

DE QUEEN, Ark.—COPYRIGHT TEXARKANA GAZETTE

The De Queen City Council unanimously passed a resolution Tuesday urging all of the city's residents and visitors to wear face masks when in public settings.

The resolution was drafted prior to Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson's executive order on Friday that allows cities across the state to require masks.

De Queen's resolution does not require face masks but strongly recommends them.

The resolution was drafted by concerned resident Victor Rojas.

"We've been hit pretty hard in Sevier County. Dr. Lofton, as County Health Officer, has done what he can to encourage people to wear masks but I think a resolution just brings greater importance to the issue," Rojas said.

Rojas said he drafted the resolution and sent it to Mayor Jeff Brown last week and Brown placed the item on the agenda for Tuesday's meeting. The board voted unanimously to pass the resolution.

"I spoke briefly at the meeting. It's a good first step and all we are asking is that people wear a mask and be careful. It's a good step for the City to take," Rojas said..

As of Tuesday when the council voted, Sevier County had reached 758 cases with 86 active positives and nine deaths.