched, removed and put back on, they could cause more issues than they solve. Nowhere in this mandate does he see enforcement on the proper wearing of masks, only that a mask is worn. He believes this leads to another issue; the false sense of security that arises from those wearing a mask as if they are now somewhat protected. He believes if the Board doesn't think the City should open back up without masks, then it certainly shouldn't think the City should open back up with them. Homemade masks are not magic wands that wave away the threat of transmission and they certainly don't top the list of ways to limit the spread of infectious disease. These mandates only serve to undermine actual effective means of slowing transmission such as social distancing or avoiding large groups, if that isn't the goal. However, he's not sure what the goal actually is anymore as it used to be slowing the spread, flattening the curve and relieving pressure from the health system. He inquired if Branson's health system was overwhelmed or if the curve was not flattened, despite all the efforts. He asked if people didn't expect the rise in cases after reopening and asked what exactly the endgame was and what people are working towards. He explained slowing the spread is the same as postponing the harm and the only real solution is herd immunity as it's been with all previous diseases of this nature. Branson is not New York, yet the measures being considered run parallel to those used at the epicenters of the pandemic. By enacting stay at home orders and quarantines for healthy individuals, and now the masking of healthy individuals, he questioned if people weren't just robbing themselves of the beneficial effects of low dosage exposure. He asked why we're setting ourselves up for large jumps in cases then being shocked when they're seen. It's the most bizarre implementation of a containment he can imagine and individuals like himself who are against the adoption of a mask mandate often use the liberties and freedom argument which sounds dramatic and silly to some, but it's a worthwhile point of contention. He stated he's responsible for his health and well-being, he's not responsible for maximizing the health of others. Others have to maximize their own health and well-being, so to him it's ludicrous to ask people to inconvenience themselves and sacrifice their own freedoms and well-being for the hypothetical safety of others over suspicions that such individuals might have some communicable disease. He's watched people outside in public pull down their masks to smoke a cigarette and feels if that doesn't illustrate his point, he doesn't know what will. He asked all the proponents of the mask mandate if when the next flu season arrives as it always does, if they will be asking governments to force the wearing of masks then. He asked if they would themselves always wear a mask even after this specific pandemic has passed and if not, why. After all, there's always the potential risk that they are a carrier of some malignant contagion, just waiting to pass it on to an unsuspecting neighbor. Surely for their safety they will continue to shield their face so that thousands who die of the flu every year might have that fraction of a percent chance at life that masks are supposedly offering. He fundamentally disagrees with the assessment of the efficacy of the masks, the latest legislation surrounding them, the science behind them, motivations for requiring them and the urge for people to ask governments to enforce their fears and paranoia on others. He reported nearly 38,000 people died in 2018 to motor vehicle accidents and people take that risk every time they get behind the wheel of a car, not just for themselves, but for the injury and damage they could cause others. Letting fear guide legislative policies is a mistake and masking that fear with vague scientific backing that appeals to authority and calling it compassion is arrogant and wrong. He commented if he believed masks to be dangerous to individuals and society, which he does to some degree, he would still never feel the urge to ask his state to enforce his beliefs and fears on his community. He added, that would also be wrong and saying it's just a minor inconvenience wouldn't change that and he thanked the Board for its time.

Gregory Denig, North View Drive, Branson, Missouri, mentioned he spoke out earlier about having COVID-19 and he's not here to debate anyone as he's in a losing battle here. He expressed he's 100% for masks, mandating it and making it a law. He feels that's a lot on the Aldermen's plate and is sorry and is praying for them. He addressed those who don't wear a mask and have a medical condition and said they're the reason he wears a mask. He feels his generation is dropping the ball right now because they're going to parties, living it up and making money, but it's for them that he says to wear a mask. He recalled his journey started March 9th on a trip to Las Vegas during spring break. While he was really worried about going, he still had to go because it was for work and it was Las Vegas. Mr. Denig mentioned coming home on March 13th and was when his symptoms hit and he was immediately in his basement for three months.

He's 29 years old and a smoker and it hit him harder than anything in his life. He explained it's real and it hurt him in so many ways he can never even tell people. He commented for three months he had to sit on the back porch in the basement talking to his two-year-old son through a window upstairs because he couldn't be around him. He feels this is what it's really about when people say there are only 11 people in the ICU. Mr. Denig explained this message isn't really for the Board because he can't help with their vote, but he can help the people who don't think it's real. He clarified he's not debating with anyone as nobody here has said it's not real, but he's just here for the people who don't believe the virus is real and that it can't happen to them. It did happen to him and that's why he's here and he's also here so people understand his generation specifically and that's why he's wearing a mask. It's nothing to do with politics, but is just based off his actual experience, not opinions. He thanked the Board members for their time and said he'd be praying for them.

