



Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 17, 2020

LaGrange Mayor and City Council Declare State of Emergency

LaGrange, Ga. March 17, 2020 – The LaGrange Mayor and City Council voted unanimously to declare a state of emergency for the next 60 days.

This state of emergency will include the following:

- Prohibit gatherings on public property owned or controlled by the city including any park, public square, public space, playground, recreational area or similar place of public gathering, but not sidewalks, The Thread or designated pedestrian areas of parks for walking or other exercise where no organized gathering is occurring.
- Temporarily close City Hall to the general public. For the duration of the declared emergency, access to City Hall shall be restricted to employees only. The customer service drive-through facility and utility payment drop box shall remain open, and citizens are encouraged to work with City staff regarding ongoing issues via telephone, email and the online customer service portal.

- Suspend utility disconnections for non-payment for the duration of the declared emergency.
- Authorize the city manager to increase compensation, identify discretionary services, if warranted, and temporarily modify rates of pay for certain employees.
- Authorize the expenditure of unbudgeted funds by the city manager related to the emergency, and to authorize the city manager to enter contracts on behalf of the city for said purpose;
- Encourage all citizens and businesses to follow the latest guidance from the centers for disease control and prevention and Georgia department of public health
- Extend the deadline for the purchasing or obtaining of business licenses, permits or similar civil approvals mandated by the City Code 15 days after the emergency declaration expires.

All city utility customers will receive a message from the LaGrange Mayor and Council urging the community to take the state of emergency and health warnings seriously. This communication will be via phone and email messages beginning Tuesday evening, March 17th.

For more information on local resources please visit coronavirus.lagrangega.org.

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