

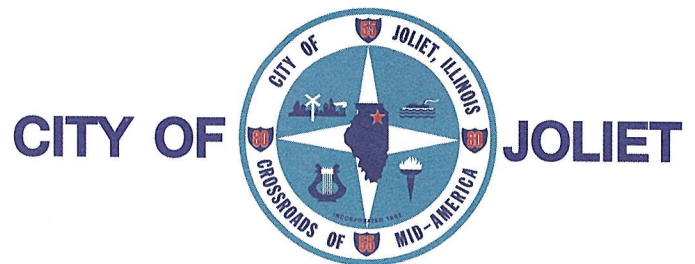
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
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Over the past few days the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Governor Pritzker have issued advisories pertaining to preventing the spread of COVID-19. As a result, the City of Joliet is taking action to handle the current situation, as well as plan for the potential of a widespread pandemic within our community. The following actions are underway:

1. **Public Meetings**. The City will implement a protocol to allow for critical meetings to be held, utilizing the recommended social distancing guidelines as recommended by the CDC. The decision to hold, or cancel meetings, will be based upon a determination of need. The City seeks to balance the necessity to continue effective governmental operations, with a concern for minimizing physical contact.
 - a. *March 16 Public Service*. To be held at 4:30 PM as scheduled.
 - b. *March 16 Pre-Council*. Cancelled
 - c. *March 17 Finance Committee*. To be held at 5:30 as scheduled
 - d. *March 17 Public Safety Committee*. To be held at 6:00 pm as scheduled.
 - e. *March 17 Council Meeting*. To be held at 6:30 as scheduled. (Please note- neither of the public hearings scheduled for this meeting will be conducted. Both will be continued to a future date).
 - f. *Advisory committees and commissions*. Check City website for status.
2. **State of Emergency**. Due to the uncertain community effects and unknown duration of the COVID-19 threat, the Mayor's Office is declaring a Local State of Emergency in accordance with City Codes. The declaration will allow flexibility in rule making and financial expenditures that may become necessary.
3. **City Staff**. Staff will continue to deliver the community the current high level of service expected. Precautions are being taken to identify staff members who may be placed upon split shifts or work remotely in order to minimize public service risk should the COVID-19 virus infect staff members.
4. **Senior Resources/Assistance to Quarantined Individuals**. The City is examining what resources may be tapped to aid with senior citizens, or individuals who may become quarantined. Communications on resources will be provided once further information is available.

5. **Utility Billing/Fines.** To encourage on-line payment of City billing or fines during the duration of the State of Emergency, the City will provide a credit (effective March 16, 2020) for credit card service charges incurred in paying a bill. Late fees will be waived during the period of the State of Emergency.
6. **Water Shut-Offs.** To maintain health and sanitation during the State of Emergency, all water shut offs will be suspended.
7. **City Facilities & Operation.** At the present time, the City intends to continue operations at all City Facilities. Extraordinary cleaning of public areas is presently being conducted and social distancing will be implemented for those visiting the facilities.
8. **Restaurants & Bars.** The Governor has mandated that restaurants and bars across the State are to be closed from Monday evening (March 16) until March 30. The City will be working to ensure this mandatory closure is followed. The ban does not apply to delivery of food, or drive-up/drive-through orders.
9. **COVID- 19 Communications.** A Bilingual resource page is on the City website at www.joliet.gov pertaining to the virus. This page will be used for community updates and information pertaining to the pandemic. It is likely the City will continue to arrange for press conferences

Although the COVID-19 outbreak has created much anxiety and uncertainty, please remember we are a community. Follow common sense measures as recommended by the CDC and health departments. Look out for your neighbors, friends and family. We will get through this.