Jean Chanda, 428 Kays Lane, Hollister, Missouri, thanked the Board for having this meeting and mentioned a lot of people have voiced their opinions on this very contentious issue. She feels the Board has done well on addressing this issue, but it's not really been leaders and she sees why based on the many commenters. She feels there's so much disinformation and misinformation about COVID-19 and she reported 28 states have mandated face masks temporarily. She clarified it's only temporarily, not for the foreseeable future, and cities like St. Louis, Springfield and Columbia have passed mandatory, temporary mask ordinances. Ms. Chanda commented this isn't some huge conspiracy, but states and cities caring about their own citizens when it's some places like here where the overwhelming majority is against mandating masks and keeping everyone safe. She explained she doesn't wear a mask because catching COVID-19 scares her, but the sheer number of anti-maskers here scares her. She stated, so many of them truly believe these fallacies they're so eloquently speaking about things they're not really sure about. Several spoke to valid issues of poverty, running out of masks or intended or unintended consequences like not being able to afford masks. Some people spoke of not being able to wear one or saying masks will force businesses to close because customers refuse to wear them. Ms. Chanda felt some people detracted by talking about the source of the virus or how it's tested and she feels these issues are either not relevant to the conversation of the actual proposal or they are demonstrably false. She believes times are tough for everyone right now as the virus has caused untold economic and physical suffering, but 28 states aren't worried more about losing anti-maskers' business than protecting the public at large. She feels running out of masks is a valid issue, but hospitals won't need masks for as long of a duration if people stop the spread of the virus now by wearing a mask and making it mandatory. Nor will the public need to wear a mask for as long as everyone across the country wears a mask now and businesses won't have to shut down again from the virus getting worse if everyone wears a mask now. If people can't wear a mask for health reasons they can wear a face guard which she's seen employees at Country Mart wearing them a lot and for those who need money to afford a mask or face guard, she suggested pooling money together to help those who can't afford them. She added, or find someone who will sew masks for the others. She knows some people say they're not as effective as other masks, especially N95 masks, but at least it's something. Some people here have said the science is debatable, but she thinks everyone wearing masks will stop the spread of COVID-19 and she believes the science says that. Ms. Chanda said she believes in science and she's ashamed of those here who don't. Nobody knows all of the unintended consequences, not even the experts, so she feels airing on the side of caution by wearing a mask in public for a temporary amount of time is the least people can do. If it becomes permanent, she'll be the first in the street to protest against it because she's a huge activist. There are some exceptions to masks in this proposal that seem fair to her such as people don't have to wear masks outside or while working in a hot kitchen, as long as people are more than six feet apart. She pointed out there are actual, reasonable exceptions in this proposal and it's not as mandatory as some people are making it out to be. She doesn't think many people know what's in the proposal and is why she explained that. Ms. Chanda recalled some people saying they don't really believe what the CDC has to say, but she feels they are there for people's protection and she'd rather have them than not. She reported the Director of the CDC, Robert Redfield, recently said the coronavirus could be driven into the ground if everyone wore masks or faceguards for the next six weeks. She emphasized that's not longer than six weeks if everyone does it and 28 states have already done it. She feels the rest of the states should get on board and do it for six weeks so people can get rid of the virus. She promised it's not going to be forever and feels it's far better than shutting down again which is the other alternative if this virus gets worse. There is so much business flocking to Branson and while she knows it needs the business right now, it also means people are coming with the virus which will make it worse if there's no mandatory

masks. She sees people not wearing masks in the Country Mart she goes to and sees people not wearing masks or wearing them improperly in the places she works. She mentioned seeing people in restaurants not wearing masks and she understands they have to take them off to eat, but they can wear them coming in and out of the doors. There are a lot of people who are not wearing masks properly right now and is why this needs to be mandated temporarily.

Nate Horsman, 2550 State Highway 248, Branson, Missouri, said as a citizen he'd like to express his utter disdain and embarrassment for the blatant disrespect for local healthcare officials. He felt the people booing and hissing local health care professionals was appalling and they should be ashamed of themselves. He clarified this is not me the people, this is we the people and he guesses nobody's going to Walmart anymore either. He mentioned doing some polling lately and feels people might be surprised that an overwhelming majority of people around here are in favor of masks and he called them the silent majority. He expressed his full support of a mask ordinance for the City of Branson and mentioned it's been 24 days since he'd first been in the Council Chambers and at that time Taney County had recorded 33 cases of COVID-19 and two unfortunate deaths. Currently there are 146 cases and the number went up as everyone's been sitting here today and there are three deaths according to the State of Missouri dashboard. He reported that's 109 new cases of COVID-19 in just a little over three weeks and one can only imagine how many of those citizens would not have contracted this virus had the City enacted a mask ordinance. The time for a mask ordinance is now and he reported masks are highly recommended by the CDC, the WHO, the Taney County Health Department as well as by both major healthcare providers in the area and wearing a mask will not cause people to breathe dangerous levels of carbon monoxide. He stated this is not the flu, it is much worse than the flu, and the only thing people have to slow the spread of COVID-19 right now is human behavior. He reported 3.9% of Americans who contracted this disease have died, 15% to 20% are hospitalized or need aggressive care and there is no evidence that herd immunity is effective. He explained a mask mandate does not violate constitutional rights and he mentioned throughout this whole process he's learned a lot and is humbled by all the help, advice knowledge and insight he's received. He mentioned speaking to City and County officials from 10 different communities throughout Missouri, Arkansas and Oklahoma that already have mask ordinances in place. All of them basically told him the same thing, which is they mandated masks for the greater good and overall health of the people of their communities. They all agreed that masks are not the overall the answer to the problem, but legitimate scientific studies show they are the best and least intrusive weapon to help slow the spread of this highly contagious virus right now. So far it's making a difference and mentioned also contacting the offices of Steven Edwards, CEO of Cox Health, William Mahoney, President of Cox Health Branson and, Craig McCoy, President of Mercy Hospital. He requested letters of support on behalf of himself and citizens of the community be sent to the Board in favor of a masking ordinance for the City of Branson, and he was ensured they would do so. He hopes the Board received those letters and mentioned also reaching out and requesting support from Dr. Robin Trotman, the leading infectious disease specialist of Cox Health, who contributed to the latest CDC study regarding Great Clips Hair Salon. He explained this is where two masked stylists infected with COVID-19 came in direct contact with 139 clients, none of whom tested positive for Coronavirus and he believes that study alone proves masking works. Yesterday he contacted two members of this community who own or operate some prominent tourist destinations around here and one not only gave him their support for a mask ordinance, but some very valuable insight and comments. He mentioned they kindly asked him not to drop their name which he respectfully obliges, but he shared some of their thoughts which are that they felt the science of mask-wearing speaks for itself. Mask-wearing doesn't mean there will be no cases, but is proven to prevent those who do contract the virus from spreading it to massive amounts of others who are also wearing masks. Mr. Horsman said they also gave him a very heartfelt comment he agrees with and that is they remembered a time when Americans would do anything to protect the lives of other Americans. We know this virus is spread through respiratory droplets and masks minimize that risk, so why wouldn't people want to wear a mask to save a fellow American from pain, suffering and possibly death. He also spoke to Mary Kellogg, owner of the Titanic Museum, who gave him invaluable information and permission to drop her name. He reported both the Titanic Museums in Branson and Pigeon Forge require masks for all employees and guests and Ms. Kellogg was very adamant in her stance and philosophy to wear a mask, follow the CDC guidelines and the number one priority is to protect her employees. Her guests have the freedom to choose whether or not they want to board her ships, but if they choose to do so they must wear a mask. Their company policy when confronted with a guest who wants to enter her attractions unmasked is simply and calmly to state they understand, but this is the

