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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

April 2, 2020

The City of Diamondhead will continue with reduced staff at city hall and the public works department. This is to ensure the health and safety of city employees, their families and our residents. We are restricting face to face contact with employees and residents. Below are several things we are doing to serve our residents during this time.

1. Access to City Hall: Restricted access to city hall by the general public will continue, and only city employees may enter the building.
2. Communicating with City Hall: Residents are asked to use the phone, email or website to communicate with the staff at City Hall (office: 228-222-4626 / email: [info@diamondhead.ms.gov](mailto:info@diamondhead.ms.gov)).
3. Court Department: Court payments should be made online or over the phone. If needed, payments can be made at city hall through our protected window. Community service and the domestic violence intervention programs are postponed until further notice. Municipal court hearings are postponed until June. If needed, residents may file complaints through the protected window in our court department.
4. Building Department: Building permits and applications can be submitted through the city website, mailed, emailed or faxed to the building department. Construction documents should be emailed to the building department at [rjones@diamondhead.ms.gov](mailto:rjones@diamondhead.ms.gov). Building permit fees should be paid over the phone or by mail. If needed, building permits applications, fees and other construction documents can be delivered to the building department through the protected window in the court department. Building inspections may be scheduled by emailing [darcenaux@diamondhead.ms.gov](mailto:darcenaux@diamondhead.ms.gov) or by calling the building inspector at 228-216-5683.
5. Public Works: Our staff will be working in shifts with a reduced staff, and the staff will be focused on cutting grass, picking up litter and picking up shrubbery. All other non-emergency projects are on hold. Residents are asked not to communicate with public works staff that are working in the city. The paving project will continue as planned by the contractor.

As of today, there is NO curfew in the City of Diamondhead, and we ask our residents to follow the Executive Order #1466 by Governor Tate Reeves to "Shelter in Place". This order also closes all non-essential businesses at 5pm on April 3, 2020. This order remains in place until 8am on April 20, 2020. Essential businesses are defined in his Executive Order #1463.

Restaurants and bars will remain open but are limited to drive-thru, curbside and/or delivery service. Grocery stores and hardware stores, as well as some others, are not impacted by this new Executive Order, but must follow recommended CDC and the MS State Dept of Health recommendations and guidance to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Please support your local businesses during this state of emergency.