

# COVID-19 REPORT

REPORT ON COVID-19 IMPACT

# WILLIAMSON COUNTY STAY HOME STAY SAFE

**Modified on 04/21/2020 to be consistent with  
Governor Abbott Executive Orders issued on  
04/17/2020**

- Healthcare Operations
- Retail Businesses

# CITY OPERATIONS

- **Library Curbside Service reopened 04/27/2020**
- **Developing procedures to reopen lobby spaces and other City operations**

# FISCAL IMPACT TO DATE

Communications	\$ 17,730.21
Employee support (childcare, leave, etc)	\$ 2,925.78
Cleaning and Sanitizing	\$ 19,133.09
Quarantine	\$ 2,933.00
Medical Supplies (PPE)	\$ 132,936.49
Ipads for Fire Department	\$ 4,189.56
Equipment (sanitizing machine)	\$ 17,403.00
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	<b>\$ 197,251.13</b>

Budget impact presentation on May 12 with expenditure reduction planning



# VIRTUAL RED POPPY FESTIVAL



2020 RED POPPY FESTIVAL:  
VIRTUAL EDITION

- **Dysfunkshun Junkshun**  
**Facebook live concert**  
**from Barrels and Amps**
- **T-shirt proceeds to the**  
**Caring Place**

# COMMUNICATIONS

- **Sharing positive case counts by zip code daily on COVID-19 webpage, Facebook and Twitter**
- **Mailer**
- **Ads in the Sun and Community Impact (letter from the mayor, things people can do, and community resources)**
- **Reporter (monthly insert for utility bills)**

# COMMUNICATIONS

- **Social Service Campaign**
- **RecAtHome**
- **Facebook frames for profile pictures**
- **Fact Fridays (sharing answers to commonly asked questions)**

# STATUS OF PROJECTS

**Due to the emergency response by City staff and the economic impacts of COVID-19, staff evaluated upcoming projects and initiatives to prioritize projects that need to continue and projects to postpone until emergency situation diminishes.**



# PROJECTS ON HOLD

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- **Downtown Parking Study / Parking Garage**
- **Citizen Satisfaction Survey**
- **Employee Engagement and Enablement Survey**
- **Parks & Recreation and CVB Summer Programming**
- **Historic Design Guidelines Public Engagement**

# PROJECTS ON HOLD

- **Downtown Trash Rate Study**
- **Transportation Impact Fee Study**
- **Mobility Bond (May 12 Council Workshop)**
- **Operation of Fire Station 7**

# PROJECTS ON HOLD

- **Tennis Center Pool Demo**
- **Lyft Pilot Contract (Rideshare)**
- **2nd Laptop Purchase**
- **Parks and Recreation Open Space Masterplan**

# PROJECTS TO PROCEED

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- **Water Rate Study**
- **Workday**
- **Budget/Business Planning**
- **Distance Learning**

# PROJECTS TO PROCEED

- **Electric Fund Work Plan**
- **Transfer Station Design**
- **Road/Utility Capital Improvement Projects**
- **Streets and Stormwater Maintenance Plan**

# PROJECTS TO PROCEED

- **Georgetown Municipal Complex Lobby Remodel**
- **Rec Center/Natatorium HVAC**
- **Village PID and ADA Trail Improvements**
- **Operation of Fire Station 6**



# PROJECTS TO PROCEED

- **Transit Service Review**
- **Communications Strategic Plan**
- **Long Range Water Planning**
- **Water Conservation Engagement Enforcement Initiative**

# PROJECTS TO PROCEED

- **Fiber Asset Allocation**
- **TxDOT FY2021 Signal Takeover**
- **UDC Amendments** (Review/Case by Case due to public feedback component)

# Utility Billing Financial Assistance

- **On April 14, Council gave direction to waive certain fees, including late payment fee through May 31**
  - Also guidance to stop disconnections for non-payment currently
    - Encouraging payment plans
  - Provides ongoing service; but can compound outstanding bills, i.e. customers get further behind
- **Staff and Council looking for ways to provide more assistance during stay home orders**
  - Many businesses closed or scaled back in operations
  - Some residents working from home or have loss of income (furloughs, layoffs)
  - General worries about the economy
- **Georgetown Electric and Georgetown Water are community owned utilities**
  - May provide relief to the community through utility bill assistance

# Utility Billing Financial Assistance - Opportunities

- **Electric Conservation Special Revenue Fund**
  - Balance of \$977K
  - Set up for electric conservation programs, but focus has been on other areas of utility for past several years
  - Propose utilizing approximately **\$500,000** towards utility billing assistance
  - Can expand the utility conservation fee to allow other uses (*new*)
    - *Utility Conservation SRF has balance for programming that has not been used*
- **Water Fund**
  - Received payment for the Blanchard that was unbudgeted of \$987,000
  - Propose utilizing approximately **\$500,000** towards utility billing assistance
- **Total of \$1 million for residential and businesses**
  - Utilize partnerships, such as WBCO, to determine eligibility for residential
  - Administer business assistance with the help of our Economic Dev team

# Next Steps for Utility Financial Assistance – with Council guidance

- **Electric rate ordinance on the 4/28 agenda provides for an expansion of the use of the conservation fee to allow for utility bill assistance**
  - Second reading on 5/12
- **Staff developing criteria for allocation of funds**
  - Can bring back for Council's review on 5/12
- **Budget amendment scheduled for 5/12 would include adjustments for utility bill assistance funding**
  - Second reading on 5/26
- **Bill relief beginning 5/27**
  - Can be applied to any existing utility bill balance that meets the eligibility criteria, that is, balances before the adoption (such as April and May billings, could be paid with the assistance)

# NEXT STEPS/QUESTIONS