company's policy at this time. She's faced very little pushback, business is booming, and they've encountered more people in favor of their policy than against it. The bottom line for her is the health and safety of her employees and guests. He's spent a lot of time researching and talking to a lot of people and has heard a lot of people say that wearing a mask is a violation of their Constitutional rights and this is not true. He contacted a Constitutional lawyer to find out and reported when talking about the US Constitution and whether or not a mask mandate violates any kind of Constitutional rights, it does not. The 10th Amendment which gives all powers not enumerated by the Constitution to the states, the powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states are reserved to the states respectively or to the people. He explained this provides for states to have police powers and is the whole basis of the criminal justice and law enforcement system. Among police powers is the power to enact laws and regulations for the good of the public order and public health. He referenced an early 1900s case, *Jacobson v. Massachusetts*, and explained the case pertained to when there was an outbreak of smallpox in Cambridge and the City passed an ordinance requiring everybody to get vaccinated or revaccinated against smallpox. Jacobson refused and was fined five dollars, which is about \$150 today. He argued forced vaccination and jailing or fining him for not being vaccinated violated his Constitutional rights and was unreasonable, arbitrary and oppressive. The court ruled in favor of Massachusetts, saying in every well-ordered society charged with the duty of conserving the safety of its members, the rights of the individual liberties may at times, under the pressure of great dangers, be subjected to such restraint. He further explained it's to be enforced by reasonable regulations for the safety of the general public because real liberty for all could not exist under the operation of a principle that recognizes the right of each individual person to use his own, whether in respect to his person or property, regardless of the injury that may be done the others. The court held the mandatory vaccination policy was not unreasonable, arbitrary or oppressive as long as it did not go beyond what was necessary to protect the public health. Mr. Horsman explained there is no Constitutional law violation under the United States Constitution and Missouri statutory law allows for City, County and State Health Departments to an enact mandates for the purposes of protecting the public health. This can include quarantining people, closing businesses and ordering occupancy limits. The state Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) can issue its own orders, but City and County governments can issue stricter orders if necessary and *Jacobson v. Massachusetts* has been repeatedly upheld by the US Supreme Court. He's presented factual information and asked to be allowed to voice his own opinion. He knows masks are uncomfortable, inconvenient and he doesn't like wearing them himself, but they've been proven to slow the spread of COVID-19 and people are trying to slow the spread of this virus in the community. He's noticed people wearing them more than ever before and believes people are starting to take this more seriously. Major companies are starting to get on board and even Silver Dollar City was the first to lead the charge here in the community and he hasn't heard anything negative coming from there. Like anything else people will get used to it and he reported CDC Director Robert Redfield recently said if everyone would wear a face mask for the next four to six weeks, this epidemic could be driven into the ground. He also said wearing a mask is not a political issue, but is a public health issue and he's glad to see the President and Vice President of the United States wear a mask this week. He feels the bottom line is masks work and he addressed naysayers, anti-maskers, conspiracy theorists and arm chair infectious disease experts who believe mask mandates violate their Constitutional rights. They've spoken out against career scientists, healthcare professionals and professionals in this community who are risking their own lives, working tirelessly every day to save people from this virus. He urged everyone to listen, heed their warnings and wear a mask because if anyone here contracts this virus they will be begging those same people to save their lives. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak and quoted Army Captain Steve Rogers who is renowned worldwide as Captain America who said this is the fight of our lives, we're going to win whatever it takes.

The meeting recessed at 7:47 p.m. and reconvened at 7:54 p.m.

Greg Pope, said he lives in Highlandville, Missouri but his business is in Branson and his was one of the few businesses not financially crippled by this pandemic. He makes whiskey for a living and it was a simple translation for him to go from making whiskey to ethanol-based hand sanitizer. He mentioned the City of Branson even purchased several hundred gallons of it. He shared some data about masks and reported they have a 0.3 micron hole which is incredibly small and roughly one tenth the diameter of a human hair. The COVID-19 virus is a 0.0125 micron and put into perspective, is like a chain link fence trying to inhibit a mosquito from flying through it; they're just not effective. He used to work as an emergency

