



# CITY OF ARANSAS PASS

## AGENDA MEMORANDUM

City Council Meeting of March 23, 2020

Date: March 20, 2020

To: Mayor and Council Members

From: Sarah Lee  
Director of Community Enrichment

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**TITLE:** Consider and Act on the closing of Lobbies for all City Facilities, and public access to Library, Aquatic Center and Civic Center due to COVID-19.

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**PURPOSE:** In compliance with Executive Order No. GA-08 issued by Governor Greg Abbott on March 19, 2020, City Staff closed City facilities and City Lobbies to the public and modified hours and operations.

### **BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:**

The Texas Department of State Health Services has determined that, as of March 19, 2020, COVID-19 represents a public health disaster within the meaning of Chapter 81 of the Texas Health and Safety Code.

The Governor has issued Executive Order No. GA-08 which provides that:

- Every person in Texas shall avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people;
- People shall avoid eating or drinking in bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visiting gyms or massage parlors; however, the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options are allowed and highly encouraged;
- People shall not visit nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance; and
- Schools and day cares shall temporarily close.

The executive order is for a limited duration. For now, the order is effective 11:59 p.m. on March 20 and continues until 11:59 p.m. on April 3, 2020. **The restrictions could be extended in the future.**

This is not a shelter in place order. The Governor's order does not prohibit people from visiting a variety of places, including grocery stores, gas stations, parks, and banks, so long as necessary precautions are maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. **THE CITY WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ESSENSIAL SERVICES.**

### **WHAT WE ARE DOING FOR CITY FACILITIES:**

**City Council-** All meetings will continue as scheduled. Starting March 23, 2020 and continuing with all future meetings steps will be taken to comply with the Governor's Order to avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people and to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19. These steps include having hand sanitizers available for all in attendance, chairs will be spaced six (6) feet apart, and TV monitors will be available outside the meeting room for viewing. We encourage the use of our Live Stream to view meetings online.

**Aquatic Center-** Currently Closed, Staff is working regular schedule and plan to open for regular season in May however some training will be postponed.

**Library-** Is closed to public, Staff will work regular schedule and take this down time as an opportunity to do some reorganizing and training. Patrons will have access to free WIFI outside library. The ability to check out literature online will continue with our current system.

**Civic Center-** Is closed to public for 4 weeks. New reservations are not being taken during the 4 week period. Cancelled events will have priority booking for future dates. Current Staff will continue to work regular hours. There are currently 2 open positions at the Civic Center and those will not be filled until Civic Center is open and operational at 100%.

**Permit Department-** Lobby is closed to walk-ins. All permits will be issued by email or over the phone.

**Water Department-** Lobby is closed to walk-ins. All payments will be taken over the phone or with the drop box. The \$3 fee for credit card payment has been waived during this time. Staff will continue to work regular hours.

**Court-** Lobby and Court will be closed. All regular business will be conducted over the phone or by email. Payments will be received over the phone or in the court drop box.

**Police and Fire, Harbor, Parks, Streets and Drainage, IT, & Code Enforcement** will continue with regular hours and services.