



## City of Munford, Tennessee

1397 Munford Avenue  
Munford, TN 38058  
City Hall (901) 837-0171  
[www.munford.com](http://www.munford.com)  
Dwayne Cole, Mayor

---

Mayor's Report  
April 27, 2020

Aldermen:

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted virtually every aspect of life since March. The number of confirmed cases of the virus in Tipton County has risen to around 90 but seems to have stabilized, with several recoveries reported and no deaths. We are thankful.

On April 20, Governor Lee announced plans to allow the "stay-at-home" order to expire on April 30. This is very good news and we must remain vigilant by continuing to observe social distancing, washing hands regularly, wearing masks if you prefer, and limiting trips to necessary ones. Because our county adjoins densely populated Shelby County and many of our citizens commute daily, we must not drop our guard. Please continue to use extreme caution in the coming days. We are not home free!

Restaurants and retail businesses will be allowed to reopen this week with certain restrictions outlined in the Governor's Tennessee Pledge Guidelines for Reopening Tennessee Responsibly. I encourage every business owner to read the guidelines carefully.

City Hall is resuming regular hours beginning today, Monday April 27, with drive through service for paying utility bills, and staff in the office, after working from home for several weeks. The lobby will still be closed but necessary business may be scheduled by appointment. This is our first step toward normalcy.

Tonight, I will present the 2020-2021 Budget for consideration. Included in this budget is a grant from the state for \$164,000 to be used for public safety equipment and roof repair on city buildings. Due to uncertainty in the current economy, only capital outlay purchases and repairs which are grant eligible are included. While we believe the economy will recover quickly, this budget is very conservative and the recommended tax rate to fund this budget will remain the same.

On April 20, I received a letter of resignation from Public Works Director George Watson, citing health concerns as his reason for leaving. Director Watson's last day will be May 1 and I appreciate the opportunity to have served with him as an Alderman as well as Director of Public Works. My prayer for him is good health and happiness as he enjoys retirement. Assuming Interim Director duties on May 2 will be Deputy Director Sherry Bennard.

A new study by Smart Assets ranked Munford second among the most affordable places to live in Tennessee. The sixth annual study weighed factors like taxes, homeowners' insurance and home costs relative to the local median income. Our neighboring town, Atoka, ranked first in this study.

With school being cancelled for the remainder of the school year, plans are still being made for the Munford High School Class of 2020 graduation ceremony. We are working closely with Dr. Courtney Fee to assist as needed. Congratulations MHS Class of 2020 Graduates and may God bless you as you pursue your dreams!

May God bless you and keep each of you is my prayer.

Dwayne Cole, Mayor  
City of Munford, Tennessee