medical technician and worked in surgical suites and can assuredly say these masks were never designed to prevent a bacteria or a virus. What it was engineered for and what it does reasonably well is maintain a sterile field sterility and while in a surgical suite, people communicating with each other have the potential to put out some spittle, or moisture in breath, which goes right through the mask. Mr. Pope explained what masks do is if somebody like the surgeon in that room has to sneeze, the surgeon will set their instruments down, take a few steps back, sneeze and then someone else will come remove that mask, wash their face and apply a dry mask so they don't contaminate the sterile field or their gloves. All good surgeons will also replace their gloves regardless, and most will even put on a new gown and it's someone's job to just wipe sweat off of their forehead. He added, the masks aren't designed to stop a virus and one of the points he has yet to hear this evening, and he's heard some wonderful facts, is everybody's talking about the increase in caseload. It's irrefutable cases are going up, but as with all things if you look more you find more. He commented there's medical terminology for that, within normal limits (WNL) which is put on a lot of medical records and within normal limits actually stands for we never looked. What people are not seeing is the survivability rate and the latest study he read reported a 99.63% survival rate. He added, at that survival rate who cares. Mr. Pope believes he may have already had the COVID-19 which he contracted between Thanksgiving and Christmas. He recalled when he had a cancer surgery, he woke up from surgery at noon and was back to work at 3:00 p.m. because he doesn't miss work, but he missed three weeks for a respiratory illness that his doctor couldn't diagnosis. He mentioned his doctor gave him steroids, antibiotics and everything under the sun, but nothing touched it and it was strictly respiratory with some digestive discomfort. He hasn't taken a test yet to see if he's positive or not, because he knows from his time working in the medical industry that those tests are inherently wrong. As someone pointed out earlier today, if a person has had the flu vaccine it will test positive and there are literally trillions of coronaviruses and the corona is just a spike off of a cell and there are trillions of them. The reason it's called the novel SARS Coronavirus 2, just means it's new; it doesn't mean that it's any more or any worse than any of the others. Since there are trillions of coronaviruses, how is he supposed to believe that a test that takes a 0.003 to trigger, that it's not one of the other trillions of viruses that are corona-based. He added, because what they're seeking is that protein off of a corona cell and would be asinine to think that's an accurate test, but with all things the more people test the more they'll find. He transitioned out of the medical industry into construction and ultimately into being an inspector and explained the more he looked, the more he found because that's how it works. He pointed out nobody's really talked about the survivability rate which is incredibly high and many different studies have shown hydroxychloroquine does indeed reduce the terminal aspect of the disease. He mentioned Rachel Maddow from the Clinton News Network had to finally say it works, because she was the loudest person beating that drum saying how dare anybody ever recommend an off-label prescription. In the real life medical industry, he knows one of the doctors who was here today and his statements were not his personal statements, they were his corporate statements and he would say it to his face if he were here. He explained he's following the corporate ladder because he's a doctor who makes hundreds of thousands of dollars a year and needs to follow that corporate ladder, because it's his job. He went to school for 12 years and is a boarded specialist, so he has an additional four years of specific training and has a lot of money riding on it. The fact is the survivability of this is still incredibly high and it's less effective than influenza and more people have died in the United States from tuberculosis than have died from COVID-19 since January 1, 2020. He asked where the pandemic is on that and commented, it's a 400 year-old bug so people don't have to worry about that. He knows what the Board is doing and trusts its intelligence. He commented, even though there's been a conversation on both sides of the spectrum, the reality is the vast majority of constituents are opposed to this and everybody had an opportunity to come. He thanked the Board for the moment to speak and told them to have a great day.

Don Ingram, Hollister, Missouri, said he has a business in Branson and has had one in this area since 1978. He expressed he's in favor of the mask ordinance, and while he doesn't particularly like it, he thinks it's something people are going to have to bite the bullet on. He's not going to argue the signage and he hasn't drilled down as deep as some of the other people, but pointed out they aren't epidemiologists. He prefers to go with what the CDC is saying rather than somebody out here in left field and he clarified he's not trying to be demeaning to anyone, but that's the way he sees it. Mr. Ingram explained his first argument is the medical and scientific argument and commented on the freedom argument and said he's a big believer in the Constitution, particularly the Bill of Rights, and those are very important. He also thinks there are limits on freedom in this country and sometimes people have to give up a little bit of freedom to protect everyone and he thinks this is one of those instances. He thinks the hyperbole of comparing it to wearing

the Star of David by the Jews prior to WWII is way out in left field and he understands freedom because his grandfather and his brother were in WWI and his dad was in WWII. He addressed the argument about veterans being against it and mentioned he's a veteran who was sent to Vietnam when he was 19 years old, so not every veteran in this room is opposed to this ordinance. He doesn't buy into the freedom thing and mentioned something else he's heard people say is this will hurt everybody and in his opinion it's already hurt. He added, but it will hurt a whole lot more if Branson becomes a COVID-19 hotspot because it's not willing to take the steps to protect its own people and guests. Mr. Ingram added, so for that reason he requests the Board vote in favor of this ordinance and he thanked them for their time.

Christine Deaton, said she lives in Branson permanently now, but has been coming back and forth for the last nine years. She pointed out nobody's really on the fence with this issue, they're either for masks or against them. She feels she's a very logical thinker and mentioned her husband is an emergency room nurse and they are directly affected by what comes in to the emergency room. She explained for weeks her husband has been on 21-day quarantines because of some exposure in the emergency room. Her house is constantly in some kind of quarantine and what she's saying is this; years ago when the government said no shoes, no shirt, no service, people had to conform. When it said no more smoking in public facilities, people had to conform and sometimes whether it's a personal belief or not, they have to conform. She doesn't think wearing a mask is a forever thing and explained she hates them, but has to wear them in her home because her husband is constantly exposed to the virus. Ms. Deaton mentioned having two grandchildren and a daughter and son-in-law that lives with her right now and they all wear masks in her home. Not only are they trying to prevent the spread amongst themselves, but trying to prevent the spread to anyone else like her 80 year-old mother who doesn't live with them, but she sees several times a week. She commented she's one of the people that if she get COVID-19, she's gone. If it takes wearing a mask for a while and there's a chance it will prevent spreading this disease that people really don't know everything about, then why aren't people doing it. Ms. Deaton explained if the government says to do things like stay six feet apart she's good with it because she doesn't want anyone to give something to her or vice versa. If it says wash your hands for 20 seconds, then for God sake wash your hands for 20 seconds and she mentioned doing it multiple times a day. She's home 90% of the time because she's over 60 years old, has asthma, autoimmune disease and has a lot of things going on and doesn't want to catch it. She believes if it says wear a mask, then just do it until people know more about this because it may be the only preventative right now to stop or slow down the virus. She commented, there's not a cure yet and she doesn't think this is so much to ask of everyone to do right now to help stop the spread of this horrific thing. She's personally lost people in her family and friends from COVID-19 and reported her father-in-law in a nursing home in Arizona just contracted it and most of the people in the nursing home and its workers have COVID-19. She asked people to not look at this as a debate, but as a 1% chance of stopping this virus or slowing it down and she urged everyone to wear a mask.

