PRESS RELEASE
March 19, 2020

In response to the National and State Declarations of Emergency surrounding the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Pandemic, Mayor Neuhaus has issued a Declaration of Emergency pursuant to Section 30-3-15 of the Staunton Municipal Code, effective, Thursday, March 19th. The Mayor and City Council have considered the existence of a public health emergency in acting upon Ordinance #2055 (passed in tonight’s meeting). We recognize the potential of a public health emergency within the City and surrounding vicinity in the immediate future, and are taking the appropriate actions now to prepare. The Mayor and City Council would like to promote health, safety and welfare of its citizens by social distancing.

We continue to work closely with our Staunton Area Emergency Council (SAEMC), Macoupin County Emergency Management Team, Macoupin County Public Health Department, and our local Chamber and Businesses to provide resources to them to support their alternate contingencies and resolution to our public health emergency.

We want to stress with all residents the need to exercise responsible and disciplined social distancing. In an effort to mitigate the exposure and transmission of the COVID-19 (coronavirus), State, National and City Officials have ordered the following actions and closures:

- Per Governor Pritzker’s Executive Order 2020-07, Section 2. Beginning March 18, 2020 all public and private gatherings in the State of Illinois of 50 people or more are prohibited for the duration of the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation. A public or private gathering includes community, civic, public leisure, faith-based events, and sporting events with spectators, concerts, conventions, and any similar event or activity that brings together 50 or people in a single room or a single space at the same time. This includes venues such as fitness centers/health clubs, bowling alleys, private clubs, and theatres. This does not include venues that provide essential goods or services such as grocery stores, hospitals, pharmacies, gas stations, banks/credit unions, and shelters. This order amends Section 1 of EO 2020-04, which prohibited gatherings of 1,000 people or more.
- All schools in the State of Illinois are closed effective March 17th through March 30th.
- Effective at 12:01am, Tuesday, March 17, 2020, the State has ordered the closure of all bars and restaurants and “liquor pouring establishments” for walk-in service. It is our understanding that businesses will still be allowed to offer delivery and curbside food service. The City will be working with businesses to provide resources to them to allow for temporary drive-up/curbside pickup. Please reach directly to that business via phone or their social media sites for detailed information.
- The Illinois Gaming Board has suspended all video gambling operations through the end of the month. Video gaming will be suspended from 9pm Monday, March 16, through March 30.
- Future City Council meetings will be held closed to the public for in person attendance at this time. Anyone wishing to make a public comment may submit their questions/comments in writing to City Hall 635-2233 by 4:30 PM the Friday prior to the scheduled Council Meeting. Public correspondence will be read into the record by the City Clerk during the public/guests comments section of each meeting.
- Public access to City Hall, Public Works Building and Staunton Water Plant are also restricted as of 3/17. Please call with further questions or make an appointment at City Hall 635-2233 for business that must be done in person. Online bill payments or the payment drop box outside City Hall should be utilized.
- Staunton Library is currently closed to mirror the school closure timeline.

As mentioned above we are working closely with Macoupin County Public Health Department and sharing updates via our Facebook page to ensure that our community has the most up to date information. Please utilize the following resources to stay informed regarding Illinois and Macoupin County:

- Illinois Department Public Health (idph.illinois.gov)
- Macoupin County Public Health Department (mchp.net)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (cdc.gov)

Staunton always pulls together in a time of need and we do a fantastic job taking care of each other and community. Please keep in contact with those considered high risk in our small town so they are not forgotten. If you have a loved one or neighbor who is in need of a welfare check, please do not hesitate to contact the Staunton Police Department 911 (for an emergency) or 635-3333 (non-emergency). Please continue to support our local businesses as they too have been impacted and continue to still support our residents offering free lunches in some cases to our children in the Staunton School District.

Mayor Neuhaus & Staunton City Council