

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Warr Acres Mayor

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WARR ACRES DECLARES A STATE OF EMERGENCY CITY HALL DOORS ARE CLOSED – STAFF IS PRESENT

WARR ACRES, Oklahoma – In an era of unprecedented and immediate access to information, misinformation and real time feedback from across the globe, COVID-19 presents a challenge like no other to those called to serve their communities. This dynamic and rapidly evolving global crisis presents an extraordinarily difficult challenge to local civil servants who must ensure that they do not increase the risk to their communities in the name of public service. As such, the City of Warr Acres joins our neighboring local governments in declaring a State of Emergency.

While the number of confirmed and verified cases of COVID-19 in the metro area remains relatively small, the potential for exponential growth through social interaction remains the primary concern. This insidious virus threatens those who are most vulnerable precisely because they have already given so much time and service to our society. As such, effectively immediately, the City of Warr Acres is taking the following steps to ensure that the risk of exposure to COVID-19 is minimized in our City limits:

- ***Social distancing*** will be promoted through all lawful means available to the City. All permits for special events or other community gatherings will be revoked and/or denied until further notice. Any gathering in excess of 50 people for any purpose on public property will be prohibited.

- ***The City*** will suspend any and all efforts to terminate utility service for non-payment for at least the next month. This will include those accounts already in arrears as well as those accounts which become delinquent over the next month.
- ***All essential*** City services, including Police, Fire, Sanitation and Sewer, are expected to be continued without interruption. Discretionary and on-time-sensitive services such as permitting and inspections are suspended until further notice.
- ***The City Council*** will hold its scheduled, regular meeting on March 17, 2020, but the agenda for this meeting will be modified to remove any items which are expected to garner significant public interest or debate on the Council. The meeting will be held strictly to pay the bills and to hear one public-hearing item related to approval of a local restaurant. The City is developing a plan to ensure that all Councilmembers in attendance can fully participate while also engaging in social distancing. Members of the public interested in the meeting are strongly encouraged to watch the meeting on TV, but the City will comply with the legal obligation to allow attendance in person. Those attending in person will be strongly encouraged to engage in social distancing by watching the meeting in the lobby area as well as taking advantage of seating throughout the Council chambers.
- ***Please place*** all payments in the dropbox. If you require a receipt one will be mailed to you if requested.

If you need special accommodations please call us at 405-789-2892 and we will do our best to help you.

Thank you very much for your understanding and please remember that none of us have been through this before and we can work through this.