Mr. Deaton, introduced himself as Ms. Deaton's husband who she was just speaking about who is bringing the potential contamination home all the time. He commented he's the reason his family stays quarantined and his job is the reason he moved into another part of his home and doesn't sleep in his own room. He agreed with Ms. Deaton's comments that this is a temporary change and is not talking about permanent restrictions on people's livelihood. He explained it's a permanent change to do a simple thing that's believed will slow the virus and protect the people around us. He's sure everyone has heard about how their masks protects others and said he's not wearing the mask here today because he's afraid of getting something from someone, but wears it because he doesn't want anyone to catch anything he might have come into contact with. For those who choose not to wear a mask, choose to go into these places that either don't require or encourage wearing a mask, he thinks it's a shame they don't have common courtesy for him, his wife, grandchildren or their neighbors who may be at risk. He added, shame on those who think this is a falsehood or political ploy because he guarantees people can go into hospitals, ICUs and morgues across the country and find evidence to the contrary. He thanked businesses for their forethought and caring for their customers and guests by requiring masks to be worn which he feels protects everyone. He believes if the City says to wear a mask, it's choosing to do so to protect people and he doesn't know what the fight would be over that. He addressed the people who choose to go into places not wearing a mask and thanked them because he believes they're job security for him.

Richie Zates, 1029 Cliff Drive, Branson, Missouri, stated he doesn't like the shaming process he keeps hearing. He said it's already been established the micron level of the mask doesn't work and his major was neurophysiology and he feels this is all nonsense. He went on to state people are actually putting themselves at more risk by breathing in contaminants on a continual basis and people have been passing out from the lack of oxygen. Mr. Zates stated he has personal friends who have said their family members did not have COVID, but they were assigned that ailment by someone at the hospital so he believes there is not accurate data and this is not the answer. He expressed there has to be freedom and told a story about his grandfather coming to America to get away from Stalin who was starving people who owned farms, so he has a very strong feeling about liberty and freedom. He believes the Board is going to make the right decision and allow masks to be a personal decision. He added, there has to be maintained rights to have a maintenance of freedom. Mr. Zates expressed any type of policy that would take away rights, is in truth, insanity and is contrary to everything that was established for this country. He stated the micron level tells that masks are not beneficial and people can still get sick. He added this is a common cold and it's been drawn out of proportion. He pointed out there seems to be some skewing and rearrangement of numbers and facts going on which should be taken into consideration when making decisions. He asked the Board to maintain the freedoms of citizens. He stated the majority of the people are opposed and he sees the majority of people without masks. He explained what people are really getting is not the truth, but propaganda and he's not going to buy into it. He doesn't wear a mask and it's not because he's trying to be rebellious, he's trying to stay healthy and he recommended the Board get their masks off as quickly as they can after leaving the chambers. He pointed out if they're walking around the streets with it, then they're just breaking down their own immune systems. He concluded by stating there have been plenty of very viable experts making statements over and over again about the fact that masks are not effective. If they're not effective, he asked why they are being proposed to be used and he hopes the Board makes the right decision and maintain rights.

Eric Harlem, said he's not going to debate scientific facts but feels this whole thing has failed from the beginning by federal legislature which has trickled down to everyone. He expressed if people want to wear masks that's fine and if they don't that's fine too. He inquired 90 days from now what else was going to happen and he reminded everyone, during the AIDS epidemic people didn't wear condoms. He added, everyone wants to talk about the science of a virus, but its human nature and there are always going to be people who want to lick windows, so it's not going to matter. Mr. Harlem said the Board can mandate this all they want but it's not going to change anything and at some point everyone is going to get this virus if it's that bad. He recalled three weeks ago, sand came here from Africa which is five thousand miles away and he asked if anybody remembered that. He explained if a garage door breaks and needs fixed, he doesn't wear a mask because when a garage door is shut it's 130 degrees and he's not in the best shape, but feels everyone has responsibilities to themselves and neighbors. He's not had anyone close to him who's died from the virus, but knows some who have and also knows people who didn't die from COVID-19, but it was reported as COVID-19. He expressed there are elected officials for a certain reason and suggested having a simple website where registered voters can login to view every piece of legislation and securely vote yes or no and that's the vote that would go to Congress. He feels if constituents could securely log onto a website and vote, then the Board could see everything their constituents voted on and they would have a true vote of the people. This process would be quick and easy and he could build the website himself. He added he was running for the House of Representatives 7th District. He said there are people killing cops for no reason and people killing each other over colors and asked the Board to set the precedent. He feels the economy has already been destroyed and there are a lot of people that aren't going to come back from it and suicide rates are going to be higher. He believes at the end of the year the calls to officers are going to be higher, yet people are calling to defund the police which is the most ignorant thing he's ever heard. He explained when the police are defunded, it's taking freedoms away as well and these are the people he would worry about, adding he would wear a mask for First Responders and the elderly. He said he's had people spit in his face with every possible disease as he worked at Mercy for a long time and didn't get sick from anything. He's not saying COVID-19 is any different, but asked the Board to remove the science and politics and think about it. He added, we can't even get people to pull their pants up, how are we going to get them to wear a mask? Mr. Harlem mentioned there's a fine for not wearing a seatbelt which can cost people their lives, yet he sees people texting on their phones every day. No one can stop human nature or ignorance, whether it be the ignorance of not wearing a mask or wearing a mask. He has been in the Branson area for a long time and loves it, but is absolutely done with it the COVID-19 stuff. He

explained he doesn't care about the politics or scientific fact, because its human nature which is not going to change. He commented those who are at risk can be at risk and wear their own masks, but don't force it upon somebody else. He pointed out as with religion or anything else, it's a freedom that is held dear and he saw this coming and was prepared for it. He mentioned his business is okay, but unfortunately he couldn't get anybody else to listen. He feels the Board has been very patient and told them to have a great day. He concluded by telling officers to be safe and thanked everyone.

