



NEWS RELEASE

Modified Service Delivery to Minimize Spread of COVID-19

MARCH 16, 2020 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

To protect citizens and employees, and to minimize the spread COVID-19, effective today, Monday, March 16th at 5:00 p.m., the City of North Augusta will modify service delivery. The modified services are expected to run at least through Tuesday, March 31, when we will re-evaluate. The City's website and social media accounts will be updated regularly. A dedicated webpage for COVID-19 related information has been established at: www.northaugusta.net/covid-19.

The City is modifying service delivery as a result of cumulative recommendations of Governor Henry McMaster, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Taking into consideration recommendations regarding social distancing and non-essential event cancellations, the City will implement the following measures through at least March 31:

- Access to City facilities will be restricted with notices posted at each City facility.
- City employees should be contacted via email or phone. Priority for handling business will be via phone, email, conference call or video conference. City employees shall determine if any in-person discussion, meeting or material hand-off is necessary and will schedule as appropriate following social distancing guidelines.
- The Municipal Building will be open, but employees will require appointments for in-person meetings.
- The Riverview Park Activity Center and Community Center will be closed.
- City-hosted athletic programs will be suspended and City athletic facilities will not be available for organized practice.
- All parks will remain open for non-organized leisure activities; playgrounds will be sanitized.
- All scheduled tournaments and events at City facilities have been cancelled or postponed.
- All City utility payments, permit applications, tax payments and business license payments will be accepted at the drop box located in the City Municipal Building parking lot. No payments or applications will be accepted in person. Citizens may also make timely payments on the City website, bill pay through their financial institution, or USPS mail.
- New utility service establishment will be available by appointment only. Please call 803.441.4219 to setup your appointment.
- Employment applications can be submitted online at www.northaugusta.net/apply
- The Planning Commission meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 19 will be cancelled.

"We understand the impact and potential hardships these actions will have on our community. The decisions were not made lightly and were made to ensure the safety of our citizens and reduce

potential exposure,” said Mayor Robert Pettit. “We appreciate the understanding of our citizens during this pandemic emergency.”

Essential Services and Personnel to Continue Operations with Caution:

North Augusta Public Safety will:

- Maintain a six-foot safe space during interviews
- Take non-emergency reports over the phone to minimize contact
- Postpone training exercises and educational events
- Wear additional personal protective gear during response calls as necessary

Municipal Court will:

- Cancel all session through March 31
- Encourage payment of fines by mail or through drop box at Public Safety headquarters
- Close substation firehouses to non-employees
- Close Criminal Investigation Division to pedestrian traffic; contacts to be made by appointment only

Public Services will:

- Continue trash and recycling pick-up as normal
- Perform maintenance and landscaping
- Limit employee-to-public contact

Public Works will:

- Continue stormwater and construction inspections as normal, but person-to-person contact will be limited
- Building inspections will be conducted as normal, but person-to-person contact will be limited
- Road, sidewalk and storm drain maintenance will continue as normal

Planning & Development will:

- Respond to requests in the order they are received and as quickly as possible
- Temporarily accept electronic plans for all reviews. Original copies of some documents will be required prior to final approvals. Please visit our “Forms” page for submittal forms.
<https://www.northaugusta.net/online-services/documents-publications/-folder-29>
- Schedule preliminary application conference meetings via video chat. If you have already scheduled a meeting, we will be in contact with you to provide teleconferencing options
- Continue Code Enforcement operations as normal, but person-to-person contact will be limited

“We encourage all members of our community to follow the personal hygiene suggestions of the CDC,” said Mayor Pettit. Suggested precautions include:

- Stay home if you are sick.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water, and for at least 20 seconds each time.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are ill.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Do not reuse tissue after coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are frequently touched.

For more information, visit www.cdc.gov or www.scdhec.gov/covid19.