



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 13, 2020

City of Silverton
306 S. Water St.
Silverton, OR 97381

Status Update Re: COVID-19 and City of Silverton from Mayor Palmer and City Manager

As we all deal with the daily evolution of COVID-19 concerns, we want to give you an update on what the City is doing with respect to this issue. At this point, we are not cancelling City Council and committee meetings unless they have limited non-urgent items, but we are encouraging interested citizens to remember that all regular City Council and Planning Commission meetings are normally televised on SCAN-TV, and audio is posted following all non-televised meetings, offering you an alternative to attending in person. Of course, we're not yet discouraging attendance, but do want to you be aware of all options for being engaged in the process. Testimony may be submitted for any matter by emailing directly to publiccomment@silverton.or.us or by dropping off written testimony at City Hall.

Additionally, we are exploring the option of televising scheduled work sessions in the future, but we have CANCELLED the work session scheduled for Monday, March 16th as we were not able to proceed with the scheduled topic that night. The Urban Renewal Meeting on March 16th will be moved to 6 pm and we are awaiting notice whether we can televise this meeting. If not, the audio recording will be posted on our website following the meeting.

In terms of public events conducted by private organizations, those decisions are up to the organizers and mandates provided by the Governor's office. We encourage everyone to take seriously the habits and decisions that are made daily that can either contribute to this health concern, or help make your exposure less likely. Common sense advice has been provided by the Oregon Health Authority on multiple occasions and the City actively monitors those recommendations.

With respect to City operations, City staff is taking precautions and has plans in place depending on several variables. The health of our staff and continuation of services to our citizens is a priority and finding ways to maximize both during this evolving public health concern is vital to our leadership team. We have increased our cleaning and disinfection of public areas in our facilities; much of which has been employee led. We have also issued a temporary administrative policy that sets out our practice in a number of areas, including leave availability for COVID-19 related absences, providing opportunities for employees to work remotely if their position allows for it, and setting out requirements for reporting any diagnosis or potential exposure that could be a direct impact to others within the organization or the general public. In addition, we have

activated a “pandemic team” to address information as it becomes available and we distribute to our staff and the community. Our management team also continues to be actively involved in the decision making as it impacts operations in our city departments.

As of this message, there have been no residents diagnosed with COVID-19 that we have been officially notified of (we have been asked this by citizens) and because of privacy issues, we may not be notified unless the information is distributed to the public at large. We will continue to update the public as things change moving forward and will be as transparent as possible in advising the public.

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