

March 17, 2020

Whitehouse joins Neighbor Cities & Smith County in Declaring Public Health Emergency

Mayor Charles Parker today declared a local state of disaster for public health emergency. Extraordinary changes have already been implemented in City operations to help contain the spread of the Coronavirus or COVID-19 within our community.

The following changes went into effect earlier this week:

- The City of Whitehouse is participating in Smith County, Tyler Emergency Operations Center, and State Emergency Operations activities.
- All City Board and Commission meetings, except for Whitehouse City Council, Planning and Zoning and any other meeting required by law, will be postponed until further notice.
- City staff continues researching opportunities to provide video or teleconferencing options for City Council and Planning & Zoning meetings, and to provide ways for the public to participate from outside of the physical location.
- All sports leagues utilizing City of Whitehouse fields/facilities are suspended until further notice.
- The public library is closed until further notice.

Smith County made a similar public health emergency declaration yesterday. "This is an important declaration for a serious and changing situation," said Mayor Charles Parker. "Whitehouse, our neighboring cities and Smith County all recognize the importance of prudent and proactive actions at this time. We need all citizens and businesses to do their part to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We also ask that our citizens follow the county example in spreading facts, not fear"

The City will be posting updates online.

We have been in contact with Meals on Wheels and they continue to provide service to their clients in the community. They are still delivering and allowing pickup of meals but are not allowing clients to congregate at the center until further notice. We are appreciative of the critical service Meals on Wheels provides to our neighbors.

City offices remain closed to the public, but our Council and Staff are committed to ensuring service continues in a manner that is safe for the public and our employees.