



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COVID-19 PANDEMIC IMPACTS CITY SERVICES

City of Albion to Close All Nonessential Operations

ALBION, MICHIGAN, March 23, 2020--- The city of Albion closed all nonessential city operations effective at 12:01 AM on Monday, March 23, as a result of the growing number of Michigan coronavirus cases. City Manager Darwin McClary notified employees and the Albion city council on Sunday of the decision. The City Manager has designated public safety, water treatment plant, and wastewater treatment plant operations as essential, but department directors will have authority to designate other services as essential if needed. Nonessential personnel will not report to work and will not lose their regular pay, although these employees must be available for work assignments if called upon during their normal working hours. McClary's decision was the result of recent similar actions by state, county, and other local governments. The City Manager will continue to assess the Covid-19 situation in the area and will decide the fate of city operations after April 3.

On March 16, the Albion city council authorized the City Manager to close city hall to the public through April 3 to limit person-to-person contact and to encourage citizens to stay at home, although employees continued to work. City hall closed on March 17. City council also approved a moratorium on water service shut-offs and restoration of water service for

delinquent accounts during the health emergency to encourage residents to shelter in place and assist struggling families who may be temporarily out of work.

“Ensuring the health and safety of our citizens and our employees during this difficult time is our top priority,” says McClary. “We are doing everything we can to continue providing core municipal services for our citizens while encouraging as much social distancing as possible between employees and within the community.”

Public Safety Chief Scott Kipp is serving as the city’s emergency management liaison and is advising the City Manager and Mayor Dave Atchison on all emergency preparedness operations. The city operates under Calhoun county’s hazard mitigation plan for emergency planning and response.

ABOUT THE CITY OF ALBION

The City of Albion, Michigan, is an historic, diverse, progressive, welcoming, and affordable community of 8,600 residents nestled between Battle Creek and Jackson along the I-94 corridor in eastern Calhoun county. Albion serves as the proud home of Albion College.

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For more information on this topic, please call City Manager Darwin McClary at (517) 629-7172 or E-mail dmccclary@cityofalbionmi.gov.