Unknown Speaker (didn't provide name), commented most people in the area like President Trump because of things he's done like bringing the economy back, bringing liberty back, doing away with the Trans Pacific Partnership in which there were effort to try ad merge with Mexico, the Paris Accord and Trump has gotten the United States out of all this globalist stuff. He explained, that's why there's such a division in the country because the globalists who are making the one-world government do not want to lose. He noted President Trump says we're fighting an invisible enemy and he's not only talking about a virus, but he's talking about the deep state. He's studied this for years because he wanted to know how the Antichrist was all of a sudden going to build a one-world government and he explained this has been going on for years. He added, what these people do is bring the chaos and then when they bring order they take a little bit more of people's rights away. He stated the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) actually gave money to a bio weapon called a chimera virus. He explained Francis Boyle who was under President Reagan, made laws against the chimera virus, but level four labs have been making these viruses for biological warfare. He further explained there was one that was raised specifically for China and was being worked on in the Wuhan level four lab in conjunction with the United States. This is part of a many pronged attack to bring the world into a one-world government and he explained the Antichrist will come and Jesus is coming, so welcome to the End Times. He said he's a minister who most of the time is getting people saved and looking to the light of the world, but he got to speak up because people are being duped to go along with the deep state agenda. He explained part of getting masks on people is to get the Board to bow its knee a little bit. He's said there's a precedent for everybody getting the vaccine, but if they take Bill Gate's vaccine they're going to have big problems and these viruses leave little tracks on the lab where they were made. He explained Black Lives Matter (BLM) is doing the same thing because President Trump was having such a great affect against the globalists. Prior to BLM, there were other groups called something else like the red hats or green shirts in different countries all over the world. He reported some of the Black Lives Matter protestors are paid and now in this country's education system, people are led to believe they want to be socialists and get rid of white privilege. They're willingly duped and are paid by George Soros to destabilize countries, and if Trump is going to be re-elected they'd have to put up with four more years of him knocking their hidden agendas and exposing pedophiles. Ever since President Trump was elected, thousands of pedophiles are being arrested which never happened under President Obama. He said this is because the power structure is shifting and people from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) are working to win this war for the country it doesn't become part of a one-world government. He believes if the CDC or WHO say to do something, don't do it because the WHO is taking over. He reminded everyone when Hillary Clinton was caught off mic while campaigning and said if Donald Trump gets elected, we'll all be hanging from the gallows and he said she was right. He doesn't care if people are democrat or republican, but believes everyone wants to stay alive, have freedom and don't want to be taken over by the globalists' agenda. He added, this mask issue that's being decided on right now is a microcosm thing that's a small part of the globalists' agenda and they are now making their move like a big wave. He urged the Board reject them, stand up and be a patriot by saying no. He feels people should govern themselves and not take what Washington, D.C. has to say from these alphabet soup agencies that have been taking over. He pointed out the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the same way; people can't even mine coal anymore because it makes these regulations so people can't make money. He explained another prong of their attack is with the carbon gasses, because they want everyone to stop working and for the economy to shut down, which he feels should have never shut down. He speculated if China released the virus, a lot of people are sick and now there's no money to finance anything else in the entire country. He said he doesn't get sick anyway because he has Jesus and walks in faith. He pointed out the deaths are going down, but cases are going up because of false tests and people are hyping the fear and the next thing they're going to do is vaccinations. He feels we're fighting an invisible enemy which is the Antichrist and one-world government coming against the United States, trying to bring it down. He expressed he loves people, but doesn't love sin and if someone's in sin, he loves the person. He commented there are bad cops sometimes, but there's a bad everything and people have got

to fight against the deep state. He pointed out that's why the Governor didn't mandate masks because he knows what President Trump knows since the President talks to the Governors and he's sidelining the CDC and the WHO and other organizations that are trying to hype this up, get everyone afraid and wearing masks. Everyone has to make up their minds whether they're going to go along with God or go along with all the deep state stuff coming in and taking control. He loves people, doesn't want anybody to die and he prays for people and they get healed all the time. He prays against the virus which some people say is just hocus pocus, but it really works and he asked how many people are dying of it just like the regular flu. He inquired if the country is going to shut down again and weaken everyone a little bit more, so they can't buy healthy foods or make the next investment for the growth and prosperity of the United States. He explained America is the apple of the eye of the world and he asked the Board to vote against this deep state agenda. He believes if the Board makes people wear masks, people are probably going to bring some lawsuits. He concluded by expressing people don't want to wear masks due to the negative health effects and are going to be suing the City.

Alan Pena, 277 Walnut Street, Hollister, Missouri, stated he's observed a lot of people who are pro-masks and do the exact same thing he does which is take off their masks so they can speak better. As a veteran, one of his jobs was in nuclear biological chemical warfare where he learned the proper use of masks and used masks that covered the face fully including the eyes, nostrils and mouth. He commented, masks today do not and he noted that no one here who's pro-mask has their eyes covered with goggles, which means they're only getting partial protection. He pointed out a few issues with the ordinance and mentioned the exception for children 13 years of age or younger and he asked if they are immune to it the virus. He added, when people are dining and they take their masks down, it's not like they're all of a sudden immune when dining. Mr. Pena inquired if those with exempt medical conditions were immune all of a sudden because they're not wearing a mask. He stated they can still transmit COVID-19, but the survivability rate is pretty high. Mr. Pena commented for those people who are pro-mask or worried about their health, then wear a mask, but if he wants to protest by not wearing a mask and gets fined, that impedes on his First Amendment right to free speech.

Steve (didn't provide last name), 193 Avondale, Branson, Missouri, said he's a Certified Six Sigma Black Belt which is a statistical analyst. He mentioned trying to do a statistical analysis based on all the information, but couldn't due to all the garbage coming in; some of it's real, some of it's not. He stated the problem with all of this is people are shaming each other, families are going at it which is really ripping this country apart. He commented, he goes to Walmart and pretty much everyone is wearing a mask, but goes to shows and nobody's wearing a mask. He mentioned asking older guys who aren't wearing a mask why they don't wear a mask and they tell him they've survived Korea or Vietnam and they're not worried about this and they won't come here if they have to wear a mask. It's impossible to make an intelligent decision on this without statistical analysis of proper data which doesn't exist right now and of 340 million people in this country, 120,000 of them died. He explained anyone can do the simple math on that, but asked how many people have contracted it which is something no one will ever know because they're not going to test 340 million people. He stated his wife died of cancer last year after a two-year battle, she was going through chemo and radiation and he wasn't here marching for a mask even though she could have gotten a simple common cold and die because her immune system was shot. He mentioned she just went out; she didn't even wear a mask; she wasn't afraid and he feels it's a personal choice. If he were to go into a nursing home, he'd wear a mask but if he was going to grade school, he wouldn't wear one because kids are not susceptible to it. He pointed out if family members are outside then it's okay to be close, but everybody else has to be six feet apart and he questioned why family members can't give it to each other and only strangers can. He commented, that's what it's saying and he feels that logic doesn't hold water, because if there's six feet, there's six feet and he mentioned his daughter could give it to him just as easily as a stranger. He continued, all of this has to be taken into consideration, but it shouldn't be done out of emotion and fear. He stated there's shaming going on in this town and it's ridiculous for people to shame each other; it's pure division. He's 60 years old, has smoked for 40 years and he's not afraid of it. He mentioned he's been wearing a mask about seven and a half hours and now he has a headache, his neck hurts and he's not going to do it. He explained he cares about his fellow man, but it's not his responsibility to keep them healthy; it's his responsibility to keep himself healthy and he'll do whatever he needs to do for that.

