

**MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

The City of Jesup Board of Commissioners held a Special Called meeting Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 9:00 a.m., in the Council Chamber. Mayor David Earl Keith called the meeting to order. Roll call was as follows:

Mayor, David Earl Keith	Present
Commissioner, Shirlene Armstrong	Present
Commissioner, Don A. Darden	Present
Commissioner, Nick Harris	Present
Commissioner, Bill Harvey	Present
Commissioner, Ray House	Present
Commissioner, Stanley Todd	Present
City Attorney, Mike Conner	Present
City Manager, Mike Deal	Present
Police Chief, Mike Lane	Absent

Invocation was given by Commissioner Todd.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Darden.

Mayor Keith stated Council met yesterday morning to evaluate the operations of the City of Jesup, and agreeded to wait until after Governor Kemp’s Press Conference yesterday evening before proceeding.

Mayor Keith reported he and City Manager Deal visited 10 restaurants and the movie theatre yesterday to talk with them about the dine-in requirements.

Mayor Keith noted City Attorney Conner, City Manager Deal, Commissioner Harris and City Clerk/Treasurer Rose Jackson met yesterday at City Hall after the Governor’s 5:00 p.m. Press Conference until 8:00 p.m. They discussed the direction the City needed to go, and created an Ordinance declaring a Public Health State of Emergency within the City of Jesup.

Mayor Keith read the following Press Release:

STATE OF GEORGIA

For immediate release:

CITY OF JESUP

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Mayor and Board of Commissioners of the City of Jesup, Georgia have declared a public health state of emergency within the City of Jesup because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This declaration will remain in force and effect for fourteen (14) days from today, March 24, 2020.

1. The Mayor and Board of Commissioners gave the City Manager and Chief of Police and their respective official designees the immediate authority to enforce the executive order of the Governor of the State of Georgia dated March 23, 2020, concerning the gatherings of ten (10) or more persons and other subject matter related to the COVID-19 health emergency.

2. Under the City's current action, restaurants and other eating and dining establishments where food is served must cease offering dine-in services but may continue preparing and offering food to customers via delivery, drive-through, take-out and curbside services. At all times, patrons, employees, subcontractors and contractors of and visitors to all such establishments must maintain at least six (6) feet of personal distance between themselves as much as possible given the physical constraints of the premises.

3. Gyms, fitness centers, pools, social clubs, amusement facilities, bowling alleys, pool halls, theaters, skating rinks, community centers, bars, nightclubs, parks, recreational facilities, massage parlors, tattoo parlors, hair salons, barber shops and nail salons located within the City of Jesup must close and remain closed for the duration of this emergency.

4. Any other businesses, not-for-profits and other organizations which remain open during the emergency must undertake measures to ensure that consumers maintain at least six (6) feet of personal distance between themselves and post signage on entrance doors informing consumers to maintain at least six (6) feet of personal distance.

5. For the duration of the declared emergency, there shall be no public gatherings on any property owned or controlled by the City of Jesup. "Public gatherings" means the organized gathering or assembly of ten (10) or more persons.

6. Additionally, all public and private gatherings of more than ten (10) people occurring outside of a household or living unit are prohibited if such gatherings require persons to stand or to be seated within six (6) feet of any other person. For gatherings of ten (10) or fewer people occurring outside a household or living unit, participants must likewise maintain at least six (6) feet of personal distance between themselves and others.

7. The declaration of a state of emergency further triggers application of the City's existing code provisions concerning governmental actions during such emergencies. Those code provisions provide the Mayor and City Manager with additional authority to promote measures necessary to promote public health and welfare.

8. The City's measures will go into effect at 11:59 p.m. on March 24, 2020.

The Mayor and the Board of Commissioners will constantly monitor the progression of the pandemic and will take additional measures as may be necessary.

Commissioner Armstrong questioned how would the public know they're safe after the 2-week period. Mayor Keith stated that would be guided by the Georgia Department of Public Health, and Council will meet again before that time.

Commissioner Todd asked what was the difference between someone going into a restaurant to fix their own plate off the buffet to take-out and sitting down to eat in the dining room. City Manager Deal stated the restaurant would have to take sanitary precautions.

Mayor Keith said he and City Manager Deal would visit all the buffet restaurants and ask them to not let customers fix their own plate.

Commissioner Harris noted this was the hardest thing he has had to do as a Commissioner, and he is angry at the people who are not complying. He agreed Council has the responsibility for the City of Jesup, and was ready to move forward.

Mayor Keith reminded Council that City Manager and Police Chief have the authority to close businesses if necessary.

Commissioner Armstrong asked about Concerted Services meeting at the Hall Richardson Community Center. Mayor Keith stated all Community Centers inside the City would be closed.

Commissioner Darden noted some churches are still able to meet with more than 10 members if the building is large enough to spread the members out 6 feet apart. He said his church needs to look at that option because they originally said they were not going to close.

Mayor Keith said City Clerk/Treasurer Jackson informed him it only takes one person in the congregation to stream the church service "Live" on Facebook using their cellphone. That way they could have online service.

Council agreed to meet again on Friday, April 3, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at City Hall to evaluate operations further.

Commissioner House stated he never thought he would have to vote to shut down businesses. He noted Council would be taking away people's livelihood, and he did not take his vote likely.

Commissioner Armstrong made motion seconded by Commissioner Darden to approve the 1st Reading of an Ordinance declaring a Public Health State of Emergency within the City of Jesup because of the COVID-19 pandemic and taking immediate emergency measures, effective at 11:59 p.m. on March 24, 2020.

All Council voted yes.

Commissioner Harris made motion seconded by Commissioner Todd to dispense with the 2nd Reading of an Ordinance declaring a Public Health State of Emergency within the City of Jesup because of COVID-19 pandemic and taking immediate emergency measures, effective at 11:59 p.m. on March 24, 2020.

All Council voted yes.

Commissioner Armstrong and Harvey, who were attending the meeting by phone, gave Mayor Keith permission to sign their name to the Ordinance.

Meeting Adjourned.

Rose Marcus-Jackson
City Clerk/Treasurer