



FORT PIERRE

EST. 1817



FROM THE MAYOR

This is not a message I would normally send, but these are not normal times. I have attempted to communicate through radio broadcasts, Facebook, and the local newspaper, but I realize that doesn't cover everyone.

With the Covid-19 pandemic, our nation and indeed the entire world is experiencing something unique in everyone's memory, and things change so quickly, it's hard to know how to react. But there are some things we can do to protect ourselves and our families. So let's concentrate on the things we can control.

First and foremost, follow the CDC and Governor Noem's guidelines: **STAY HOME** if you are sick, or unless you absolutely need to buy groceries or prescription drugs. Use delivery services if you are in one of the susceptible categories (over 60, suffering from respiratory or cardiac conditions, or have an immunity-suppressing condition.) Know what the COVID-19 symptoms are and call your health care provider if you are experiencing them. Wash your hands and practice social distancing religiously.

Mayor Harding and I communicate regularly, sometimes daily, to send consistent messages to our communities. We have been asked about closing down businesses, and I am reluctant to take that step except as a last resort. But business owners and managers need to take responsibility and use good judgement to keep themselves, their employees, and the public safe. Observe the CDC recommendation of no more than 10 people in an enclosed space, and enforce distancing of at least six feet of physical separation. The City Council will take enforcement action if these guidelines are not followed voluntarily.

Our local businesses have done a good job of adapting their business practices to accommodate these safeguards, and I think we should support them by using their delivery, takeout and curbside services. Dakota Radio Group has put together a good list of local businesses that have changed their businesses hours, etc. to adapt to COVID-19, and they update it daily.

The Courthouse is now locked, so the City offices are closed to public entry, but essential services are continuing to be provided. We are taking steps to protect our employees by using teleconferencing for essential meetings, some are teleworking, and some are on call. Feel free to call the usual number: 223-7690. The phone will be staffed and messages taken for any one of us. My personal cell phone is 222-5530, and my email is mayorhanson@fortpierre.com.

Meetings of the City Council and Planning & Zoning will be held by teleconference. The public is invited to participate, using the instructions found in this newsletter. Meetings of Fort Pierre Development and Fort Pierre Tourism & Promotion Council (BID Board) are also holding their monthly meetings by teleconference.

I would very much like to be optimistic and predict that life will be back to normal in a few weeks. But I think it is more realistic to expect it to last longer than that. I will do my best to stay in contact with you, and feel free to call our office or me personally. It is difficult being isolated, and it is very hard to adapt to a complete and abrupt change in our lifestyles and routines. And it is completely human to be fearful and concerned for the future. We will survive this, and we will be all the stronger for it. But we have to be smart about it and do the right things to protect ourselves, our families, and our neighbors.

Stay safe and healthy.

Gloria Hanson



April 2020

In this Issue:

From the Mayor	1
Developments due To Covid-19	2
Public Meeting Options	2
AlertSense Signup	2
Municipal Election	2
Potential Financial Assistance	3
Flushable Items	3
Not flushable	
Local Business Update	3
Reminder Utility Payments	3
Resolution for CDC guidelines	4
Landfill coupon/ Drinking Water Report	4



CITY NEWS

Developments in Fort Pierre due to COVID-19

To help control the spread of **COVID-19 aka Coronavirus**, the City of Fort Pierre is closing the office to the public. The Stanley County Courthouse has taken the same precautionary measure and has locked the doors effective 3/30/2020.

While our staff is available via phone (605)223-7690, for the protection of the public and our employees, we are limiting public interaction.

Utility Payments:

You may place your payment in the drop box on the northwest edge of the courthouse parking lot or mail your payment.

You can make your payment on-line at <https://www.info.paymentservicenetwork.com/> (this has a processing fee)

If interested in signing up for autopay, direct payment out of bank account the 12th of each month, call (605)223-7690 (this is free)

New Utility Customers:

Please call (605)223-7690 and indicate that you would like to fill out an application for utility services.

We will ask you questions so we can initiate the application and explain our policies.

We will provide the completed application to you for signing and process your receipt for the utility deposit.

Utility Customer Terminating Services:

Please call (605)223-7690 and provide necessary information for finalizing your services.

