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March 31, 2020

Press Release from City Manager Jim Luke:

Recently the Mayor and City Council declared a State of Emergency for the City of Picayune. This declaration was a very important step in mitigating the impact of Covid-19 Coronavirus and in our recovery process. As we continue to navigate these “unchartered waters” flexibility is key to our success. We will make policy changes when necessary to keep our citizens safe and will continue to help our business community weather this viral “storm.” It is important that you are well and remain patient during this time. Please educate yourself from reliable sources: www.cdc.gov, www.msdh.ms.gov, have great information regarding Covid-19 and are updated regularly. You can also look up City Hall of Picayune Facebook page, City Hall of Picayune Instagram page, Resurrection Life Worship Center Facebook page for a live daily update from community leaders and a local Pastor at 10:00am, WRJW radio and Facebook page, and the Picayune Item.

On March 30, 2020 a teleconference was held at Highland Community Hospital with Bryan Maxie and his staff, City, and County Leaders. Bryan and his team shared some sobering statistics of what we are facing the next 7 to 14 days here in Pearl River County. After listening to each one speak, I’m advising in the strongest manner that I can as your City Manager **THIS IS REAL!** I need to make you understand we must **STAY HOME** and **SHELTER IN PLACE!** Please stay home and stay away from large gatherings. If we all do our part now, we can make this situation go away faster.

The Utility Department at City Hall is open and taking payments through the drive thru, drop off slot, and online payments. We are conducting business by teleconferences and emails. I have talked with my Department Heads and have asked them to be creative and innovative in their ways to help disseminate the workforce in each department. We want to keep our employees as safe as possible while working on the day to day operations of the City. We may be adjusting hours and days of work so that employees will keep distance from each other and the public. We want to flatten this curve on Covid-19 as quickly as possible.

I would like to give praise to our local businesses for all the efforts they have made to keep the shelves stocked with needed supplies and food, for taking on more cleaning and disinfecting habits in their businesses to help keep their employees and the public safe. Thank you also for encouraging social distancing in the checkout lines and throughout the stores.

We are staying in close contact with our State Leaders Senator Angela Hill, House of Representative Stacey Wilkes and House of Representative Jansen Owen and our Pearl River County Board of Supervisors. We will stay updated with daily directions and guidance from Governor Tate Reeves office.

Thank you for your patience during this time and Please STAY HOME as much as possible. We will get through this together!

City Manager Jim Luke

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311 for non-emergencies
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