Monday, March 23, 2020

Good Afternoon Fairfield Staff,

Yesterday afternoon Governor Mike DeWine held his regular daily COVID-19 press briefing with Ohio Director of Health Amy Acton.  During his briefing, Governor DeWine announced that Director Acton has formally signed a “Stay At Home Order” covering all citizens in Ohio.  This Order becomes effective tonight (Monday, March 23, 2020) at 11:59 p.m., and remains in effect until at least 11:59 p.m. on Monday, April 6, 2020 - a period of two weeks.

In summary, the Order requires individuals to stay at their place of residence except to engage in “Essential Activities, Essential Governmental Functions, or to participate in Essential Businesses and Operations”.  A copy of the Order can be accessed at <https://www.coronavirus.ohio.gov>. Employees should, as a precaution, carry their employee badges with them when they are commuting to and from work.

This Order is the latest in a number of progressive steps taken by the State to decrease the amount of physical interaction taking place between individuals and to hopefully stem the spread of the virus.

The Stay-at-Home Order recognizes the essential services that we as municipal employees provide to the public.  The Order leaves it to each individual local government to determine whether individual employees are performing Essential Governmental Functions. All public safety employees, public health employees, and infrastructure employees are engaged in operations that are considered essential under the Stay-at-Home Order, as are many of the employees providing internal support to those public services.

Due to the Governor’s order, those employees who can work from home may be so assigned. Employees who are assigned to work from home will do so in accordance with the Directive to Work from Home (see attached) which may be modified. Each Department Director will determine which employees will be assigned to work from home and will notify those employees. If you have questions regarding your work schedule or whether you are required to report to your normal work location, you should contact your supervisor for clarification. If you have not specifically been advised to work from home, you should report to your normal work location. While working from home you are expected to check your e-mail regularly, to take and make phone calls, and to be available throughout the work day.

The senior staff team has been continuing regular briefings on this situation.  As of this morning, we have thankfully not seen large increases in calls for service related to the pandemic for either the Fairfield Fire Department or Fairfield Police Department.  The safety chiefs have understandably been very busy coordinating with both county and state health and emergency response officials.  We have already been making arrangements for certain functions such as regularly scheduled City Council meetings to take place utilizing teleconferencing technology and for those meetings to be live streamed via TV Fairfield.  In short, we are doing all we can to continue to provide the best experiences for our residents, businesses and visitors under these incredible circumstances.

I want to express my gratitude to everyone for your dedication and effort during this national crisis. Our staff has long been the backbone of the Fairfield organization and our citizens know that we can be counted upon during these difficult times. Thank you for all that you do and keep up the great work.

Respectfully,

Mark Wendling
City Manager