

# The City of Bessemer, Alabama

May 5, 2020

## **Re: Continuing the State of Emergency Through May 15, 2020 and additional orders necessary to perform essential minimum functions of the governmental body.**

The City Council of the City of Bessemer, Alabama met in special session via teleconference on Tuesday, May 5, 2020 at 10:00 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 Governor Kay Ivey's Proclamation of March 18, 2020 concerning the COVID-19 Pandemic, and (b) matters 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. 043-20**

#### **A RESOLUTION CONTINUING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY IN THE CITY OF BESSEMER, ALABAMA THROUGH MAY 15, 2020**

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**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 April 28, 2020, the State Health Officer issued an additional Order suspending all non-work related gatherings of ten (10) persons 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, and amended said Resolution on April 6, 2020 in Resolution No. 042-20 to protect the public health and ordered the cessation of routine operations within the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the recent Order issued by the State Health Officer makes it difficult to return to routine operations through May 15, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. due to the restrictions set forth therein;

**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 15, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. 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 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue N., Bessemer, Alabama.
  - b. Payments required through Municipal Court may be made at the payment window located at 23 15<sup>th</sup> 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, provided, however, that the banquet facilities shall continue to remain closed until further guidance is received from the State Health Officer.
3. That the Recreation Center and the Civic Center shall continue to remain closed until further guidance is received from the State Health Officer.
4. That all City of Bessemer facilities shall re-open on Monday, May 18, 2020, with the exception of the Recreation Center, the Civic Center and the banquet facilities at the Frank House Municipal Golf Course. Upon the City of Bessemer facilities re-

opening, any person visiting City of Bessemer facilities shall be required to wear a face covering until further notice. A notice shall be placed on the door of each City of Bessemer facility stating that face coverings are required for visitor's entry to the premises.

5. 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.
6. That the City Council planning session set for Tuesday, May 12, shall be continued until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, May 19, 2020 and the Pre-Council meeting and Council meeting shall be moved to 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., respectively, on May 19, 2020.
7. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption as required by law.

ADOPTED this the 5<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020.

The City Council also unanimously approved the following agenda items:

1. A resolution authorizing payment to EEFS Company for December, 2019 invoices.
2. A resolution authorizing payment to EEFS Company for January, 2020 invoices.
3. A resolution authorizing payment to EEFS Company for February, 2020 invoices.
4. A resolution authorizing Mayor Gulley to execute a grant from the Federal Aviation Administration CARES Act for the Bessemer Airport Authority.

Wanda D. Taylor  
City Clerk  
City of Bessemer