

CITY OF SYRACUSE

TO: CITIZENS OF SYRACUSE

FROM: TOMAS “Kc” ORTIZ, MAYOR & JESSICA MEYER, CITY ADMINISTRATOR

SUBJECT: CITY OF SYRACUSE COVID-19 RESPONSE

DATE: MARCH 26, 2020

Due to concerns regarding the potential spread of the COVID-19 virus, the City of Syracuse has taken the following actions for the benefit of the citizens of the City of Syracuse and our dedicated employees:

- 1) Mayor Tomas “Kc” Ortiz signed a Local Disaster Declaration on March 17, 2020 which will assist the City of Syracuse in applying for emergency assistance associated with COVID-19 should it become available.
- 2) Mayor Ortiz, City Administrator, Jessica Meyer, and City Attorney, Jerry Stilmock, have conducted daily conference calls to ensure that all essential City services remain in place.
- 3) The City of Syracuse will suspend late fees and disconnections for non-payment from March 24, 2020 through May 31, 2020. Customers are urged to call Syracuse utilities at 402-269-2173 if they cannot pay their bill. The City of Syracuse will assist customers to make payment arrangements, so that they do not get further behind.
- 4) At this time, City phones will continue to be answered during regular business hours (M-F: 8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.).
- 5) The City Council may call an emergency meeting without reasonable advance public notice to address this state of emergency. Such meeting may be held by electronic or telecommunication equipment as provided by Nebraska law and the Governor’s Executive Order No. 20-03.
- 6) The lobby at City Hall has been locked and we are asking that anyone doing business at City Hall use the drive through to limit contact between employees and the public.
- 7) The Syracuse Public Library is closed, however, the library has been a longtime member of Nebraska Overdrive. If have library card you can select audiobooks online.
- 8) Use of the City ballfields, park equipment and parks for games and practices is prohibited until further notice.
- 9) Community leaders (city, hospital, school district, nursing home, fire, rescue and others), met on March 20, 2020 to create a network for sharing critical information within our community. The leaders will continue to meet periodically.
- 10) By announcement of Governor Pete Ricketts office, specific updates concerning Syracuse and Otoe County are available through the Southeast District Health Department at sedhd.org. or at 402-274-3993.
- 11) Nebraska has also established a COVID-19 Public Hotline: 402-552-6645.

Additional actions may be taken at any time based upon recommendations from local health officials. Please continue to take necessary precautions to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and reach out to neighbors and community members who are unable to leave their home.