



AGENDA NO: I

MEETING DATE: April 1, 2020

**AGENDA CORRESPONDENCE
RECEIVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL
FOLLOWING POSTING OF THE AGENDA IS ATTACHED
FOR PUBLIC REVIEW PRIOR TO THE MEETING**

Dana Swanson

From: Carolyn Brinkman [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2020 12:50 PM
To: Dana Swanson
Cc: John Heading; Robert Davis; Marlys McPherson; Dawn Addis; Jeffrey Heller
Subject: Ordinance No. 631

From: Carolyn Brinkman [REDACTED], Morro Bay

To: City Council

Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020

Subject: Ordinance No. 631 on COVID-19 emergency measures

First, I want to thank Council, the City Manager/Director of Emergency Services, and all the City staff who have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic crisis quickly, providing us with vital information and taking emergency measures that will help prevent the spread of the virus.

I fully understand the seriousness of the pandemic and appreciate the huge responsibility the Council and City Manager as Director of Emergency Services have for ensuring our safety. I also understand the importance of Ordinance No. 631 as part of the City's effort to control the spread of COVID-19.

I do have a couple of questions, concerns, and suggestions relating to the ordinance and its enforcement.

—Will the City be providing specific public information about what the ordinance covers but in more accessible language? This seems particularly important since the most specific information about what we should and shouldn't be doing to protect ourselves and others is in documents referenced in the ordinance, especially in the County's "Local Emergency Order and Regulation No. 4." I doubt that many residents will read the ordinance and the supporting documents from the Governor or from the County that further define the content of the City's ordinance. But word will get out about the \$1,000 fine for violating its mandates. I think there will be a great deal of confusion about what we can and can't do when we need to leave our homes—what are "essential activities" and "essential travel". Clearing up that confusion is critical.

—How serious is the City about fining people \$1,000 for violating the regulations set out in the ordinance? Maybe a lesser fine would be more effective. For example, people are regularly ignoring the six-feet-of-social-distance rule and are gathering outside in groups. Those are pretty clearcut violations. But are our police officers really going to write citations with a \$1,000 fine for these simple-to-see but serious violations? If the City wants the fine to work, the officers have to actually fine some people, not just hand out warnings.

I hope the City will continue its helpful public information campaign and provide specific coverage of what the ordinance expects residents to do to protect themselves and others. I hope the Council will consider whether a lesser fine would be more likely to be a deterrent. If police officers are to be empowered to enforce the ordinance, the fine needs to be one that officers will actually levy by way of a citation. Otherwise, at \$1,000, I believe the fine will be seen as just a threat.

With Appreciation,

Carolyn Brinkman



April 1, 2020

Honorable Mayor and City Council,

The Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce has been pleased to work closely with the city as we all work through these difficult economic times. I know we all look forward to getting back to “normal”, whatever that will eventually look like. We have also been pleased with the city’s sensitivity to the economic damage that has been caused to our community’s businesses. Please know that the Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce, and the business community in general, appreciates the damage that this crisis is doing to the city’s finances and its organization. We are partners in this and will get through it together.

Tonight you are considering several items that will benefit businesses that have been significantly affected by the economic downturn, the deferment of TOT payments for February and March to August 31, 2020 and waiver of late fees for Tidelands Trust Leases. Thanks for this consideration. These items are several that the Chamber identified as possible ways to ease the burden on businesses, without sacrificing city revenues.

Our staff and 24 volunteer business leaders remain ready, willing and able to assist the city in the economic recovery.

With Gratitude,

Erica D. Crawford

President/CEO

Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce