



## CITY OF HALLOWELL

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### **Covid-19 Community Discussion Question and Answer, April 8 and 9**

*How can community members access recordings of meetings? Will these be posted for the public as they were in the past?*

Meetings are recorded and posted to the website, under the Government > Boards & Committees > ZOOM Meeting Recordings section of the City website.

[https://hallowell.govoffice.com/index.asp?Type=B\\_BASIC&SEC={5F000EA0-68C2-4D21-A4ED-5F2966BD8459}](https://hallowell.govoffice.com/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC={5F000EA0-68C2-4D21-A4ED-5F2966BD8459})

*Can General Assistance be applied for remotely without going into City Hall?*

In most instances, yes. Applicants can contact the City Treasurer and apply over the phone. Please call 430-4401.

*Do the Police, Public Works, and Fire Department have access to the necessary protective equipment? Are they wearing masks and gloves while working in the public?*

The Police, Public Works, and Fire Department are following their training on potential exposures when responding to incidents and conducting routine work, and currently we have PPE equipment on hand. Nearly the entire world is reporting shortages of PPE and it is an ongoing concern statewide. Many thanks to those who are sewing masks, and to the Maine businesses who are producing and donating hand sanitizer and other emergency response essentials. Your proactive efforts to help are appreciated!

*Will TIF funds be used to help downtown businesses? If so, how? Are forgivable loans a possibility?*

This is under review by the Finance Committee and the Committee Chair has asked to meet with the Board of Trade to discuss what types of support businesses are seeking. The City has also posted business assistance resources on Facebook and the City website.

*Will the chairs at the waterfront be allowed to go back?*

That decision will ultimately be up to the City and the Hallowell Area Board of Trade, but at this time it seems it would be difficult to maintain adequate physical distancing or cleaning of the chairs and other surfaces, which would increase the potential for person-to-person or surface transmission of the Coronavirus and other illnesses.

*What can the public do with their recycling other than stock pile it?*

At this time people will have to store it, but we will continue to monitor updates from Hatch Hill.

*How will flood warning notification take place? Will the City be knocking on doors as they have in the past?*

We will notify people through the NIXLE system and by phone, unless there is an extreme emergency that requires evacuation. The public can register for NIXLE notification on the City website or at: <https://local.nixle.com/zipcode/04347/>

*Is Constant Contact still being used to let people know about meetings?*

Yes, as it has been in the past we will notify City Council and Planning Board meetings through Constant Contact. Other meetings will be posted to the City website calendar. This is available at: <https://hallowell.govoffice.com/>

*Is there a City budget in place for the corona virus related issues? If so, how is it being managed?*

The State of Emergency provides for the City Manager to “obtain vital supplies, equipment and other items found lacking and needed for the protection of health, life and property during an emergency without following normal purchasing or formal bid procedures.” We are collecting these expenses for future reimbursement from the Federal disaster relief funds.

*Does the City have authority to limit Rail Trail access if needed? Do they have any current plans to do that?*

No, we do not, but the Highway Foreman is on the Rail Trail Board of Supervisors and it has been discussed. The Board of Health recommends that public spaces remain open for recreation and exercise, and that the public observe safe distancing and take preventative measures like wearing masks and wearing gloves.

*Will the brush pile be open to public?*

The Brush Pile is currently open.

*Is a musician allowed to perform outdoors in public (in keeping with the street performance ordinance) and ask for donations if physical distancing is complied with?*

Although Hallowell has not restricted this per se, it does not seem to fall under the Governor’s definition of an essential service so it may be advisable to hold off at this time.

*Is the City actively coordinating any CV-19 volunteer effort or community assistance effort? Or are they referring all such inquiries to Representative Warren's Hallowell Helps organization?*

The City staff are in constant contact with community organizations including RSU-2, Representative Warren's call list for older people, Rep Warren's Hallowell Helps initiative, Senior Spectrum, and others. We spend a lot of time fielding phone calls, answering questions, connecting people with each other, and we are doing the best we can do to connect people in need with people who have resources.

*There is a noticeable increase in the use of the dog park since many people are working from home. Is the trash being emptied more often?*

Yes, it is checked two to three times per week. We are hoping to keep the dog park open, and are counting on the public to maintain the area and we strongly the public to observe safe distancing and take preventative measures like wearing masks and wearing gloves when touching surfaces and door latches.

*With a very limited City staff, what plan is in place if someone gets sick?*

We have provided remote access to email and files for administrative staff, and have taken steps to reduce person-to-person contact in City buildings as much as possible. We will adjust as needed based on how the virus effects City staff. We strongly the public to observe safe distancing and take preventative measures like wearing masks and gloves in public places. Everything that can be done to "flatten the curve" and reduce the spread of Coronavirus and other illnesses will reduce health risks for first responders.

*Will voter's approval of the school budget in June need to be postponed?*

The City is not aware of the RSU-2 budget plans, so these questions would be better directed to the RSU-2 delegates Dawn Gallagher and Chris Asch, or the Superintendent of Schools. Additional information is available at: <https://www.kidsrsu.org/news>

State Senator Shenna Bellows reports that meals are available at Hall-Dale Elementary and Hall-Dale High School Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays from 10:30 to 12:30 for any child 18 years or younger. No application needed. Parents or guardians or someone else with a note from the parents and guardians should pick up.

*Are building permits being issued? Are contractors allowed to work in Hallowell beyond what is considered essential? How will inspections take place?*

Yes, we are still issuing building permits at this time and inspections will be conducted by the CEO or the Assistant CEO.

*Why have there been no public updates from the Emergency Management Director?*

The City Manager is the Public information officer under the Emergency Management Plan and will communicate updates on the Emergency Operations Plan.

*How is the City handling any transient population, including homeless people or people needing to distance from their traditional living situation. Will the City temporarily allow living arrangements in campers?*

We have made not changes to our polices and policing at this time. If people have concerns about public safety, they are advised to contact the Hallowell Police Department at 207-623-3131. If you see something, Say Something.

*Is the City organizing anything to help transition seasonal residents back into Hallowell? Are they asking them not to return yet?*

Citizens are advised to follow the Governor's orders for a 14-day quarantine on their return to Maine from other places. The Governor stated that we do not have the authority to limit interstate travel.

*Are the police enforcing social distancing rules and new rules relating to businesses? Are there fines involved for not complying?*

We will enforce the Governor's orders and the City's orders related to social distancing and rules related to businesses. There and local and state fines for non-compliance. If people have concerns about public safety, they are advised to contact the Hallowell Police Department at 207-623-3131. If you see something, Say Something.

*Is Hallowell issuing burning permits.*

Not at this time. Our goal is to reduce emergency incidents as much as possible, and to reduce person-to-person transmission between fire fighters having to respond to a fire scene.

*Will the boat docks be put in on the Kennebec River?*

Docks are usually installed around Memorial Day, but it is too early to know whether they will be put in on time this year.