Michael Junge, 709 Veterans Boulevard, Branson, Missouri, said he owns Lost Boys Barber Company and appreciates the time taken to listen to all of the viewpoints. He commented in his business he hasn't told his employees that they have to wear masks and as a barbershop, it is sanitizing between clients. He mentioned when people come into his barber shop they ask if they have to wear a mask and he tells them it's a personal choice. Mr. Junge reported 95% of the people who walk-in with masks on say they only brought it because they thought they needed to. He continued with an example of a medical guy who came in wearing a mask and thought it was awesome he didn't have to wear his mask so he took it off. He believes it should be his right to choose whether he wants to wear a mask or not and questioned people who are scared of getting COVID-19 why they would be coming to his barber shop. He commented his business is not an essential business, but feels all businesses are essential because people have families and employees. Mr. Junge said as a tourist town, people are coming here because it's family-friendly, it's in the Bible Belt and if the Board takes a stand tonight and says it's not going to mandate wearing masks, he thinks they will see a massive insurgence of people. Tourism affects his job because if a server is laid off, they don't get a haircut because they don't have the money, so everyone is in this together. He feels the Board making the decision whether or not he puts a stupid piece of cloth over his face, in his personal opinion, infringes on his right to choose.

Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. Discussion. Alderman Milton provided the Board with a handout. (See attached handout)

Alderman Skains left the meeting at 9:02 p.m. and returned at 9:04 p.m.

Mayor Akers asked for a call for the vote. Alderman Simmons moved to amend Bill No. 5837 as follows [changes indicated in red]:

Sec. 58-387 – Personal Conduct Prohibited

(11) Any person engaged in public speaking who maintains a minimum physical distance of six feet from others who are not family members or who reside together; and

(12) Any public safety officer engaged in an emergency situation;

(13) Any person during a wedding ceremony or while photographs of the wedding and reception are taken; and

(14) Any family member of a deceased person during a funeral, interment, or memorial

Section 58-389 – Signage Required for Business Operations

“1. IT IS A VIOLATION OF THE LAW TO ENTER THE PREMISES WITHOUT A FACE COVERING. IF YOU DO NOT FEEL WELL PLEASE GO HOME.

Section 3: This ordinance shall be in full force and effect at 12:01 AM on July 20, 2020 after its passage by the Board of Aldermen and approval by the Mayor and remain in effect until 11:59 PM August 20, 2020 at which time the Sections above will be repealed in their entirety. ~~unless extended by the Emergency Management Director and the City Administrator.~~

~~Section 4: The Board of Aldermen hereby authorize the Emergency Management Director and the City Administrator to extend this ordinance by order if necessary, to protect the health, welfare and life of citizens of the City against the introduction or spread of contagious diseases in the City.~~

Seconded by Alderman Milton. Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board on the amendment. No discussion. Mayor Akers called for a vote on the amendment. Voting aye: Whiteis,

Simmons, Skains, Milton and Seay. Nays: None. Absent: McConnell. Motion carried. Discussion. Alderman Milton moved to call for the vote on Bill No. 5837 as amended, seconded by Alderman Seay.

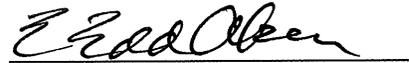
The meeting recessed at 9:57 p.m. and reconvened at 10:03 p.m.

Alderman Skains made a motion to postpone Bill No. 5837 to July 21, 2020, seconded by Alderman Seay. City Attorney Chris Lebeck clarified now there's a subsidiary motion which overrides the main motion. Discussion. Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board on the motion to postpone. Discussion. Mayor Akers called for a vote on the postponement of Bill No. 5837. Voting aye: Milton and Seay. Nays Whiteis, Simmons and Skains. Absent: McConnell. Motion failed. Discussion. Alderman Skains moved to postpone Bill No. 5837 to July 28, 2020 at 2:00 p.m., seconded by Alderman Whiteis. Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board on the motion to postpone. No discussion. Voting aye: Whiteis, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Seay. Nays: None. Absent: McConnell. Motion carried. City Clerk Lisa Westfall clarified for the record Bill No. 5837 has been postponed on the motion to call for a vote. It will come back under a motion to call for a vote since there's a motion and second on that.

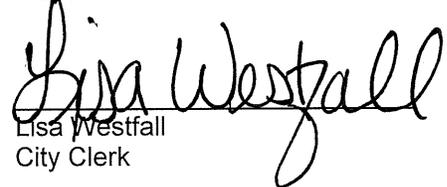
Note: Bill No. 5837 was postponed to July 28, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. to convene as a Special Meeting of the Board of Aldermen.

ADJOURN

Mayor Akers asked for a motion to adjourn. Alderman Skains moved to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Milton. Voting aye: Whiteis, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Seay. Nays: none. Absent: McConnell. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:11 p.m.



