



Mayor Bob Scott Remarks
April 6, 2020 City Council Meeting

Our top priority as a City is to keep our residents safe and healthy. It's important that we remain focused on staying home as much as possible as it is the single-most effective way for us to slow the community spread of COVID-19. We strongly encourage everyone to follow the guidelines shared by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Iowa Department of Health, and Siouxland District Health by practicing social distancing measures that include not gathering in groups of more than 10 people and staying at least six feet away from others. If you're sick, stay home. If you are experiencing symptoms such as a fever, cough or shortness of breath, please stay home and contact your health care provider.

The City is working collaboratively with state and local partners during this health crisis. We are meeting daily with several local agencies at our Emergency Operations Center to evaluate our current reality and determine best practices moving forward. We are grateful to Kevin Grieme and the staff at Siouxland District Health as they continue to provide daily updates regarding the spread of the virus, mitigation strategies, testing information and advice to our residents. We are fortunate to have outstanding healthcare providers, emergency management teams and first responders working together to address the COVID-19 pandemic and serve our community.

As an organization, the City has reviewed and adjusted our public meetings and facility operations. Our City Council will continue to meet while some City boards and commissions will postpone activities. To protect the public, we have made changes by utilizing technology to connect board members and allow social distancing to those attending. Although City buildings are closed to the public until further notice, City staff are working to ensure essential municipal services are maintained. Residents can pay their utility bill or parking fine online, by phone, or by using the drop box outside City Hall. Our Police and Fire departments are protecting and serving with the same commitment as always. Those departments are prepared with processes and consistent communication.

Beyond public safety, trash collection, street work, and City Transit services remain as scheduled.

Local attractions have had to become creative during this time to engage their patrons. The Sioux City Art Center offers daily videos on Facebook featuring art from their permanent collection followed by instruction on how to create something similar at home. The Sioux City Symphony offers virtual masterclasses with musical instrument instruction and free concerts online. The Arena Sports Academy is offering virtual sports training in basketball, wrestling, volleyball and dance. It's been special to see how people are helping in their community during this difficult time.

I'd like to thank the many businesses in Sioux City that have voluntarily implemented "Stay at Home" practices by providing their employees an opportunity to work from home. I'd also like to recognize our healthcare professionals, first responders and public employees as they continue to provide services to our residents. I'm also grateful for the frontline workers in our grocery stores, pharmacies, food banks, and other service centers who continue to work to serve us each day.

We will continue to keep you informed through our local media, Facebook, and Twitter pages. We also have a COVID-19 resource page on the City's website at sioux-city.org/coronavirus. In addition, the state offers a comprehensive website to reference at coronavirus.iowa.gov.

This is a challenging time for our community and nation. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we address this issue together.