

**JOINT RESOLUTION AND ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF EASTMAN
AND DODGE COUNTY DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY, TO
CLOSE ALL RESTAURANTS IN THE CITY OF EASTMAN AND
DODGE COUNTY UNTIL APRIL 20, 2020 EXCEPT FOR TAKE OUT OR
DELIVERY OF FOOD, WITHIN THE CITY OF EASTMAN AND DODGE
COUNTY**

March 23, 2020

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared coronavirus (now designated COVID-19) as a pandemic and encouraged all countries to take urgent and aggressive action; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency regarding COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, Governor Brian Kemp declared a public health state of emergency regarding COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, it is believed that COVID-19 has caused or contributed to twenty-five (25) deaths and 772 confirmed cases have been reported in the State of Georgia and the limited testing that has been completed indicates hundreds of individuals may have contracted the virus; and

WHEREAS, medical professionals have determined COVID-19 is easily transmitted from person to person; and

WHEREAS, the Dodge County School District has closed its schools indefinitely; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Eastman has discontinued all in-person services at City Hall and restricted public access to City buildings to appointments only and absolutely necessary in-person meetings, with access to Council meetings via livestream, and rescinded all special event and special administrative permits for such events pursuant to its 'Official Statement' dated March 17, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, the Dodge County Commissioners declared a Local State of Emergency on March 22, 2020, waiving tax and tag penalties, postponing tax sales, limited access to public buildings, suspending county bid process for the purchase of emergency items, prohibiting public dining, a voluntary curfew from 10:00 pm to 6:00 am; and,

WHEREAS, elected officials have encouraged elderly citizens to remain in their residences, businesses to allow employees to work remotely, when possible, and citizens to maintain "social distance", being a distance of six (6') feet from others, when possible, and to avoid large gatherings; and

WHEREAS, medical professionals have encouraged the City Manager of the City of Eastman and the County Manager of Dodge County to take more aggressive steps to prevent and decelerate community spread of COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, state law and the Charter of the City of Eastman authorizes the City and Dodge County to establish procedures for determining and proclaiming that an emergency situation exists within or without the county and to make and carry out all reasonable provisions deemed necessary to deal with or meet such an emergency for the protection, safety, health, or well-being of the citizens of the city; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Eastman and the Commissioners of Dodge County have determined that extraordinary and immediate measures must be taken to respond quickly to prevent and slow down community spread of COVID-19.

NOW, THEREFORE the City Council at its regularly scheduled meeting on March 23, 2020, and Commissioners at a public and specially called emergency meeting on March 22, 2020, hereby resolve and ordain as follows:

Section 1: The Eastman City Council and Dodge County Commissioners hereby adopt and make the findings enumerated the “Whereas” paragraphs as their factual findings of the Council and Commissioners.

Section 2: The Eastman City Council and Dodge County Commissioners hereby declare that a local state of emergency as defined under OCGA Section 38-3-28 et seq. exists within the City of Eastman and Dodge County, and shall continue until the conditions requiring this declaration are abated and not less than through April 20, 2020.

Section 3:

- a. The Eastman City Council and Dodge County Commissioners hereby declare that all bars, restaurants, or businesses who sell food or beverages for consumption on premises or who provide entertainment on the premises shall be closed to in-person dining, consumption of alcohol, or entertainment until the expiration of this ordinance.
- b. Restaurants, bars, and other businesses who sell food may offer food for take-away or for customers to eat somewhere other than at the establishment.
- c. Businesses affected by these closures shall establish systems that restrict in-person contact as much as possible, to include not permitting any customers at a time to be in the premises. Such processes may include the business taking the food to the customer’s vehicle rather than the customer coming inside the business.
- d. Furthermore, business shall ensure that all onsite consumption of food is prohibited, and that employees and contractors of the business maintain at least 6 feet of personal distance between themselves as much as possible given the physical constraints of the premises.
- e. If a restaurant is licensed to sell beer and wine for on-premises consumption, such business during the efficacy of this ordinance only shall be authorized to sell unopened bottles of beer or wine for take-out consumption off-premises.

Section 4: The City of Eastman and Dodge County hereby implement a voluntary ban on gatherings of 10 or more individuals, beginning Monday, March 23, 2020, and voluntary curfew restricting travel from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. for all non-essential travel. The following persons are exempt and free to travel to carry out their duties: police 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 Dodge County or the City of Eastman to a destination outside the County and making deliveries within the City of Eastman or Dodge County, 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 EMA and/or the Sheriff of Dodge County.

Section 5: The bid process of the City of Eastman and Dodge County are suspended for the purchase of items necessary for the emergency.

Section 6: It is hereby declared that a local state of emergency exists in the City of Eastman and Dodge County, Georgia as defined under OCGA Section 38-3-28 et seq. and shall continue until April 20, 2020.

Section 7: The Clerks of the City and County shall have the power to correct scribes' errors.

Section 8: This Joint Resolution and Ordinance shall take effect immediately and upon passage of same by the Eastman City Council at its regularly scheduled meeting on March 23, 2020 and shall remain in force and effect through April 20, 2020.

Section 7: All Orders or parts of Orders in conflict with this Order are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby repealed or set aside.

ORDAINED AND RESOLVED, this 23rd day of March, 2020.



Buddy Pittman, Chairman
Eastman City Council



Attest: Ivelyn Lampkin
City Clerk



Don McCranie, Chairman
Dodge County Board of Commissioners