



Date: 03/13/2020

CITY OF MONROE IMPLEMENTING MEASURES TO MITIGATE SPREAD OF COVID-19 VIRUS

(MONROE, MI) - Protecting the health and welfare of the residents and employees of the City of Monroe is the top priority of the City Council and City Administration. In order to do so, and out of an abundance of caution, all city facilities will close to the public beginning Friday, March 13 at Noon, through Tuesday, March 17th. During this time, City administration will develop a response and continuity plan, evaluate facilities, supplies, sanitation, social distancing measures, and essential services the City must provide to ensure the long-term and reliable delivery of service to residents.

City of Monroe administration are actively engaged with public health officials and planning ahead for any potential implications for our community. It is imperative that certain protective and preventive measures are in place to ensure the ongoing delivery of our core essential services during these unprecedented times. This includes protection and maintenance of the City's water supply and wastewater treatment systems, police and fire protection, emergency medical response, refuse collection and the support services necessary to maintain these services.

In accordance with the recommendations provided by the U.S. government and the State of Michigan, the City of Monroe is beginning the implementation of its emergency response plans. With the support of City Council, the following mitigation measures and actions are being immediately implemented:

- City Hall and all City facilities will be closed to non-emergency employees and visitors beginning today, March 13, at 12:00 noon through Tuesday, March 17. These publicly accessible facilities include: City Hall, Monroe Police Department lobby (emergencies only), Monroe Fire Department lobbies (emergencies only), Opportunity Center at the Arthur Lesow Community Center, Sawyer House, and the Navarre and Dorsch branches of the Monroe County Library System.
- How and when modified or regular operations at each facility listed above resume will be determined on a case-by-case and day-to-day basis after Tuesday, and will be communicated via the City's website, Facebook page and to the local media outlets. Plans for employee telecommuting will be developed and immediately implemented as appropriate.
- All city-business related travel of employees outside Monroe County is prohibited through Friday, March 27. External and offsite meetings within Monroe County should be limited to teleconferencing to the greatest extent possible.
- The special meeting of City Council scheduled for Saturday, March 14 regarding the Public Safety Assessment is canceled and will be rescheduled at a later date.
- **Staff necessary for planning the continuity of operations during this public health emergency will continue working in a modified manner during this time.**

- The City Council Work Session on Monday, March 16 at 6:00 p.m. is canceled. The regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. will proceed as scheduled due to important business that needs to continue. The meeting will stream live on our YouTube channel and our government channel, 18/Comcast or 190/Charter. The agenda and packet information will be available on our web site.
- The City Council budget work session scheduled for Monday, March 23 at 6:00 p.m. is canceled.
- All meetings of board and commissions are canceled through Monday, March 23 except for the Board of Review meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 19.

The city continues to communicate with employees concerning protocols to encourage preventive actions and to ensure clean and sanitized city facilities in keeping with CDC Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations.

As a reminder, everyone should be taking the following precautions to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus, including, but not limited to:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use hand sanitizer when you do not have access to soap and water.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth;
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing;
- Avoid handshakes;
- Avoid large crowds and gatherings;
- Avoid contact with people who are sick and stay home when you are sick;
- Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

The City of Monroe staff will continue to evaluate and modify operations including implementing closures, using protective equipment, sanitation methods, and moving many services to phone or web conference. Further information regarding the status of our local government operations and the possible affect on daily service delivery will be announced over the coming days. The City reminds residents of the many online resources available for routine city business and requests available on our website (www.monroemi.gov) and via our app, MyMonroe. These include reporting service requests, making payments, submitting applications, etc.

The public should regularly monitor the City's website (www.monroemi.gov), the City's Facebook page, app push notifications, and local media for updates.

Incorporated in 1817, the City of Monroe is a community that has a shared vision that seeks to balance the opportunities of economic development with the stewardship that is required for historic preservation. With a population of 20,733, Monroe is located about 17-miles north of Toledo, Ohio and about 35-miles south of Detroit. The City of Monroe is Michigan's third oldest community, and is also the county seat of Monroe County.

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