

STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED
IN CITY OF WASHINGTON

The City of Washington has officially declared a state of emergency in the city, has closed all public buildings, and has banned all “mass gatherings” of 10 or more people on public property, with the exceptions of City Council meetings.

The action came at a special called meeting of the council held Thursday afternoon, March 19, at The Pope Center.

The more than hour-long discussion of the ongoing pandemic yielded much information which will be used as the city formulates further action and advisements for its citizenry.

The main advice to the general public voiced at the meeting was “wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds” at every opportunity; stay at home or isolated from other people as much as possible; and self-quarantine with symptoms unless you are in need of hospitalization as determined by a health professional.

A full report of the meeting will follow in the next few days. The full text of the adopted resolution reads as follows:

Emergency Ordinance

Whereas, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared the ongoing Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant an emergency declaration for all states pursuant to Section 501(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121-5207; and

Whereas, on March 14, 2020, Georgia Governor Brian Kemp declared a public health emergency for the State of Georgia, which was ratified by the Georgia General Assembly on March 16, 2020; and

Whereas, the City of Washington finds the current spread of COVID-19 presents a public emergency affecting life, health, property, or public peace.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, the City Council declares a state of emergency exists in the City of Washington. This declaration is intentionally adopted to allow the City the authority contained in Sections 22-1 through 22-4 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Washington. Further, the City of Washington institutes the following regulations:

1. No large events and/or mass gatherings that consist of 10 or more people in physical attendance shall be held on public property, to include any public parks, not to be applicable to meetings of City Council.

This resolution is hereby adopted this 19th day of March, 2020.