Building Permits:

Please call (605)223-7690 and ask to speak to someone regarding a building permit.

Further interaction will be based on individual needs.

Other Inquiries:

Please call (605)223-7690 and explain what you need so we can connect you with the proper personnel.

We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. We are doing our part to help control the spread of this virus.

Do not hesitate to call us at anytime. **(605)223-7690.**

Thank you for your understanding!

PUBLIC MEETINGS BY ZOOM

The City Council, Planning & Zoning, and Board of Adjustments & Appeals meetings will be held using "Zoom". The City meeting id code will always be **814 124 6625**. **To join by phone (audio only)** call in using 1-312-626-6799 and then you will be asked to key in the meeting id code. **To join by computer**, can go to the link: <https://zoom.us/join> and you will enter the meeting id code. **To join by smartphone**, downloaded the app and then enter the meeting id code. Please call the City at (605)223-7690 if you have any questions.

AlertSense Sign Up

Help us help you!

Use <https://public.alertsense.com/SignUp/?regionid=1385>

You can also access it on the

City of Fort Pierre webpage or Facebook.

Just click on the AlertSense link to sign up!

We will be using this system to send

Notices of Emergencies, Utility Service

Advisories, and other important information.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION POSTPONED!!

Election for WARD II Alderman, that was scheduled for April 14, 2020, is Postponed until June 30, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We will keep you informed as more specific decisions are made.

Please call 223-7690 if you have any questions.

At the election, the following office will be filled:

Office: Alderman Ward II, Two (2) year term

Candidates are: Scott Deal, David LaRoche, & Carl Rathbun

POTENTIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Our office and Fort Pierre Development have both been informed on financial assistance available to individuals and businesses impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Small business owners with questions on employee layoffs, whether or not their business is "essential," availability of low interest loans and/or grants, or any other pertinent business related questions caused by the COVID-19 virus can contact the following agencies:

- Employee Issues – Department of Labor at <http://dlr.sd.gov/news/default.aspx>
- General Business Questions – South Dakota Retailers Association at www.sdra.org
- Financial Assistance – Small Business Administration at www.sba.gov
- General Business Issues/Questions – Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) at Scott.Amundson@sdreadytowork.com
- Rural Residents, Businesses & Communities – United States Department of Agriculture at ruraldevelopment@public.govdelivery.com

The Small Business Administration recommends that employers not lay off employees unless absolutely necessary. One of the programs provides a forgivable loan, in essence a grant, that rewards employers for keeping their employees on the payroll.

Any scenarios you might have, your first point of contact should be your lending institution. They can refer you to the appropriate contact. You may also contact the Fort Pierre Development Corporation (223-2680) for more information.

SHANE'S PHARMACY & FORT PIERRE DAKOTAMART PARTNERING

Starting Monday, March 30th, Shane's Pharmacy collaborated with Fort Pierre Dakotamart to deliver groceries to anyone considered high-risk and the elderly on Monday-Friday between 2-5 pm. Call Dakotamart (223-3141) one day in advance with your order and pay with credit/debit card. The groceries will be dropped off on your doorstep next day. The driver will call you when arriving so you may grab the groceries from your doorstep in real time. If you're outside when staff arrive kindly practice social distancing.

SOME "FLUSHABLE" ITEMS ARE NOT FLUSHABLE!!

With the limited availability of toilet tissue, we understand that citizens may have turned alternative types of wipes. Flushing these alternatives down the toilet will have a negative impact on the sewer system, costing our customers money in unnecessary repairs.

**PLEASE PLACE THE
FOLLOWING ITEMS IN THE TRASH:**

**"flushable" or non-flushable wipes of any kind
sanitary pads/tampons
"flushable" or non-flushable tampon applicators
paper towels, facial tissue, makeup remover wipes,
cotton swabs, cotton balls, dental floss, floss picks,
disposable toilet wand pads,
cigarettes, scoops of kitty litter, condoms,
hair, gum & candy wrappers, bandages,
diapers**

**Remember your toilet is NOT a trash can
THANK YOU!**

LOCAL BUSINESS UPDATE

Several area businesses have changed their normal operations to help control the spread of Covid-19. Please be patient during this time and also try to help them by utilizing their services when possible. It would be wise to call ahead to find the modified hours or services they are offering.

