

**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF LEXINGTON TEMPORARILY
SUSPENDING RULES FOR TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS TO ALLOW FOR REMOTE
ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC MEETINGS AND TO ALLOW FOR
ENACTMENT OF A CONTINUITY IN OPERATIONS PLAN**

WHEREAS, it is well recognized that the COVID-19 virus presents a public health concern that requires extraordinary protective measures and vigilance; and

WHEREAS, these matters have taken many forms across the nation including travel bans, school closures, individual quarantines, and cancellation of major events, among other measures; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Lexington is working with other government agencies in an effort to prevent the spread of disease; and

WHEREAS, Section §5-7-250 of the South Carolina Code of Laws empowers Council to enact emergency ordinances affecting life, health, or safety of its citizens; and

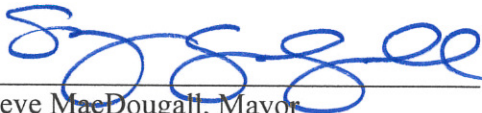
WHEREAS, in light of the foregoing, the Lexington Town Council deems it proper and necessary to adopt this emergency ordinance in order to: (a) temporarily suspend the normal operating procedures of Lexington Town Council; (b) to authorize the Lexington Town Administrator to develop and enact a plan in order to ensure continuity in the delivery of government services in light of the COVID-19 outbreak;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Lexington, in Council assembled, that:

1. All Town citizens are urged to follow health guidelines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control, The South Carolina Governor's Office and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control in response to the Covid-19 outbreak.

2. The Town of Lexington temporarily suspends the normal operating procedures of Town Council meetings and hereby allows for the Mayor, Councilmembers and the public to remotely participate in voting and operational procedures by telephone or other means of electronic communication provided that the provisions of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act are met.
3. The Town Administrator is authorized to develop and enact a plan in order to ensure continuity in the delivery of government services in light of the COVID-19 outbreak. This shall include, but not be limited to, the following provisions which shall be in force for the term of this emergency ordinance:
 - a) Utility cutoffs for non-payment shall be suspended
 - b) Assessment of late fees for non-payment of Hospitality Tax shall be suspended
 - c) Town court personnel shall take all steps necessary to comply with guidelines established by the Supreme Court of South Carolina to ensure that no defendants are unfairly prejudiced or incarcerated for longer than required under normal and ordinary circumstances
 - d) Other provisions deemed necessary to carry out the purposes of this ordinance
4. This emergency ordinance shall be terminated by the issuance of another ordinance or shall automatically expire on the 61st day after enactment of this ordinance, whichever date is earlier.

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED THIS 17 DAY OF March, 2020.



Steve MacDougall, Mayor
Town of Lexington

Attest:



Becky Hildebrand
Town Clerk

March 17, 2020
Lexington, SC

Final Reading: March 17, 2020