



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 17, 2020

Hailey Allows Isolation Order to Expire Construction & Landscaping to Resume Monday April 20

(Hailey ID) The Hailey City Council voted to allow Hailey’s Isolation Order to sunset at 11:59 PM on Sunday, April 19, 2020. That action will allow local businesses to operate under the rules of the State Isolation Order beginning Monday, April 20, 2020. The State Isolation Order clearly defines essential businesses, including construction and landscaping. As these business activities resume locally, they will be given guidelines adopted by resolution of the City of Hailey, and are expected to follow those guidelines. The Council discussed how these guidelines can be enforced, and were told by City Attorney Christopher Simms that non-compliance can result in two types of action, 1) a misdemeanor by virtue of the State Order, or 2) a Stop Work Order under the authority of the Mayor under the City’s Emergency Disaster Declaration.

The City Council took public comment in their special City Council meeting, including a letter from the Wood River Building Contractors Association, signed by approximately 70 people. That letter stated “As we slowly resume activity in our valley, we acknowledge that it may become necessary to make adjustments along the way. Our intent is to work together with you in good faith throughout the entire process, so that we can safely navigate a way through this crisis.”

City Council members predominantly felt that holding the delicate balance of community health, as the COVID illness declined locally over the past two weeks, with economic health and mental wellbeing remains a critical element. The City Council also felt strongly that the public needs clarity, and alignment with other local jurisdictions helps to achieve less confusion in the public information that residents and businesses must understand. Councilmember Juan Martinez said “We should consider what other cities are doing. About half of the 1600 construction jobs in Blaine County are in the City of Hailey.”

The responsibility of the construction industry and its employees was emphasized by Councilmember Heidi Husbands, who said, “The real burden is going to be on the construction industry itself. I trust the construction and landscaping community. It’s time to give them a

chance. This is their burden now and it's up to them to step up in a way that we don't have to shut them down again."

Councilmember Kaz Thea stressed what she called the "three-legged stool of economic, mental, and physical well-being" as well as personal responsibility. "The State Order very clearly states our personal responsibility," she said.

Councilmember Sam Linnet emphasized personal and community responsibility, saying, "We are in a significantly better position now than we were a month ago and two weeks ago. Federal and State governments were relying on local jurisdictions to lead their communities. The medical professional advice at the time was to restrict construction and landscaping for the short term. We had a duty to act in line with the fact that we had the highest rate of COVID-19 disease in the country. We are now getting real and hard numbers that the spread of the disease has decreased over the past two weeks. We can all be proud of the sacrifices we've made, and we can be reassured that we have the ability to flatten the curve if we must do so again. We are not signaling that this is a return to normal. We have both individual and community responsibility, to protect ourselves and to protect one another. We must keep vigilant and safe, staying home as much as possible. Although the State Order allows us to get groceries in Twin Falls or Boise, as obtaining groceries is an essential activity, it is not a good idea to do so."

Mayor Martha Burke also urged vigilance, saying "We have all done our part, and we can't stop now. We can move forward, if we all remain vigilant. We should stay safe, and keep our money in Hailey."

Under the State Order, essential services and travel and lodging related to essential services is allowed. Non-essential services may conduct business curbside. All business and activity, whether essential, non-essential curbside, or recreation, must be conducted under the minimal social distancing requirements described in the State Order, which includes

- maintaining at least six-foot social distancing from other individuals,
- washing hands with soap and water for at least twenty seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer,
- covering coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not hands),
- regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces, and not shaking hands.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) also recommends that people wear cloth masks to cover their nose and mouth while conducting essential business and activity.

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