

# THE TOWN OF *Batesburg-Leesville*

## **Mayor Shull Declares State of Emergency for Town of Batesburg-Leesville**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Mayor Lancer Shull has declared a state of emergency for the Town of Batesburg-Leesville, as concerns continue to escalate regarding COVID-19 “Coronavirus.” Mayor Shull signed the Proclamation at 8:00am which directs the Town Manager and appropriate emergency response personnel to take all necessary and appropriate measures to provide for the safety of the general public.

The proclamation follows up South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster’s issuance of a statewide state of emergency and Executive Order issued on Sunday. Mayor Shull states “myself as Mayor, our Town Council members, and Town administration are responsible for meeting the problems and dangers presented to the citizens and businesses of Batesburg-Leesville and this declaration loosens many restrictions on our leadership to allow them to do what needs to be done during this time to ensure the safety and well-being of everyone in our Town.”

Mayor Shull, as a part of the emergency declaration, has now called for an emergency meeting of Town Council tonight at 6:00pm at the Town Council Chambers and is asking the Council to ratify this declaration by vote.

In addition to directing the Town Manager and appropriate emergency response personnel to take all necessary and appropriate measures to provide for the safety of the general public, the Proclamation also provides that:

- The Town Manager create and implement changes to the Town’s Personnel Policy Manual allowing for staff who are infected with COVID-19 or who have household members who are infected to remain home and be placed on administrative leave with pay until they are COVID-19 free, so as to protect other employees.
- The Town Manager halt all Town employee non-essential travel outside of the Town, so as to lessen the chances of being exposed to the virus.
- Directs the Chief of Police to do all things reasonably necessary to enforce those things requested by our federal and state leaders.

- Directs the Fire Chief to do all things reasonably necessary to protect his members from needless exposure while ensuring emergency services will be provided to our citizens and visitors.

Town Manager Ted Luckadoo adds “many people don’t know exactly what an emergency declaration means or the importance behind it. Our day to day operations are restricted to the budget Council approves and the policies and ordinances that they place into effect. When in a state of emergency declaration, a declaration opens the door for us to obtain what we need to protect ourselves and the public and allows us the ability to adjust policies temporarily to ensure the welfare of staff and the public. It is important for people to understand that once the state of emergency is over, everything goes back to normal. I commend the Mayor for doing this so our staff can do what we need to do during this time.”

The emergency called meeting of Council tonight will be at the Town Council Chambers, but the public will not be allowed to gather in attendance to remain consistent with all suggestions by federal and state leaders and agencies in their request of no public gatherings. Any members of Council who are high risk, uncomfortable with being in public, or are currently quarantined or ill, will have the ability to call in and take part in the meeting.