



News Release
For Immediate Release
March 17, 2020
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Williston closes Community Library, Center for Development; Business as Usual at City Hall, Public Works, Fire Department, Police Department and Airport

The City of Williston is taking steps to protect its citizens, staff and visitors during the COVID-19 crisis.

“We want the public to know we are conducting business as usual with a few modifications,” said City of Williston Administrator David Tuan.

The City of Williston plans to keep all buildings open except for the Williston Community Library and the Williston Center for Development, said Tuan. The two buildings will be closed until early April.

“We will be staffing the Center for Development, but we will be suspending in person meetings and asking people to call if they need help,” said Williston Economic Development Executive Director, Shawn Wenko.

“Building inspections will go on as usual, plans will still get reviewed and applications will still be accepted,” said Williston Planning and Zoning Principal Planner Rachel Laqua.

The Center for Development houses the Williston Convention and Visitors Bureau; Building Safety, Planning and Zoning and Economic Development as well as Tri-

County Regional Development Council and the Small Business Development Center.

Meanwhile, the library will be closed to patrons until April 3, 2020.

“It was very difficult for us to make this decision as we pride ourselves on being there for our community members. However; we do offer virtual resources that can be accessed using your library card and/or social media,” said Library Director Andrea Placher.

Airline travelers will find business as usual at the Williston Airport.

“The Williston Basin International Airport has implemented several COVID-19 mitigation procedures. These include more frequent cleaning of high touch point areas like seating and restrooms as well as removal of shared use items from the restaurant like condiments and silverware,” said Anthony Dudas, Williston Airport director.

All essential workers at City Hall, Public Works, Williston Police and Williston Fire Departments will continue to work normally. However, the Williston Finance Director advises water users to pay online or at the City Hall drop box.

“Utility Billing payments will be deferred to the City Hall drop box or redirected online,” said Hercules Cummings, Finance Director. “Our staff, until instructed otherwise, will continue to work their normal schedule, operating normal business hours, with the ability to service customers over the phone and email. We believe these implemented controls will effectively curtail exposure to our staff and vice versa to the public.”

Tuan says these and other protocols are designed to keep the city staff and the community safe.

“We are taking steps to limit the risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus, said Tuan. “We are limiting travel for employees, asking employees to self-quarantine if they have traveled to another country on the CDC’s list of high-risk countries and limiting access to visitors.”

In addition, all public meetings have been canceled. These measures will remain in place until April 3, 2020.

For more information, callers can contact city staff at the numbers below:

Finance Department – 701-577-8100

Water Department – 701-577-8105

City Administrator – 701-713-3800

Building Safety – 701-577-8115

Economic Development – 701-577-8110

Planning and Zoning – 701-577-8104

Public Works – 701-577-6368

Library – 701-774-8805

Airport – 701-875-8594

Convention and Visitors Bureau – 701-774-9041

Williston Police – 701-577-1212

Williston Fire – 701-577-3400