E. Edd Akers
Mayor



Lisa Westfall
City Clerk

Missouri COVID-19 Dashboard



Cases - Overview Cases - Demographics Cases - County Testing - PCR

Testing - Serology Deaths

READ OF COVID-19 IN MISSOURI

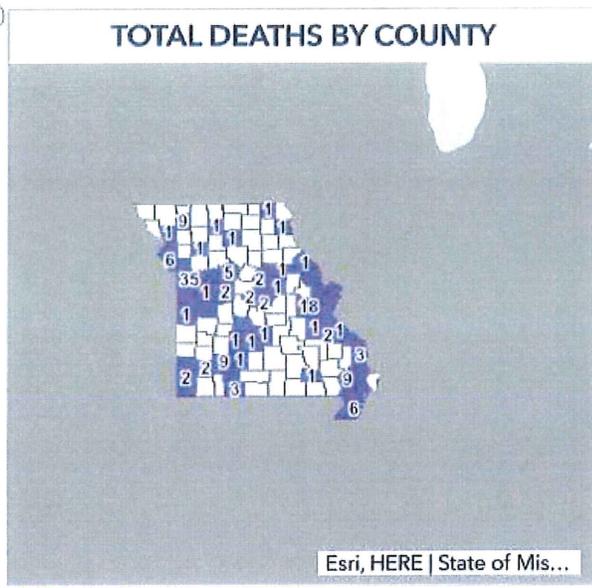
Page last updated

1,967 Deaths from
P&I 2020

1,102

Deaths Attributed to COVID-1

0.037 chance of
death from Covid



Deaths by Race

WHITE 58.43%

*Other includes: Asian, Indian, Pa...

Death by Ethnicit

HISPANIC 85.47%

Deaths By Biolog

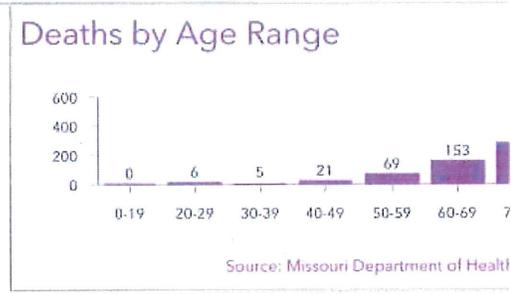
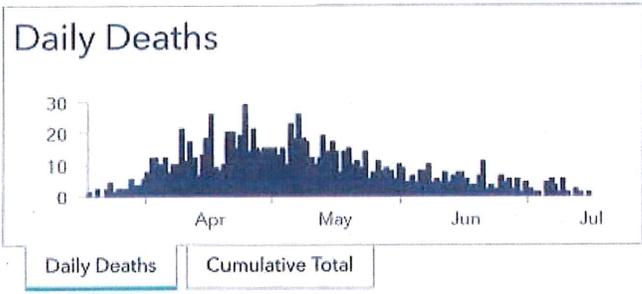
Male : 533

Female: 567

**Some deaths do not initially cor... will be updated as it is received

29,714

Lab Confirmed Cases in Missouri as of 2 pm Today



7/16/2020 Handout

IT IS A VIOLATION OF THE LAW TO ENTER THE PREMISES WITHOUT A FACE COVERING. IF YOU DO NOT FEEL WELL GO HOME.

PLEASE MAINTAIN AT LEAST SIX FEET (6') OF DISTANCE BETWEEN

INDIVIDUALS THAT ARE NOT FAMILY MEMBERS OR DO NOT RESIDE TOGETHER.

**IT IS A VIOLATION OF
THE LAW TO ENTER
THE PREMISES
WITHOUT A FACE
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LEAST SIX FEET (6') OF
DISTANCE BETWEEN
INDIVIDUALS THAT ARE**

**NOT FAMILY MEMBERS
OR DO NOT RESIDE
TOGETHER.**

Handout Submitted by Alderman Milton

Alderman Milton handout 7/16/2020

Updated July 16, 2020

Week ending date in which the death occurred	All Deaths involving COVID-19 (U07.1) ^a	Deaths from All Causes	Percent of Expected Deaths ^a	Deaths involving Pneumonia, with or without COVID-19, excluding Influenza deaths (J12.0-J18.9) ^a	Deaths involving COVID-19 and Pneumonia, excluding Influenza (U07.1 and J12.0-J18.9) ^a	All Deaths involving Influenza, with or without COVID-19 or Pneumonia (J09-J11), includes COVID-19 or Pneumonia ^a	Deaths involving Pneumonia, Influenza, or COVID-19 (U07.1 or J09-J18.9) ^a
Total Deaths	123,995	1,405,336	107	133,296	53,521	6,532	209,345
2/1/2020	0	58,341	98	3,776	0	478	4,254
2/8/2020	1	59,099	99	3,779	0	519	4,299
2/15/2020	0	58,373	100	3,805	0	554	4,359
2/22/2020	5	58,371	99	3,659	1	562	4,225
2/29/2020	6	58,538	102	3,778	3	643	4,424
3/7/2020	34	58,655	101	3,906	16	624	4,547
3/14/2020	52	57,694	101	3,899	27	611	4,534
3/21/2020	563	58,549	103	4,498	250	549	5,353
3/28/2020	3,133	62,520	112	6,127	1,415	440	8,235
4/4/2020	9,913	71,746	128	9,845	4,718	477	15,281
4/11/2020	16,029	78,461	142	11,904	7,179	472	20,886
4/18/2020	16,928	76,133	141	11,311	7,264	263	21,051
4/25/2020	15,261	73,060	136	10,268	6,543	143	19,033
5/2/2020	12,997	68,319	127	8,842	5,466	64	16,417
5/9/2020	10,983	65,572	124	7,696	4,641	46	14,075
5/16/2020	8,972	62,896	120	6,601	3,705	19	11,884
5/23/2020	6,984	59,608	114	5,705	2,904	22	9,803
5/30/2020	5,921	56,843	110	5,047	2,397	10	8,581
6/6/2020	4,738	55,281	106	4,613	2,036	11	7,326
6/13/2020	3,863	53,233	103	4,133	1,723	11	6,281
6/20/2020	3,258	51,142	99	3,797	1,383	5	5,677
6/27/2020	2,501	46,892	91	3,161	1,032	8	4,638
7/4/2020	1,440	36,602	70	2,126	619	0	2,947
7/11/2020	413	19,408	38	1,020	199	1	1,235