

City of Glenns Ferry

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MAYOR
Monty White

CITY COUNCIL
Susan Case, President
Kenneth Thompson
Scott Smith
Dani Martinez

March 19, 2020



Dear Glenns Ferry Residences,

I want to take a moment to outline what the Council and I have been working on to address the Covid-19 outbreak. I certainly never thought I would be dealing with this when I ran for Mayor. I thought the biggest challenge would be replacing the streets and infrastructure.

Governor Little stated yesterday that the risk to average Idahoans is still very low, but we must take care to diminish the risk to the vulnerable population. In our City the School, Senior Center, Popular Grove, and the City Library went into some form of closure. They did not make the decision without some hard facts based on the best information they had. We should all support their efforts now.

Most of these reports on Facebook and other social media outlets are false. I am not going to state numbers that are being reported here in the State of Idaho as they will change before I can have this posted on our City Web page. As more testing is done the numbers may very well climb. Again, I want to caution you **NOT TO** listen to rumors or the internet but go to official State and Federal web pages and follow the recommendations that are spelled out, and please feel free to contact City Hall by phone Mon – Thurs 7am to 5:30pm. I am asking all citizens to try and do your business here at City Hall over the phone, online, or take advantage of our drop box for payments.

On our conference call yesterday the Coronavirus Task Force stated that there is **NO** food shortage in American. The shortages that we have seen, with some empty shelves in the stores, is driven by unfounded concerns of a break down in the supply chain. If you feel the need to buy quantities of food and other supplies, I ask you to think of your friends, family, and neighbors right here in town. I truly hope that we would be in the mode of “How I can help” not “What can I hide”. If someone buys up all the cleaning supplies and someone cannot clean their homes or practice hand washing, would it not make since that you are putting yourself and others at risk!! The short answer is yes you are!! Let’s show the rest of America why we live here in Glenns Ferry and the State of Idaho. Food store outlets, and some of the restaurants in town are leading the way by offering to deliver food to the home bound or to individuals in the High-Risk Groups. Each of us can help in some way and I know you will do what you can. We will get through this.

What have we been doing to get out in front of this?

I have implemented a closure for the Library, and it will remain closed at this time until April 13, 2020. We will evaluate the closure each day and will open again as soon as possible. The librarian will be available by phone during the normal operating hours. If you must access emergency use of the computers to order medicine or other life threatening needs this can be done by appointment.

I closed the City Hall for one day so we could do a deep clean and to access information from Governor Little to help make decisions on closing or remaining open.

I called a Special Council meeting for the evening of March 18, 2020 at 630pm. At that meeting the Council decided **NOT** to close City Hall, but to allow access to only the front counter area until further notice. We will evaluate this day by day. We are a small staff and the Council, and I must protect City employees so that we can keep City services running.

The Governor has **NOT** implemented mandatory statewide closures of restaurants, cafes, and bars. Governor Little has at this time, left this up to business owners and local City Governments. Currently with the information I have, I am **NOT** recommending any closures of restaurants, cafes, or bars. I am relying on business owners to make that decision on what measures they want to take to protect themselves and their employees. This could change within the next few days and weeks. This is going to take some time to get through.

The City Department Heads, City Council and Mayor have plans in place to address this issue if it expands into our City. The City has a plan to make sure that we will have the water plant running with back up operators in place and a plan to keep our operator isolated if it becomes necessary. We have backups to all City functions and I have been in contact with the Mayor of Mountain Home and they are prepared to assist us if we need help with Fire, Water Plant, Police and just about every other function we can think of. The Sheriff is making plans to cover our needs and I have a scheduled meeting with the Sheriff at 2:30pm today, but we also have other options if the need arises. Council President Susan Case is updated and ready to fill in if we should need assistance in administration and the Mayor's office.

City Council meetings will continue the normal schedule of the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. We are implementing a call-in option where you will be able to hear the proceedings and of course we will post the minutes as soon as we can after the meeting. Comments for Public Hearings can always be dropped off at City Hall or the drop box and will be read into the record. I would like everyone's cooperation to help us stop the spread of this virus.

I know some feel that this threat has been over blown. I am trying to make reasonable and common-sense decisions to protect city employees, our water and sewer systems, and the community, all based on the most up to date information that the Council and I have. I do recommend that we follow the Federal and State guidelines which can be found online. If you have trouble finding these sites please call the Office and we will assist you. If you do not need to go out, then please stay at home for the time being.

I will update all of you as information comes in. Please be safe, remain calm, and use common sense.

Sincerely,

Monty R White
Mayor

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