

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF PICKENS) ORDINANCE NO.2020-07
)
CITY OF PICKENS)

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE

SUSPEND NORMAL OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS; PROVIDE FOR VIRTUAL OR INTERNET MEETINGS OF CITY COUNCIL, COMMITTEES AND BOARDS AND PROCEDURES AND TO EXTEND THE DUE DATE FOR HOSPITALITY TAX, BUSINESS LICENSE PAYMENTS, AND SUSPEND LATE FEES AND DISCONNECTS FOR CITY SERVICES AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO

WHEREAS, the disease COVID-19 presents a public health concern that requires extraordinary protective measures and vigilance; and

WHEREAS, these measures have taken many forms including travel bans, school closures, cancelation of major events and quarantines; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared a world-wide pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States has declared a National Emergency for the United States and its territories in an effort to reduce the spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Governor of the State of South Carolina Henry McMaster has declared a state of emergency for the State of South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020 the Governor of the State of South Carolina Henry McMaster directed that Tax Returns and payments due to the State due April 1 through June 1,

2020 will now be due on June 1, 2020, ordered that all restaurants and bars will no longer be allowed to have dine-in services and prohibited all organized events of more than 50 people for gatherings at any publicly owned facility; and

WHEREAS, S.C. Code Ann. § 5-7-250 empowers Council to enact emergency ordinances affecting life, health, safety, or property; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 outbreak and the public health measures necessary to curtail its spread have resulted in economic stress for businesses as well as individuals; and

WHEREAS, the City of Pickens is working with other governmental agencies in an effort to prevent the spread of the virus, and

WHEREAS, in light of the foregoing, the Mayor and City Council deems it proper and necessary to adopt this emergency ordinance in order to: (a) extend the due date for hospitality tax, and business license payments; (b) suspend late fees and disconnects for city services; (c) suspend normal operating procedures for city council, committees, boards and commissions; (d) authorize the City Administrator to waive any policies or regulations that conflict with this ordinance and establish the most appropriate means of electronic meetings; and (e) authorize the City Administrator to develop and enact a plan to ensure the delivery of city services in light of this emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF THE CITY OF PICKENS, SOUTH CAROLINA:

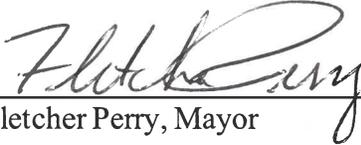
1. A State of Emergency within the City is hereby declared.
2. Hospitality Tax collected during March, 2020 will be due June 1, 2020.
3. Hospitality Tax collected during April and May 2020 will be due in one lump sum payment June 20, 2020.

4. The Business License due date will be deferred from May 1, 2020 to June 1, 2020 with no penalties until July 1, 2020.
5. The City will not charge a late fee or disconnect service for water, sewer, residential and commercial sanitation services for bill dated prior to May 31, 2020. Customers are encouraged to pay their bills when due if possible, all accounts must be current by June 26, 2020 or they will be subject to penalty and disconnection.
6. Normal operating procedures of City Council, Council Committees, Boards and Commissions are suspended such that members are permitted to remotely participate in voting and operational procedures by telephone or other means of electronic communication provided that the provisions of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act are complied with. Any member of City Council, or any City board or commission participating in a meeting remotely shall be considered present for purposes of a quorum. Provisions shall be made for the public to be able to participate in public meetings and public hearings via electronic or telephonic means.
7. The City Administrator is authorized to temporarily waive any and all policies or regulations that might inhibit the intent of this Ordinance and establish the most appropriate means of electronic or telephonic communications for City meetings.
8. Any provisions of the City Code or Ordinances of the City that might conflict with the provisions of this emergency ordinance are hereby suspended during the operation of this ordinance.
9. The City Administrator is authorized to develop and enact a plan in order to ensure continuity of delivery of City services in light of this emergency.

10. Should any provision, section, paragraph, sentence or word of this ordinance be rendered or declared invalid by any final court action in a court of competent jurisdiction or by reason of any preemptive legislation, the remaining provisions, sections, paragraphs, sentences, or words of this ordinance as hereby adopted shall remain in full force and effect.
11. This emergency ordinance shall be terminated by the issuance of another ordinance or shall automatically expire on the 61st day after enactment of this ordinance, whichever date is earlier.

This ordinance is effective upon its adoption.

DONE, RATIFIED, AND PASSED this 25th day of March, 2020.



Fletcher Perry, Mayor

ATTEST:



Brittany Chapman
Clerk to Council