

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



## City of Benton – Temporary Closure of City Hall

**BENTON, ILLINOIS** – The City of Benton continues to closely monitor the COVID-19 issue, keeping in close contact with our federal and state health officials, the Franklin/Williamson Bi-County Health Department, the Franklin County Emergency Management Agency and Governor JB Pritzker’s office to maintain the most up-to-date information as the situation develops. During this unprecedented time, we strive to have the most current information in order to appropriately address this public health issue and preserve the well-being of our residents, businesses and visitors.

On Friday, March 13, 2020, the Illinois Department of Public Health announced the first two cases of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in central and southern Illinois. While the cases are not in our immediate area, the City of Benton must take the proper measures to mitigate the spread of this virus.

Following the lead of national and state declarations, recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control, and under the direction Mayor Fred Kondritz, the Benton City Hall, located at 1403 South Main Street, will be closed to the public effective Monday, March 16, 2020 through Monday, March 30, 2020. The Benton City Council meeting, scheduled for Monday, March 23, 2020 is also cancelled. The Benton City Hall will return to regular business on Tuesday, March 31, 2020 unless circumstances change.

During the closure, all public service employees and personnel will continue to perform their regular duties. Residents are welcome to call City Hall with questions or concerns at 618-439-6131.

Benton Water and Sewer customers can pay their bill online at [Bentonil.com](http://Bentonil.com), by selecting ePay, and making a one-time payment. Customers may also choose to use the drop-box on the south side of City Hall, or pay at one of our local banks including Legence, US Bank, Peoples National Bank or the State Bank of Whittington. Customers who are unable to make a payment by one of these means are encouraged to contact the Benton Water Department at 618-439-6131 option 1 to discuss payment arrangements. In addition, the City’s trash service will run on its regular schedule.

The City of Benton feels it is necessary to implement these temporary measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spreading within our community. The City also hopes this will help protect our employees, who must be available to ensure that City services continue to operate effectively.

The City of Benton plans to work with our residents and businesses during these circumstances to ensure we are able to navigate through this situation as a community. With that said, the City asks residents to work together, be patient, kind and considerate of one another and of those who are at highest risk for COVID-19. Additionally, the City encourages our residents to practice precautions such as good hygiene and social distancing. The CDC provides valuable information about the prevention, spread and symptoms of the coronavirus at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

The City will continue to maintain contact with our public health authorities and communicate any new developments which might affect our community.