

The City of Bessemer, Alabama

April 6, 2020

Re: COVID-19 and matters necessary to perform essential minimum functions of the governmental body.

The Council of the City of Bessemer, Alabama met in special session via teleconference on Monday, April 6, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. Central Time. The purpose of the special meeting was to consider matters within the Council's authority that are (a) necessary to respond to COVID-19, and (b) necessary to perform essential minimum functions of the governmental body. The meeting was called to order by Council President Cynthia Donald who was Chairman of the meeting. The following Council members were found to be present: Councilors Kimberly Alexander, Jarvis Collier, Ron Marshall, Jesse Matthews, Donna Thigpen, Latricia Crusoe, and Cynthia Donald. Absent: None. The City Council unanimously approved the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 042-20

A RESOLUTION CONTINUING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY IN THE CITY OF BESSEMER, ALABAMA THROUGH MAY 5, 2020

WHEREAS, the President of the United States, The Governor of the State of Alabama and the Jefferson County Commission have declared a state public health emergency due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2020, the State Health Officer issued an Order suspending all non-work related gatherings of ten (10) person or more, or non-work related gatherings of any size that cannot maintain a consistent six-feet of separation to slow the spread of the pandemic to assist healthcare providers in keeping the number of those experiencing severe symptoms at a manageable level; and

WHEREAS, operations of local schools have been ordered to institute alternative methods of instruction for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Bessemer declared a state of emergency on March 16, 2020 in Resolution No. 041-20 to protect the public health and ordered the cessation of routine operations within the City; and

WHEREAS, Congress enacted the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) which requires certain employers to provide their employees, subject to exclusions for health care providers and emergency responders, with paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that additional orders and recommendations from the State and Federal level will make it increasingly difficult to return to routine operations through May 5, 2020;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Bessemer at a duly assembled video conference meeting held in accordance with Governor Kay Ivey's Proclamation of March 18, 2020, suspending portions of the Open Meetings Act, with a quorum being present as follows:

1. A State of Emergency continues to exist in the City of Bessemer due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Emergency conditions affecting public health and safety exist throughout the City of Bessemer warranting the exercise of emergency powers as provided by law.
2. That all City of Bessemer facilities shall continue to be closed to the public through May 5, 2020 with the following exceptions:
 - a. Members of the public needing to make payments of their utility bills can make payments at Bessemer Utilities drive-through window located at 1600 1st Avenue N., Bessemer, Alabama.
 - b. Payments required through Municipal Court may be made at the payment window located at 23 15th Street N., Bessemer, Alabama.
 - c. Persons having been diagnosed with COVID-19, who are showing symptoms of COVID-19, or who have family members who have been so diagnosed are prohibited from using the drive-through window at Bessemer Utilities or the payment window at Municipal Court.
 - d. Parks will be open to the public between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., provided, social distancing requirements as set forth by the State Health Officer shall be followed.
 - e. The Frank House Municipal Golf Course will be open to the public, subject to restrictions regarding social distancing and other necessary health measures as determined by the Mayor.
3. The Mayor will continue to determine the employees necessary to carry on the essential functions of government and the times and manner of their work operations.
4. The previous Resolution of the City Council regarding a **special paid leave of absence to employees** for up to ten (10) days for self-quarantine, treatment and recovery for positive diagnosis to the coronavirus is hereby rescinded due to the benefits provided pursuant to the FFCRA with the exception that emergency responders that are excluded from FFCRA benefits shall still be qualified for said special leave of absence.
5. That the Mayor is authorized to expend up to the sum of \$50,000 on equipment, goods and services deemed necessary by the Mayor to deal with this emergency and he shall report any such purchases to the Council within ten (10) days or at the next City Council meeting, whichever is less.
6. That the City Council meetings set for Tuesday, April 7, 2020 and April 21, 2020 and the Planning Session scheduled for April 14, 2020 are hereby cancelled until re-scheduled by the City Council.

7. That the status of continued suspension of routine operations will be re-evaluated at the City Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 5, 2020 and communicated to employees and the public.
8. That the Contract for the purchase of the property located at 1800 3rd Avenue N., Bessemer, Alabama, is hereby extended through May 31, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
9. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption as required by law.

ADOPTED this the 6th day of April, 2020.

Wanda D. Taylor
City Clerk
City of Bessemer