



NICHOLASVILLE CITY COMMISSION ACTS TO PROTECT AND SERVE THE COMMUNITY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The Nicholasville City Commission, during a special called meeting on March 19, took multiple preparedness steps in anticipation of a long and intensified response to the coronavirus (COVID-19).

Throughout the City Commission's discussion regarding the steps below, members reiterated their resolve to maintain public safety and other essential services while taking precautions against the spread of the virus as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and state guidelines. They also expressed concern and support of the City's dedicated employees.

The Commission authorized Mayor Pete Sutherland to sign two executive orders:

- 1. Declaring a State of Emergency for the city of Nicholasville**
- 2. Changing the City of Nicholasville Commission Meeting Protocols**

The City Commission also amended Chapter 21, 21-2, subsection (c) in the Code of Ordinances to postpone until June 1 additional penalties for delinquent City 2019 Real and Personal Property taxes.

City Commissioners reviewed and expressed support for a step-by-step process to minimize the number of personnel working at any given time within City offices while also delivering necessary services.

All regularly-scheduled meetings of the City Commission have been cancelled until further notice. In the meantime, special called meetings will be convened as needed.

The City Commission also approved eliminating fees for paying utility bills remotely, and reduced utility office hours. For more details on utility services see [Utilities Coronavirus Update](#).

By declaring a State of Emergency, the City will have access to resources and services that may be needed as the pandemic worsens in our community.

The change in protocols will allow the Commission to continue attending the necessary business without endangering themselves or the public while maintaining open meetings. Normally, commissioners must meet in person and the room must be open to the public. When it is necessary to convene, the City Commission may now conduct meetings remotely, such as through video conferencing or live-streaming. Commissioners must be visibly present, not just heard. These meetings will be managed as special called meetings.

Suspending late-payment tax penalties is expected to decrease the number of people going into the tax office at the same time. This will increase safety for the public and enable the Tax Office to operate on reduced staffing.