



Statement on COVID-19

April 6, 2020

Good evening Copperas Cove, your efforts in helping to fight this pandemic are appreciated as we continue in our attempts to slow the spread and flatten the curve.

We have received quite a bit of feedback from our recent meeting held this past Friday, in which City Council unanimously voted 7 – 0 to extend the City’s Disaster Declaration thru April 30th. There was a lot of discussion prior to the vote and I want to ensure our citizens understand the impact of the record vote that was taken. While the City Ordinance is not termed as a ‘Shelter in Place’ or ‘Stay at Home’, it clearly mirrors Gov. Abbott’s Executive Order GA-14 and is essentially just that, residents should **STAY AT HOME** unless you have an essential need or purpose. GA-14 “*is a standard that is based upon essential services and essential activities, and those who are involved in essential services as defined by the U.S. Homeland Security are able to continue to provide those essential service.*” City Ordinance 2020-22 further states “*every person in Texas SHALL, except where necessary to provide or obtain essential services, minimize social gatherings and minimize in-person contact with people who are not in the same household.*” A violation of this ordinance is a Class C Misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$2,000.00.

Some of the public confusion from this order stems from the fact that the *Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce* is very broad and many businesses are deemed to be essential. As such, you will continue to see many citizens moving throughout the community providing or accessing essential services, or engaging in essential daily activities. Physical activities, such as walking/running or cycling, are encouraged so long as necessary precautions such as social distancing is maintained.

Lastly, over the past couple of weeks we have seen our first positive cases reported and as of this writing we sit at 7 cases in Copperas Cove. We must all continue to support one another, follow the orders and ordinances as set forth, and continue to maintain personal hygiene at all levels. I encourage our residents to go to <http://www.copperascovetx.gov/pio/covid-19/> or call the established City COVID-19 Hotline at (254)542-8920 if you have further questions.

Yours in Service,
Bradi Diaz
Mayor, City of Copperas Cove