

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA            )  
  )  
TOWN OF BATESBURG-LEESVILLE    )                    COVID-19  
  EMERGENCY ORDINANCE  
  #2020-02

WHEREAS, the virus commonly known as COVID-19 is continuing to infect South Carolina citizens; and

WHEREAS, reports from the Federal Centers for Disease Control [CDC] and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control [SCDHEC] indicate certain actions are necessary to prevent the wide spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Governor has declared a state of emergency exists within the State of South Carolina and has ordered that all public pre-schools, primary schools, secondary schools, technical colleges and public colleges and universities be closed; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Batesburg-Leesville continues to be cognizant of COVID-19 being a highly contagious disease even for those individuals who are asymptomatic; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Batesburg-Leesville Council is responsible for meeting the problems and dangers to the Town on Batesburg-Leesville and its residents resulting from emergencies of any origin and may issue policies such as proclamations and regulations concerning emergency relief and related matters which, during an emergency situation, shall have the full force and effect of law; and

WHEREAS, a state of emergency has been declared by the Mayor and ratified by Town Council; and

WHEREAS, Town Council has been advised that certain actions must be taken to aid Town Staff and Emergency Services respond to this crisis;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Batesburg-Leesville, duly assembled, that due to the state of emergency which continues to exist in the Town of Batesburg-Leesville that:

1. The Batesburg-Leesville Hospitality Tax is suspended. Beginning April 13, 2020, no further amounts shall be collected by food service providers. All amounts collected prior to the suspension are due and payable immediately. The Hospitality Tax shall resume and be in full force and effect on June 5, 2020.
2. Effective immediately, no penalty shall be assessed for late payment of water bills. This shall expire on June 5, 2020.

3. Effective immediately, there shall be no penalty for late payment of business license fees. This shall expire on June 5, 2020.

4. All equipment at town parks are closed to public use. Open areas such as tracks and greenspace will remain open as long as social distancing is observed.

5 Section 1-3-7 of the Batesburg-Leesville Code of Ordinances is modified to allow attendance at meetings by video conferencing. Votes cast by video conferencing will be counted. The Town Manager is to select an appropriate application and send instructions to council members and staff as to installation and use. It is up to the individual council member and staff member to install and become familiar with the application if they chose to avail themselves of this option.

6. Section 1-3-5 (6) of the Batesburg-Leesville Code of Ordinances is suspended until such time as a safe alternative is put into place. This will suspend public comment during regular council meetings until staff is able to provide a safe platform for comments to take place.

7. All previous Emergency Ordinances are renewed as if passed again on this date.

These provisions shall become effective immediately and shall stay in place until revised/removed by a further vote of council, upon the passing of 60 days or upon the end of emergency situation.

ADOPTED by the Council of the Town of Batesburg-Leesville at an emergency meeting held this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020, at 6:13 pm by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present.

  
Lancer Shull, Mayor

Attest:

  
Judy E. Edwards, Clerk/Treasurer

Emergency Meeting: April 6, 2020 at 6:13 P.M.

Approved as to form:

  
Christian G. Spradley, Town Attorney