



CITY OF HALLOWELL

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MARK L. WALKER, MAYOR
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Mayor's Weekly Update, April 24, 2020

At this time City department leads meet regularly, usually once a week, for a staff meeting to coordinate Coronavirus response and update each other on routine City business. The City Manager attends regular weekly meetings of the Board of Health (which includes a gerontologist, pediatrician, and general practitioner), and also Zoom meetings of the Maine Council on Aging (resources for older people and those living in conjugate and long-term care), Build Maine (local economic development and small business supports and community planning for the post-coronavirus future), and watches Maine CDC broadcasts on a regular basis. Staff have attended meetings of the DECD, SBA, and Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce to better understand resources available for small businesses, and the Mayor and Council President have been in contact with the Hallowell Area Board of Trade to help with access to Federal and State programs, and to discuss what supports the City might provide. We have also remained in contact with the Hallowell Food Bank, the Hallowell Water District, the Greater Augusta Utility District, City of Augusta police and fire dispatch, and neighboring municipalities to share best practices and stay updated on community-driven outreach.

To prepare for the expected community spread of Coronavirus in Kennebec County, City staff are requesting emergency preparation plans from local conjugate and long-term care facilities, monitoring supplies of PPE and hand sanitizer, maintaining contact with Maine CDC and Kennebec Emergency Management Agency, and providing emergency services including response to the recent flood conditions on the Kennebec River and assisting with related issues for homeowners. We remain actively involved with discussions and outreach on best management practices in response to the virus, including recommendations that people wear protective masks or face coverings when coming in contact with others in public places. We ask that people respect safe distancing and wear masks / coverings to protect first responders, essential workers, and sensitive populations who may have a higher risk of contracting Coronavirus and / or a more difficult response to infection.

Noting that some City committees have continued to meet via Zoom, the City may recommend that regular Council committee and other community committee meetings resume on a remote platform, and that committee chairs submit minutes for Council review as usual at its regular meetings. Also, the City sends regular messaging and resource links out through the website and its Facebook page, but we recognize that this outreach is limited. If you read something on Facebook or the City website that you think a friend, neighbor, or relative should know about, please share that information with them and ask them to contact us with questions as necessary. We have supplemented our Internet outreach with a mailed list of resources for people to use during our modified City Hall office access, and also the latest version of the Hallowell Champion has some great information about Coronavirus and how it is affecting the community.