

March 27, 2020 Update

Please visit www.cityofmlt.com/2060 for city information and resources on the COVID-19 public health emergency.

What's New?

- At the March 26, 2020 City Council meeting, an ordinance was adopted to **amend the city code to allow for the City Council and Planning Commission to participate in meetings remotely via phone and/or video** to comply with the Governor's Office and Health District Orders regarding gatherings and social distancing.

The city is working on plans to allow the public to listen to the meetings following the issuance of [Governor's Proclamation 20-28](#) that temporarily waives and suspends sections of the Open Public Meetings Act and restricts the public from attending the meetings in person during this public health emergency. Stay tuned for more information as the city works through the logistics on how this will occur. Currently, City Council and Planning Commission meetings are streamed in audio live or on demand at www.cityofmlt.com/129.

Because the Proclamation states that the city is only allowed to conduct "necessary and routine" business, we have sought clarification on what actions are and are not permitted. Therefore, **the City Council's next work/study session scheduled for Thursday, April 2, 2020 is cancelled.**

- The City Council's next regular meeting is on **Monday, April 6, 2020 beginning at 7:00 p.m.** in the Interim City Hall Council Chambers, 6100 219th Street SW, Suite 220. The agenda is still to be determined pending clarification of the Governor's Proclamation.
- **Construction Permits & Inspections:** Effective March 26, 2020, the city is no longer conducting inspections on commercial or residential construction for a minimum of two weeks and all construction activity must cease in accordance with the Governor's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" Order. If your permit is for construction related to essential activities described in this

Order, please call 425-744-6267 for submittal instructions or to make an appointment.

Essential Activities include inspections and permits for the following:

- Construction related to essential activities as described in the Governor's Order;
- A public purpose related to a public entity or governmental function or facility, or
- To prevent spoliation, avoid damage or unsafe conditions, and address emergency repairs.

Materials or information related to an existing permit will be accepted. The City encourages electronic submittals when possible. Please call 425-744-6267. Thank you for your continued understanding in complying with the Governor's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" Order.

- **SW Transfer Station Changes:** Snohomish County will close all of its Solid Waste facilities and programs starting Saturday, March 28. The transfer stations will reopen to *mechanical-unload customers only* on weekdays starting Monday, March 30.

The transfer stations will reopen on Saturdays only, starting April 4, to hand-unload/self-haul customers with only household garbage (see their [webpage](#) for criteria) during the duration of the health crisis. Rural drop box sites and the Household Hazardous Waste Facility will remain closed. Transfer station hours are now changed to 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Credit cards or account transactions only during the health crisis – no cash or checks. Please expect very long delays and use social distancing guidelines of six feet. Only visit the site if it is absolutely necessary. For more information, please visit their [Solid Waste webpage](#).

- **Additional measures taken by the city this week** to protect our community during this public health emergency include:
 - The Recreation and Parks Department is taking registration for camp care for the week of March 30 through April 3 for children currently in our program as well as any children of essential workers or vulnerable children who do not have alternative care. The cost of the camp is \$170 per week for Mountlake Terrace residents. To register, please email mltrecreation@ci.mlt.wa.us. For more information, please call the

Recreation Pavilion at (425) 776-9173 on weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. due to limited staffing. In compliance with the “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” Order, the Pavilion is closed for in-person information so please call or email.

- The city requested and received permission from our utility billing contractor AFTS to waive the \$2.00 online transaction fee until April 23, 2020 pending further orders from the Governor. This waiver is to encourage online transactions and slow the spread of COVID-19.
- Signage has been posted at Interim City Hall and the Police Station entrances to enter only if attending previously scheduled appointments, paying for utilities or meeting for specific permits due to the Governor’s “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” Order. *The city strongly discourages any public contact at this time unless absolutely necessary in order to protect our community and our staff.*
- Closure of public playgrounds, park restrooms, gazebos, athletic fields, sports courts and the dog park (passive parks and trails are open as long as social distancing occurs).

