

June 22nd, 2021

Town Hall | COVID-19 Lockdown Impacts | Recap Notes

- Danielle Myers – President of Chamber. They are starting to develop ideas on how to restructure and reinvigorate commercial enterprise in Brownsville. Trying to get outside \$ in. They are committed to listening and trying to help. Put a plug in to get people to join the Chamber.
- Jenna Stutzman – VP & Social Media Person for the Chamber. Talked about the Chamber restructuring via FB and you tube videos. Launched a new website. Talked about recent passport tour, upcoming monthly newsletter. Talked about getting back to event season. She hopes we can support each other and be successful together.
- Karen Crews – Brownsville Saloon – Luckily they have other businesses that supported them thru the pandemic. They were shutdown for 2 months, limited hours and staff. Hard to get folks back to work now. Then CDC says to check vaccination cards. We are not going to do that. We are going to make it, but she is at her wits end. Frustrated with all the requirements and monitoring. Because of the folks in this little town, we have survived.
- Mari Vanderstelt – Yankee Dutch Quilting. Very tired, exhausted. Excruciating watching the town die. Would have been nice to have been more supported by Council, not sure what Council could have done legally. She has passed out about 400 masks. Frustrated with spies around town, just waiting to turn people in. Super grateful to have her business in this town.
- Linda McCormick – LCPA & Stand By Me organizer. Talked about the PP event, and the upcoming SBM event. Blah blah blah....
- Pam Solburg – Retired – Studio 709 – She stated that she has a business in this town for 40 years. It has been heartbreaking to see people so fearful that they are turning businesses in for noncompliance. Very animated. Felt strongly against all the rules and regulations. Applause from the crowd!
- Marshall McManus – 1st Rate Roofing. Business not affected by the shutdowns. Except for the fact that he cannot hire workers now. They have been getting those unemployment checks, and now don't want to work. He

is being hard hit by this shortage. Some people are still fearful to be out in the world. If folks are fearful, they should wear their masks and social distance.

- Ira White – 103 Blakely – retired USDA food inspector. He stated that the laces such as FL, TX, Sweden, that did not do the masks and lockdowns have not felt as much impact as the lock downed states. Masks do not work, and social distancing is silly. Airborne virus travels a long way. He encourages Council to open the City with no restrictions.
- Allen Buzzard – Stated he did not turn anyone in. Thanked the crowd, council, staff for showing up tonight. His teeny tiny business suffered greatly thru the pandemic. He's checked with others. Pandemic boon to some businesses while very hard on restaurants. Impact has been uneven.
- Dayna Hansen - Not too Shabee – Her business is open to the public. Lots of out of state shoppers. Lots of confusion on Oregon rules, why still shut down. Thanked the Chamber for their efforts. Her business has only survived because of the town. Would be nice to have a unified effort to respond to the governor. OR among the last 5 states to reopen. Thankful to be here in Brownsville.
- Kati Kallai – VP CLRA & Basketball Director. Talked about sports seasons, and lack thereof. Impact on kids has been huge. Implored council to open the gym. Willing to follow guidance, and whatever they have to do.
- Dawnita Nealon – VB Coach @ CLHS. Mental standpoint on the kids has been horrible. Short sports season, but better than nothing. Anxiety levels are thru the roof. Begged to open Rec Ctr. Huge loss to their programs.

Letters read into the record by SM

- Max Worthing – Bville Fitness Center. Took Covid outbreak seriously. It did affect their business, but they survived. Would feel terrible if because of their negligence in following the rules, someone got sick, or even died, from their facility.

- Marilee Frazier/Cindy Stucky – Senior Center. Very hard hit by pandemic. 1/3 of usual paid members. Unable to hold functions. Would be very helpful to help with rent costs (\$2,724) for the rest of this year.
- Joni Nelson – Pandemic difficult for many, but most difficult and heartbreaking for those who have lost their lives or the lives of loved ones. Path of caution and care the Governor has taken, has saved many lives and led to the relatively good condition in which we in Oregon find ourselves now. Saddened and concerned to see a national political agenda being presented here as a “grass roots” movement. I think it is asking for a colossal waste of time and energy by our City Council and administration to pursue action on Councilor Craven’s proposal.
- Dr. Kirt Glenn – email – Appreciates City being mindful of the local businesses. Have taken out loans to survive pandemic. Only back to about 80% operationally. Please encourage people to get out and support local businesses.
- Armandos Restaurant – SM oral report. Gerardo says that they have been barely scraping by. Hopeful that the lockdown will end soon. Encourage folks to come out and support him. Another lockdown would likely kill his business.
- Main Street Reflections Salon – oral report by Councilor Craven. Completely closed their business, reducing their income by 100%. Have lost workers due to pandemic fear. Another lockdown would likely kill their business.
- Andrew Kinder – born and raised here. Respectively reminded Council that they work for the community; they are sitting up there to do the job for us, the citizens. He can only imagine you voting one way tonight to do the best for the community.
- Eric Gerber – husband of Carla. The pandemic has been hard. We need to recognize that it has been a pandemic. Not good choices to be had. He thinks it is turning into too much of a political issue. Brownsville has always worked so well because we don’t get involved in the national politics. Council’s job is to move the community forward together. He thinks Councilor Craven’s proposal will be divisive.

- Scott McDowell explained the City's position. It is terrible for everyone. It is terrible being the city administrator. Guidelines are very hard. We can't afford to open the rooms due to the stringent cleaning protocols. The City would be assuming that liability. We cannot do that with community dollars. We always try to use those dollars forward, not pay fines with them. To clarify Councilor Craven did not write the resolution, it came from Harrisburg. It was modified a bit. This community has a heart for volunteers and a heart to be together.
- Councilor Craven. Shared covid-19 information facts with Council by handout. Talked at length (read statement) about individual freedoms and rights. Asked council to pass this resolution tonight to address the issue.