

MINUTES OF THE EMERGENCY CALLED MEETING
OF THE MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 25, 2020 1:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Michael J. Brening
Mayor Pro Tem Solomon Ferguson
Councilmember Jimmy Dyer
Councilmember Judy Taylor Foster via telephone

OTHER STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager Doug Westberry
Chief of Police Gray Couch
City Clerk Lea Spell
Fire Chief Roderick Jolivette
Utility Director Sam Summers
Recreation Director Vic Dowis

Mayor Brening called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Manchester City Hall. Councilmember Ferguson made a motion to approve the Agenda as written, motion seconded by Councilmember Dyer. The vote was unanimous with 4 ayes.

Mayor Brening made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Ferguson to abolish the former curfew and to additional emergency action essential in slowing down the spread of COVID-19 as outlined in ATTACHMENT "A" until further notice. The vote was unanimous with 4 ayes.

Councilmember Taylor-Foster made a motion to adjourn at 2:32 p.m., seconded by Councilmember Dyer. The vote was unanimous with 4 ayes.

City Manager Doug Westberry

Mayor Mike Brening

ATTACHMENT "A"

The City of Manchester Mayor and City Council called an Emergency Meeting on March 25, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. to deliberate additional emergency actions essential in slowing down the spread of COVID-19.

Due to the current State of Emergency in the City of Manchester, the following regulations shall be in effect starting at 12:00 noon, March 26, 2020 until further notice.

Section 1. Eating Establishments

Restaurants and other eating and dining establishments where food is served must cease offering dine-in services but may continue preparing and offering food to customers via delivery, drive-through or take-out services. Patrons, employees and contractors of the establishments must maintain at least six (6) feet of personal distance between themselves as much as possible given the physical constraints of the premises. If a restaurant is licensed to sell beer and wine for on-premises consumption, such restaurant, during the effective dates of this ordinance only, shall be authorized to sell unopened bottles or cans of beer or wine for take-out consumption off-premises.

Section 2. Closure of Certain Businesses

Gyms, fitness centers, indoor amusement facilities, pool halls, theaters, massage parlors, nail salons, hair salons, barber shops, and any other similar facility must close and remain closed for the duration of this emergency. Any new business licenses will be issued at the discretion of the City Manager.

Section 3. Personal Distance

Establishments such as grocery stores, pharmacies, and other businesses which remain open during the emergency must post signage on entrance doors informing customers to maintain at least six (6) feet of personal distance between themselves and others as much as possible given the physical constraints of the premises. Business shall closely monitor occupancy levels to assure that social distancing of 6 feet is maintained at all times. It is recommended that businesses with an intercom or public announcement system utilize such equipment to help remind patrons of the social distancing requirements.

Section 4. Gatherings

All public and private gatherings of more than ten (10) people occurring outside of a household or living unit are prohibited. This provision shall include all churches, places of religious worship, funerals, family reunions, and political gatherings. Nothing in this ordinance, however, prohibits the gathering of individuals for the purposes of carrying on business certified as "essential" by the Georgia Emergency Management Agency pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-58 or designated by the Governor as "critical infrastructure" or the provision of medical or health services.

Section 5. Emergency Interim Successor to the City Manager

In accordance with Sec. 2-94 of the Charter of The City of Manchester, in the absence or disability of the City Manager, all Directors and Chiefs shall report to and be supervised by the Mayor. In the event of an extended absence, the City Council may designate an individual to serve as acting City Manager.

Section 6. Curfew

A curfew is imposed from 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. effective immediately. Residents, unless “exempt individuals” as defined herein, shall remain in their homes or on their property during the curfew period. Exempt individuals include those individuals engaged in the provision of designated, essential services, such as (1) fire; (2) law enforcement; (3) medical and hospital services; (4) military services; (5) utility repairs; (6) persons seeking medical services or hospital services; (7) individuals traveling to and from their jobs with appropriate identification; (8) individuals engaged in the delivery of food, medicine, medical supplies, fuel including, but not limited to, the restocking of grocery stores, pharmacies, and convenience stores; (9) individuals engaged in the retrieval or transport of bodies under the direction of funeral service personnel; (10) news media employees; (11) designated employees or agents of businesses designated by the Georgia Emergency Management Agency as “essential” pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-58; (12) persons providing necessary care of companion animals in the custody and care of an animal shelter, boarding facility, or kennel; and (13) critical infrastructure businesses and employees as designated by the Governor or identified by U.S. Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency; (14) Volunteers deemed by Meriwether County governing Authority as essential in the provision of service.

“Essential Business and Services”, are defined as:

1. Healthcare Operations and Essential Infrastructure.
2. Grocery stores, farmers’ markets, farm and produce stands, supermarkets, food banks, convenience stores, and other establishments engaged in the retail sales of canned food, dry goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supply, fresh meats, fish, and poultry, and any other household consumer products (such as cleaning and personal care products). This includes stores that sell groceries and also sell other non-grocery products, and products necessary to maintaining the health, safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences.
3. Food cultivation, including farming, livestock, and fishing.
4. Businesses that provide food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals.
5. Newspapers, television, radio, and other media services.

6. Gas stations and auto-supply, auto-repair, and related facilities.
7. Banks and related financial institutions.
8. Hardware stores, lodging businesses (e.g., hotels, motels, conference centers).
9. Plumbers, electricians, exterminators, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences, Essential Activities, and Essential Businesses.
10. Business providing mailing and shipping services, including post office boxes.
11. Educational institutions—including public and private K-12 schools, colleges, and universities—for purposes of facilitating distance learning or performing essential functions, provided that social distancing of six-feet per person is maintained to the greatest extent possible.
12. Laundromats, dry cleaners, and laundry service providers.
13. Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food, but only for delivery or carry out. Schools and other entities that typically provide food services to students or members of the public may continue to do so under this Order on the condition that the food is provided to students or members of the public on a pick-up and takeaway basis only. Schools and other entities that provide food services under this exemption shall not permit the food to be eaten at the site where it is provided, or at any other gathering site. Cafeterias in hospitals, nursing homes, or similar facilities shall not be subject to the restrictions contained in these regulations.
14. Businesses that supply products needed for people to work from home.
15. Businesses that supply other essential businesses with the support or supplies necessary to operate.
16. Businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, goods or services directly to residences.
17. Home-based care for seniors, adults, or children
18. Residential facilities and shelters for seniors, adults, and children.
19. Professional services, such as legal or accounting services.
20. Childcare facilities.
21. Utility, water, sewer, gas, electrical, oil refining, roads and highways, railroads, public transportation, taxi/rideshare, solid waste collection and removal, internet, and telecommunications systems (including the provision of essential global, national, and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, and web-based services).
22. Businesses and Industries identified by the US Department of Homeland Security as an Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce.
23. Any other business considered as essential by the City of Manchester Governing Authority.