

March 24, 2020



Brandon Madden, City Administrator  
(864) 289-8890 | bmadden@mauldincitysc.com

### **Mauldin Mayor Signs Emergency Declaration**

*MAULDIN, SC* – Mayor Terry Merritt has signed an emergency ordinance to initiate specific actions in response to COVID-19. The emergency declaration gives the Mayor and City Administrator operational authority to adequately respond to an existing or anticipated emergency situation.

Council's approval of the emergency ordinance enables the Mayor and Councilmembers to remotely participate in voting and operational procedures during Council meetings. Additionally, the ordinance waives any late fees associated with City business license permits and hospitality and accommodations taxes due to the City through May 23, and allows for the Mayor to establish a daily curfew. If established, the curfew would not apply to those traveling for work or for medical treatment.

"The health and well-being of the Mauldin community is of utmost importance. City Council is working with the City staff to make sure that essential services continue, and to provide relief to local businesses during this time," said Mayor Merritt.

The City is operating under conditions as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. All essential City services, including Police, Fire and Public Works, are continuing uninterrupted.

"I encourage everyone to take the threat of COVID-19 seriously. Now is not the time to panic, rather you should adhere to the mandates of the Governor, the actions suggested by the President, and the guidelines provided by SCDHEC and the CDC," said the Mayor.

The emergency ordinance is effective March 23, 2020, and is scheduled to automatically expire after 61 days.

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### **ABOUT THE CITY OF MAULDIN**

The City of Mauldin is located in the Upstate of South Carolina and in the heart of Greenville County. It is the 17<sup>th</sup> largest city in South Carolina out of 270 municipalities and one of the fastest growing cities in the state. Mauldin was first chartered in 1890 and has grown to a population of more than 25,000. More information about the City of Mauldin can be found online at [cityofmauldin.org](http://cityofmauldin.org).

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ORDINANCE 939 -2020

**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO TEMPORARILY SUSPEND THE NORMAL OPERATING PROCEDURES OF THE CITY OF MAULDIN COUNCIL MEETINGS AND TO AUTHORIZE THE MAULDIN CITY ADMINISTRATOR AND MAYOR TO TAKE OTHER ACTION IN LIGHT OF THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK; AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO.**

WHEREAS, it is well recognized that SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes the disease COVID-19, 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 City of Mauldin is working with other government agencies in an effort to prevent the spread of the disease; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the Governor of the State of South Carolina, Henry McMaster, imposed a ban of in-restaurant dining and encouraged and recommended curbside and takeout services at restaurants throughout the State of South Carolina due to the Covid-19 outbreak effective March 18, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, Section 14-1 of the Ordinances of the City of Mauldin allows for, among other things, the imposition of a city-wide curfew; and,

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

WHEREAS, in light of the foregoing, Mauldin City Council deems it proper and necessary to adopt this emergency ordinance to: (a) temporarily suspend the normal operating

procedures of Mauldin City Council; (b) authorize the Mauldin City Mayor to enact a voluntary or mandatory curfew; (c) to waive any late fees associated with City business license permits through May 23, 2020; (d) to waive any late fees associated with the remittance of hospitality and accommodations taxes for returns due to the City between April 1, 2020 and May 23, 2020; and (e) to authorize the Mauldin City Administrator to revoke special events permits for a temporary period;

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

1. The City of Mauldin hereby declares a state of emergency for the City of Mauldin.
2. The City of Mauldin temporarily suspends the normal operating procedures of City Council meetings and hereby allows for the Mayor and Councilmembers 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 complied with.
3. Action by council may be taken as long as a quorum is present even if some or all of the council members are not physically present, but are participating remotely by telephone or other means of electronic communication.
4. All deadlines imposed by City Ordinance, applicable to the municipality or applicant, shall be suspended, during this temporary period; provided, however, that all forms associated with business license renewals, accommodations taxes, and hospitality taxes must be filed with the City by the appropriate due dates.
5. All late fees associated with City business license permits, hospitality taxes, and accommodation taxes for returns due to the City between April 1, 2020 and May 23, 2020 are waived through May 23, 2020. The failure to submit the above-referenced forms by their appropriate due dates shall be deemed non-payment of the fee or tax and shall accrue a late penalty in the normal course.
6. The Mayor may establish a mandatory or voluntary daily curfew, which shall restrict travel and public gatherings from 11:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. with the exception of persons traveling to and from work and for medical treatment; for banking operations; police officers; firefighters; active duty military; health care providers; public works and utility workers employed by any public utility; and, any employee of the City of

Mauldin, Greenville County, the State of South Carolina, and the United States of America in the performance of their job duties.

7. The City Administrator is authorized to cancel and revoke any special events permits issued prior to the date of this ordinance for events taking place until May 23, 2020.
8. This emergency ordinance shall be terminated by the issuance of another ordinance or shall automatically expire on the 61<sup>st</sup> day after enactment of this ordinance, whichever date is earlier.

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED THIS 23 DAY OF March, 2020.

This Ordinance shall be effective upon first and final reading.

Introduced: March 23, 2020

Final Reading: March 23, 2020 emergency

CITY OF MAULDIN, SOUTH CAROLINA

BY: Terry Merritt  
Terry Merritt, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cindy Miller  
Cindy Miller, Municipal Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Daniel R. Hughes  
Daniel R. Hughes, City Attorney