

**DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY BY THE CITY COMMISSIONERS OF HAWKINSVILLE,
GEORGIA IMPLEMENTING EMERGENCY MEASURES RESPONSIVE TO THE COVID-19
PANDEMIC**

WHEREAS, the President of the United States declared a National Public Health Emergency as of March 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Georgia declared a State Public Health Emergency on March 14, 2020 and urged “local officials to do what’s in the best interests of their communities to keep people safe and stop the spread of coronavirus” on March 19, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) a world health emergency and a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the number of confirmed cases and deaths from COVID-19 is escalating rapidly, internationally, nationally, and locally; and

WHEREAS, based upon the experience of other local governments in Georgia, a growing number of other cases are likely to occur; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the President of the United States stated that any gathering of over 10 people should be discontinued or prohibited; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, Governor Kemp announced that “certain individuals with an increased risk of complications from COVID-19 to isolate, quarantine, or shelter in place,” covering those who “live in long-term care facilities, have chronic lung disease, are undergoing cancer treatment, have a positive COVID-19 test, are suspected to have COVID-19 because of their symptoms or exposure, or have been exposed to someone who has COVID-19”, and that the Department of Public Health would institute rules and regulations to implement such measures: and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, Governor Kemp additionally announced measures to “close all bars and nightclubs and ...ban all gatherings of ten or more people” unless they can assure spacing for at least six (6) feet apart between people at all times beginning at noon on March 24, 2020 and lasting until noon on April 6, 2020; and

WHEREAS, public health experts, including those at the CDC and the National Institutes of Health (NIH), have advised that individuals infected with COVID-19 are contagious even while experiencing minor or no symptoms and implored leaders to take immediate action to prevent further community spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, preventing and slowing community spread of COVID-19 provides health systems additional time to obtain personal protective equipment necessary to protect health care workers and medical equipment necessary to treat COVID-19, and is therefore vital to the health of the nation; and

WHEREAS, in the judgement of the Board of Commissioners for the City of Hawkinsville there existed and continues to exist emergency circumstances located within the City of Hawkinsville requiring extraordinary and immediate corrective actions for the protection of the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Hawkinsville; and

WHEREAS, O.C.G.A. § 38-3-28 provides the political subdivisions of this state with the authority to make, amend, and rescind such orders, rules, and regulations as may be necessary for emergency management purposes to supplement rules and regulations promulgated by the Governor during a declared State of Emergency; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has previously held that “[u]pon the principle of self-defense, or paramount necessity, a community has the right to protect itself against an epidemic disease which threatens the safety of its members”; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners have determined that it is appropriate to issue a Declaration of Local Emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS DECLARED AND ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Public Gatherings

For the duration of the declared emergency, there shall be no public gatherings on any property owned or controlled by the City. This includes, but is not limited to, parks and recreation centers. All public and private gatherings of more than ten (10) people occurring outside of a household or living unit are prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, religious services, funerals and weddings. All loitering outside of any business or public establishment is hereby prohibited.

Section 2. Eating Establishments

Restaurants and other eating and dining establishments where food is served must cease offering dine-in services but may continue preparing and offering food to customers via delivery, drive-through or curbside delivery.

Section 3. Closure of Certain Businesses

Gyms, fitness centers, nail salons, hair salons, barbers and bars must close and remain closed for the duration of this emergency.

Section 4. Mechanical/Automated Games of Chance

The use of mechanical/automated games of chance machines inside businesses are hereby prohibited. Businesses owning, operating and/or maintaining these types of machines are hereby ordered to discontinue allowing any and all individuals access to any type of mechanical/automated games of chance machines for the duration of this emergency.

Section 5. Curfew

A daily curfew was previously adopted by the Sole Commissioner of Pulaski County on March 23, 2020 is hereby formally adopted by the City of Hawkinsville that will restrict travel from **10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m.** with the exception of persons traveling to and from work and for healthcare. During the curfew, the following persons are exempted and free to travel to carry out their duties: law enforcement officers, firefighters, active duty military, health care providers, and public works and utility workers employed by any public utility, any municipality or local Government, the State of Georgia and the United States of America. Additionally, exemptions are granted to persons traveling to and from work or a medical facility, traveling through the City of Hawkinsville to a destination outside the City and making deliveries within City of Hawkinsville, citizens seeking to restore order to their homes or businesses while on their own property or place of business; other authorized and essential persons as designated on a list compiled by Pulaski County Emergency Management Agency.

Section 5. Violations

The Sheriff of Pulaski County and his lawful deputies, shall be authorized to enforce this declaration and charge individual(s) according to provisions set forth locally and by the State of Georgia.

This declaration shall become effective at 5:00 o'clock P.M. on April 1, 2020 and shall continue in effect for the duration of the declared emergency.

The provisions of this declaration will remain in effect until further notice.

SO ORDERED this 1st day of April, 2020.

CITY OF HAWKINSVILLE, GEORGIA

BY:

James Colson
Board Member

Attest:

Dianna Carney

Dianna Carney
City Clerk