

Mayor's Message Regarding COVID-19

March 24, 2020

We put forward a Declaration of Emergency for the City of North Bonneville pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic. Proclaiming an emergency allows the city to bypass normal procedural requirements related to expenditures and competitive bidding, among other things, to save lives, protect property, protect the economic base of the community and preserve the environment. This emergency declaration can also allow North Bonneville to receive state or federal funding if such funding becomes available.

The City of North Bonneville's administrative staff has been involved in, and will continue daily conference calls with Sheriff Brown, Skamania County Emergency Management, Skamania County Commissioners, Skamania County Public Health Director and other key contacts throughout Skamania County for updates and policies put forth concerning the COVID-19 pandemic. We will do our best to keep our community apprised of current information as it comes through. The Skamania County Emergency Management website skamania-dem.org is updated on a daily basis and is a good source of information concerning actions being taken throughout Skamania County in an effort to minimize the threat the COVID-19 could have on residents. The website is also a good source for resources available to residents during this difficult time.

North Bonneville City Hall is closed to the public to help minimize the spread of COVID-19. This closure will remain in effect through April 8th. The reopening of City Hall after this date will depend on whether the Washington State Department of Health determines the virus has been contained enough to pose less of a threat to people, especially those that are in the higher risk categories.

The closure of City Hall will not disrupt the city from providing services essential to the citizens and businesses of North Bonneville. City staff will be available to conduct business via email or telephone. Water bill payments can be paid online, through the city's website, or dropped in the payment box outside the entry of City Hall. Most other city related business can be conducted by telephone at (509) 427-8182 or by emailing info@northbonneville.net . Any business that needs direct interaction with city personnel, we ask that you call so a meeting can be arranged.

City Public Works crews will continue business as usual but limiting their interaction with the public for non-essential requests. For any requests requiring action by Public Works we ask that citizens call City Hall or Public Work Supervisor Bryan Henrichsen directly at (541) 490-2370.

For the March 24, 2020 North Bonneville city council meeting and future meetings, city staff will be sanitizing City Hall prior to the meeting and requiring everyone sanitize their hands as they arrive. Attendance at City Hall is limited to ensure adequate social distancing is achieved. Audio recording of the meeting will be posted on-line the day following. If you have any questions or comments concerning the agenda items that you would like to be addressed by council, please submit by phone or e-mail to City Hall prior to the meeting.

City pathways as well as trails remain open to residents as it is important our residents have the opportunity to remaining active. The sheltering in place order Governor Inslee has put in effect does not limit your right to remain active if we remain mindful of social distancing.

Finally, according to the most recent statistics put out by the Washington State Department of Health, the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the state is leveling the curve. By this I mean the number of cases being reported are not exceeding the numbers of confirmed cases reported from the week prior. This trend has been apparent the past couple of weeks. Although Washington State confirmed cases for the virus remain at consistent levels, the level of severity for symptoms attributed to patients infected with the virus remain low. I remain hopeful a vaccine will be available soon for those infected with severe symptoms to aid in a full recovery.

We will get through this pandemic and the disruption it has created in our day to day lives. American exceptionalism has prevailed in far worse situations and will not be defeated by the Coronavirus.

Mayor Brian Sabo