The Covid-19 virus leaves uncertainty for the City as to the hiring of summer staff, pool, parks, and campground openings. We will keep everyone informed as more information becomes available.

JUST A FRIENDLY REMINDER:

Utility payments are due as usual. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call the City Office 605-223-7690.

A RESOLUTION DECLARING AN EMERGENCY CONCERNING THE PANDEMIC OUTBREAK OF THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) AND PROVIDING FOR RESPONSIVE MEASURES RELATED TO THE OPERATIONS OF THE CITY AND THE PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

WHEREAS, the pandemic outbreak of COVID-19, a respiratory illness caused by the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2), has been declared a public health emergency by the World Health Organization, the President of the United States, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Governor of South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends certain actions for the prevention and mitigation of community transmission of COVID-19, including social distancing and limitations related to group gatherings; and

WHEREAS, SDCL 9-32-1 provides that municipalities "shall have power to do what may be necessary or expedient for the promotion of health or the suppression of disease;" and

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Pierre finds that there exists a threat to the public's health, safety, and welfare necessitating immediate measures to prevent the spread and potential effects of COVID-19; NOW,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council hereby declare a public health emergency in the City of Fort Pierre; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor shall have the power to temporarily suspend applicable clauses of the City's personnel policy or enact other measures as necessary related to City employees in order to allow for alternative work arrangements or schedules to protect the health and wellbeing of city employees and the general public; and

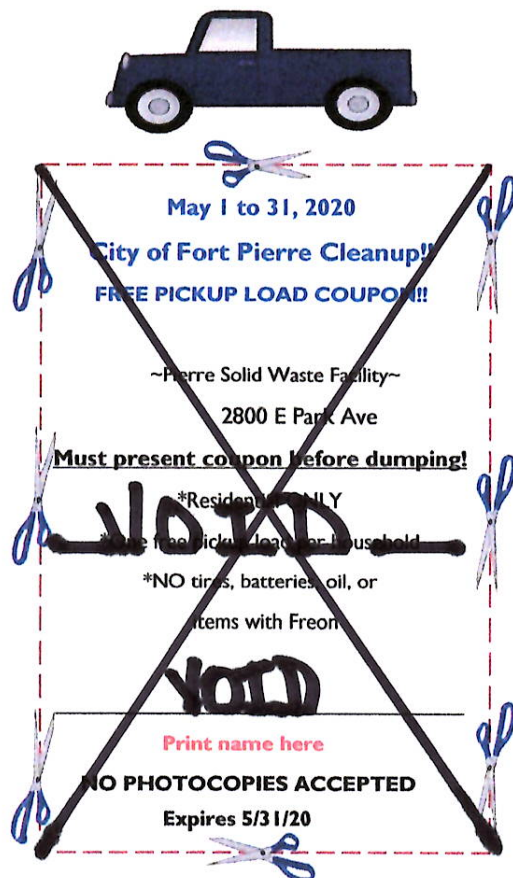
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all City buildings shall be closed to the public, but alternative arrangements shall be made where possible allowing the public to continue the transaction of City business; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that arrangements shall be made for board members, City staff, members of the media, and the general public to participate electronically or telephonically in all meetings of the City's public bodies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the citizens of Fort Pierre, as well as private and non-profit organizations operating in the City, are strongly encouraged to follow CDC recommendations and guidelines related to the COVID-19 outbreak; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor shall have the authority to immediately implement additional emergency measures by written declaration if new information, guidelines, or directives are received by federal or state health authorities necessitating prompt action to prevent the spread of COVID-19; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to SDCL 9-19-13, this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage as it is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health and it shall continue in effect until further action by the City Council specifically referencing this Resolution.



2019 Drinking Water Report

The City of Fort Pierre monitored your drinking water for possible contaminants.

The 2019 Drinking Water Report is available on-line .

at www.fortpierre.com

Interested in Volunteering

Contact Pat Duffy at the Senior Center if you are interested in volunteering to help deliver meals.

605-223-2701