

**EMERGENCY ORDINANCE 20-24  
(COVID-19, State of Emergency)**

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19, a novel, highly contagious and deadly virus, has been declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization and continues to pose a significant threat to County citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020 and continuing through the present time, the Governor of South Carolina declared a state of emergency for South Carolina ordering the State's emergency operation plan be activated and requesting the Legislature appropriate funding to combat the effects of the pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control has reported over 6,800 cases of COVID-19 in South Carolina, over 280 deaths related to COVID-19 in South Carolina, and over 45 confirmed cases in Georgetown County; and

**WHEREAS**, Georgetown County Council, in an effort to protect and preserve the general welfare of its citizenry, believes an emergency continues to exist due to this world health event requiring the Council to take all necessary actions to ensure the safety, welfare, and health of its residents and visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, to further the Council’s goal of precautionary measures in order to protect its citizens, Georgetown County Council deems a State of Emergency exists and any such measures are to be taken in an effort to minimize the effects of COVID-19, be it health, welfare, public safety, and/or economic effects; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to SC Code of Laws 4-9-130 and Section 2-487 of the Georgetown County Code of Ordinances, Georgetown County Council hereby declares a local State of Emergency and adopts the following emergency ordinance in order to protect life, health, welfare, safety, and property of the people during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** Georgetown County Council, by a minimum 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority vote and the power granted to it by the South Carolina Constitution and General Assembly through Home Rule, hereby declares, enacts, ordains, and orders the following:

1. **DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY.** By the power granted in SC Code of Laws 4-9-130 and Section 2-487 of the Georgetown County Code of Ordinances, Georgetown County Council hereby declares a local STATE OF EMERGENCY effective 12:00AM, May 16, 2020.
2. That the Georgetown County Emergency Operation Plan and internal Continuity of Operation Plan be activated and enforced.
3. That all protection measures available to Georgetown County for health and safety response be utilized and made available in order to preserve life and property.
4. That the County work closely with Federal, State, Local, School District and Utility officials to ensure a concerted effort of response during the state of emergency.
5. That the Administrator continuously dialogue with local elected officials to establish reasonable and amenable plans of action for their statutory functions and service.
6. That the Administrator modify, as necessary and in her discretion, employee personnel and building/facility policies during the term of the emergency to ensure essential public services are met but also limiting unnecessary county employee exposure to situations in which the virus can spread and authorizing remote access to the workplace by employees if the assigned duties allow.
7. That all County Council meetings, board, commission, committee, or other similar meetings may be conducted electronically by means conducive to the type of meeting and to authorize remote attendance by telephonic or electronic means.
  - a. That any member of Council, board, commission, committee or other similar group conducting a virtual meeting may cast a vote, via voice or hand, by the electronic means so long as the vote is able to be heard or seen by attendees.
  - b. That meeting minutes shall be taken and the meeting recorded as if an in-person meeting were being held.
  - c. That electronic executive sessions are permitted in accordance with the provisions of the Act and the reason for going into any executive session in conformance with Section 30-4-70 of the Act shall be announced.
  - d. With respect to any electronic meeting of County Council, the public comment period provided for by Ordinance 99-30 is temporarily suspended. Members of the public may submit written public comments which shall be distributed to the members of Council before and after the meeting dependent upon when they are received.
  - e. That public hearings may be held through electronic means whereby any member of the public will be afforded the opportunity to be heard by the governing body during the stated time of a public hearing.
  - f. During the period of effectiveness of this ordinance any other provision of the Georgetown County Rules of Procedure Ordinance (99-30) that conflicts with the provisions hereof is temporarily suspended and shall be superseded hereby.
8. Authorize the Administrator to temporarily alter open hours, methods of service, and/or close certain County facilities, temporarily close, alter hours, and/or methods related to all adult and youth parks and recreation activities including the organized use of County recreation facilities that host team competitions, and other temporary measures that

manage and discourage the unnecessary congregation of people on County property or at County functions.

9. Designate the use of electronic/virtual bidding and the use of emergency procurement and the fund balance, if necessary, and authorize the Administrator to allocate funding to emergency expenditures attributable to the departments necessary during the state of emergency. Any emergency allocation will not require an ordinance during the state of emergency and will be reflected in subsequent budget amendments; the Finance Director will report periodically to the Administrator on monies spent during the state of emergency.
10. This ordinance will remain in effect for sixty (60) days unless sooner terminated by Georgetown County Council.
11. If any section of this ordinance is declared invalid by a court or found to be in conflict with sound legal principle or law, then the remaining portions of the ordinance will remain in effect.
12. This ordinance expressly takes precedence over and supersedes any other Georgetown County ordinance and/or emergency declaration for the duration of the term provided herein.
13. **EFFECTIVE 12:00AM MAY 16, 2020.**

**ORDAINED, ENACTED, AND ORDERED THIS 12<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY 2020.**

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John Thomas, Chairman  
Georgetown County Council

ATTEST:

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Theresa E. Floyd  
Clerk to Council