

From the Mayor June 2020

Last month the City Council unanimously passed Resolution 20-13 titled "*Constitutional and Business Friendly Community Resolution*". I have asked that it be printed in the Ham Laker this month for all to see. Its blunt and strait to the point. We believe that the shutdown order is unconstitutional and unfair to say the least. Businesses are being subjected to heavy handed bullying without due process. The decisions are being made by one man without going through a legislative process. The powers to be are picking and choosing winners and losers and we've had enough.

Does it make sense that shopping Walmart, Target, Fleet Farm, Home Depot, all hardware stores, all gas stations, and many other "essential" businesses is fine but you're not allowed to shop at a mom and pop shop in Ham Lake? Did you know that if a furniture store sells an office chair then it's considered essential? Yea, well it makes me mad as well! I'd just like to get a haircut and attend my church. Funny how I can be in a big box store with 500 others and that's OK, but I can't attend my church of about 70 people. Totally wrong! If I can practice social distancing and wear a mask in Menards and be considered safe, then I can do the same at my church, my barber, and even when I order a hamburger.

The discussion leading up to the Resolution varied from constitutionality to civil disobedience and everything in between but it was clear that this City Council, the Chamber of Commerce, and our citizens are running out of patients. I have to keep this brief. Ham Lakers are intelligent folks who can think for themselves. I just want to leave you with some items that were discussed.

One topic discussed vigorously was the extent of emergency powers being forced on us. It's interesting to know that 3 states that border us have no "stay at home" orders. The fourth, Wisconsin, just got slammed by the courts and was liberated. Here's a thought. Why wouldn't Walz consider letting County Boards decide what course of action they want? Itasca County is a far cry from Hennepin and Ramsey County, yet we are all ruled as if we are the same. We're not.

Kudos to Governor Walz for his aggressive action in the beginning working with the U of M, Mayo, etc. Great work hustling to get more testing and PPE in place. That's great. Unfortunately, none of the secret models used came to fruition. The goal posts keep getting moved. The number of people dying doesn't match the estimates. We know the stats. 80% of deaths are in long term facilities. The average age of deaths from COVID-19 is 82. We were told to shut down so that we wouldn't overwhelm our medical facilities. Well, we never did so let's open up and get back to work. We're not all in this together. Government, big box stores, big corps are all doing fine while the little guy loses everything they've worked for....by executive order.