Previous Information

- [Governor’s Proclamation 20-28](#) (issued March 24, 2020) temporarily prohibits in-person contacts with the public that are required by the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) (RCW 42.30) and the Public Records Act (PRA) (RCW 42.56), suspending some statutory language that would require such contacts. This proclamation also temporarily suspends the PRA’s requirements for agencies to respond to PRA requests for public records within five business days from receipt, and to maintain business hours for public inspection and copying of records for a minimum of 30 hours per week. It is effective from March 24, 2020 until midnight, April 23, 2020, unless extended beyond that date. Please read the proclamation for details and to see the list of citations to the specific OPMA and PRA statutes or portions of statutes that are temporarily suspended.

- **“Stay Home, Stay Healthy” Order In Effect March 25, 2020 Until Midnight April 6, 2020, Unless Extended:**

Starting Wednesday, March 25, 2020, most businesses will be closed statewide with the exception of [essential businesses](#) and key government functions including the City of Mountlake Terrace. The State defines “Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers” as personnel who are needed to maintain continuity of operations of essential critical infrastructure sectors and additional sectors as the State Public Health Officer may designate as critical to protect health and well-being of all Washingtonians.

The Governor’s Proclamation does not prohibit working from home, operating a single owner business with no in-person, on-site public interaction, or restaurants and food services providing delivery or take-away services, so long as proper social distancing and sanitation measures are established and implemented.

Residents are permitted to leave home in order to meet their essential needs including traveling to grocery stores and food banks, pharmacies, gas stations, urgent or emergency medical care, caring for an elderly or sick family member, and traveling to work for essential staff as defined by state or local authorities. For more information on what’s open and closed, please visit the State’s [webpage](#). You can read the Governor’s announcement [here](#).

- **Drive-thru testing available by appointment** for high-risk Snohomish County residents with COVID-19 symptoms, including those who work in healthcare, public safety or critical infrastructure, now have another option for free testing. ***Testing is by appointment only if you meet the criteria to be tested.*** Visit www.snohd.org/503 to learn more or sign up for an appointment.
- Snohomish Health District has this new [webpage](#) to help control rumors about the Coronavirus.
- Thanks to MLTNews.com for their work in creating [this list](#) of Mountlake Terrace **restaurants offering takeout or delivery service**. Please help our businesses stay open if you are able to. City Hall employees are placing a group lunch order each day to a different Mountlake Terrace restaurant to try and help our local businesses.

- The city recognizes there is uncertainty at this time and realizes that some utility customers may be worried about paying their water bill. Therefore, in line with Governor Inslee's request of March 18, **the City of Mountlake Terrace will postpone shut offs of water service to customers for nonpayment through April 24.** This action may be extended in the future, and no late fees or penalties will apply during this time.

We encourage customers to continue to make their utility payments or to call Utility Billing at (425) 744-6214 to make payment arrangements if they are unable to pay at this time.

- Snohomish County has launched a COVID-19 **Emergency Sheltering Program** to help those most at risk of exposure to COVID-19. The funds will target those who are experiencing homelessness and are parents with children, veterans, or other vulnerable individuals. For more information, visit <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/72255/New-COVID-19-Emergency-Sheltering-Program-Launched-in-Snohomish-County?bidId=>.
- **Renters & Landlords:** In response to inquiries made to the city about this issue, "Under the Governor's March 18 order, landlords are barred from evicting someone who fails to pay rent on time. It's in effect for 30 days. Landlords are prohibited from issuing a 20-day notice for unlawful occupancy unless they can demonstrate it's necessary to ensure the health and safety of the tenant or others." Read article [here](#).
- Edmonds School District continues to provide **free bag breakfasts and lunches** at 21 distribution sites during their six-week closure. Check [here](#) for distribution sites/times.
- **Federal student loan payments have been suspended without penalty for at least 60 days.** Please visit the White House's [webpage](#) for more information on the briefing.
- **U.S. Tax Filing Deadline Extended to July 15, 2020** - All taxpayers and businesses will have until July 15, 2020 to file and make payments without interest or penalties.

Updates on Meetings and Events

- April 2 City Council work/study session is cancelled
- April 8 Coffee with the City is cancelled
- April 11 Easter Egg Hunt is cancelled (by Cheeseburger Babies Foundation)
- April 11 April Pools Day is cancelled
- April 14 Recreation and Parks Advisory Commission meeting is cancelled