

MAYOR
Shirley Sessions

CITY COUNCIL
Barry Brown, Mayor Pro Tem
John Branigin
Jay Burke
Nancy DeVetter
Michael "Spec" Hosti
Monty Parks



CITY MANAGER
Shawn Gillen

CLERK OF COUNCIL
Janet LeViner

CITY ATTORNEY
Edward M. Hughes

CITY OF TYBEE ISLAND

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release
March 18, 2020

CITY OF TYBEE ISLAND IMPLEMENTS BUSINESS HOUR RESTRICTIONS AND OTHER OPERATIONAL MEASURES IN FACE OF COVID-19

TYBEE ISLAND, GA – The Tybee Island City Council voted unanimously Wednesday afternoon to implement business hour restrictions amid concerns of COVID-19. The restrictions will extend from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. and be in effect from March 20 - 31. An exception will be made for picking up phoned-in take-out orders from local restaurants. Violators will be subject to a criminal citation with a fine up to \$1000.

The council also voted to defer late charges and extend a grace period for business/occupation license renewals and water/utility bills until April 30.

While Tybee Island has no confirmed cases of COVID-19 (coronavirus), city leaders are taking these measures to be proactive. Two city employees have been asked to self-quarantine due to their recent travels and the majority of our employees are now working remotely.

The City of Tybee Island would like to assure residents and visitors alike that our Mayor, City Council and staff are working diligently to address challenges arising from the COVID-19 public health crisis. We have taken several measures to minimize the disruption to city services.

Please refer to the attached operations update for a detailed description of the city's efforts.



CITY OF TYBEE ISLAND OPERATIONS UPDATE

CITY HALL & ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

City Hall will be closed until March 22 to receive a thorough cleaning. Employees will be working remotely.

CITY CLERK

Continuing to support the needs of the Mayor and Council as well as the City Manager where applicable
Posting meetings and minutes so residents and guests can stay informed
Continuing to monitor telephone calls and emails as they are received and respond accordingly

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

No building permits will be issued
Some work may proceed on an emergency basis only as deemed necessary by city staff
Existing permits may continue working
Building inspector will handle inspections as long as the county continues to work
No new business licenses or STVR registrations will be issued until city hall reopens
All special events and facilities rentals are cancelled until further notice
Main St. and DDA boards will not meet until further notice
Monitor emails and communicate with the public as needed
Finance Department
Continuing to process mail and drop box payments
Depositing checks daily
A Utility Clerk will be accepting calls to assist utility customers as needed.
Late fees will not be assessed and utility service will not be disconnected while City Hall is closed

PARKING

Not charging late fees for outstanding citations
Extending grace period for soon-to-expire yearly decals
Limiting contact with the public

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (DPW)

Keeping the City dump open daily 7:30AM – 3:30PM
Picking up beach trash and recycling daily
Picking up street trash and litter daily
Continuing to clean and supply public bathrooms daily
Disinfecting and wiping down all surfaces at City Hall on Wednesday and Friday
Crews will disinfect and wipe down all surfaces in all city buildings
Disinfecting the crossovers by spraying the handrails with a disinfecting solution
Cleaning and disinfecting playgrounds and benches in city parks and on the Strand Promenade
Cutting grass through the parks to minimize the growth and control the weeds



WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT

Maintaining normal operation of the waste water treatment plant
Continuing required sampling daily
Checking lift stations daily
Checking wells daily
Maintaining on-call staff for water leaks, sewer back-ups and lift station alarms
Atlantic Waste operating normal waste collection routes

POLICE

Keeping a suitable number of dispatchers available to handle calls
Supplementing patrol shift with additional officers as needed

MUNICIPAL COURT

Court has rescheduled the March 24th court to May 12, 2020
Staff is monitoring and responding to emails
Payments are being accepted online

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Running daily operations as normal for calls and beach coverage
Placing volunteer program on hold
Allowing only paid staff in the station to handle walk up medical calls. Walk up medical and blood pressure checks will be performed outside the station
Placing N95 mask on apparatus for any calls with patients that show symptoms or raise concern by staff
Undergoing additional online training for handling COVID-19 cases

CAMPGROUND

Halting new reservations through April 1 and servicing existing campers
Cleaning and sanitizing high traffic areas beyond normal measures
Minimizing contact with customers by providing information over the phone
Cancelled all on site activities and gatherings
Cleaning bathhouses three times daily and performing extra measures to sanitize high traffic areas
Educating staff on to keep themselves healthy which includes frequent hand washing, staying home if they do not feel well, or wearing gloves
Promoting social distancing among remaining campers and staff
Implementing over the phone pre-check in
Reducing camp store hours

YMCA

All group exercise classes are cancelled, child watch and youth sports and gymnastics for next two weeks beginning March 17 are cancelled. Members still can use the fitness center although hours have been

New fitness center hours are:

Monday, Thursday 6:30am to 8pm

Friday, 6:30am to 7:30pm

Saturday, 9am to 3pm

Sunday, closed

OTHER CLOSURES, CANCELLATIONS & POSTPONEMENTS

Tybee Island Maritime Academy closed until further notice

Tybee Branch Library closed until further notice

Marine Science Center closed until 27

Tybee Post Theater closed until April 16



Tybee Island Lighthouse closed until April 1
Beach Task Force, March 19 cancelled
Coffee and Conversations with the City Manager, March 20 and 27 cancelled
March 24 Presidential Preference Primary Postponed until May 19
Historic Preservation Trolley Tour, March 27 cancelled

