



Municipal Corp. of Cape Charles

April 15, 2020

PUBLIC MESSAGE #9 RE: COVID-19

To All Residents and Business Owners:

The Town Council held a special meeting on April 9 and approved two ordinances designed to assist residents and businesses with the pressures resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. These ordinances, among other things, delayed the due date for the Business, Professional, and Occupational License (BPOL) tax, originally due on April 15, to September 30. The golf cart license deadline was also delayed, now June 30. The town manager was given broader authority to work with residents during this time to set up payment plans, waive late fees for utility bills, and remove the fee for credit card transactions with the town. Those who can pay their bills on time should still do so, but for anyone struggling during this difficult time, please contact Town Hall and we'll do our best to try and help.

Following the adoption of a declaration of local emergency by the Town Council on March 30; the Mayor issued a formal request for all short-term rental operations to cease until state guidance eased restrictions on travel. Most of these businesses have voluntarily complied and the number of visitors to Town is significantly lower than would otherwise be the case for this time of year. However, it is not fair that those businesses who are cooperating and doing the civically responsible thing are taking a financial hit, while some other irresponsible businesses continue to rent their units and profit at the expense of public safety.

Therefore, the Town Council is holding a special meeting on April 16 to consider an ordinance that would make it a Class 3 misdemeanor to operate such rentals in Cape Charles for as long as the Governor's executive orders remain in effect. The public is invited to watch the meeting live on [Facebook](#), or review the video after the fact on the Town's website. Public comments are also encouraged. Please email your comments to the Town Clerk at clerk@capecharles.org or leave them in the drop box outside of Town Hall in advance of the meeting.

Everyone is feeling the effect of the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 situation, and we know they are getting very old; but it is still important that we all do our part and continue to follow them as we approach what's expected to be peak activity in the near future.

Stay safe!

John Hozey
Town Manager