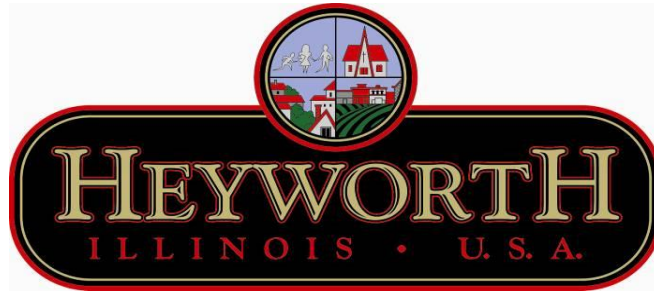


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The Village of Heyworth is an equal opportunity provider and employer

Hello Heyworth!

I have been so impressed, but not surprised, with how well our community has been dealing with the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). I've heard many stories of how we're reaching out and helping each other while continuing to do our part to slow the spread. I'm so glad to live here and I feel blessed to call Heyworth home.

COVID-19 has caused many changes in our way of life as well as unprecedented challenges for our society. Who would have thought that words such as pandemic, stay at home, and social distancing would become a normal part of our lives? We all have been impacted and we all are facing a variety of challenges.

Please do not let the new norm lead us to being complacent when it comes to taking measures to help slow the spread of COVID-19. It is anticipated that the next several weeks will see drastic increases in the number of cases and associated deaths. We all want to do our part to NOT overwhelm our health care services. I encourage you to continue to follow the steps recommended by the [CDC](#) and the [IDPH](#) to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

Village officials continue to closely monitor the situation. Our top priority is the health and safety of our community and our focus is providing police protection and maintaining the availability of clean drinking water and removal of sewage. We have and continue to keep channels of communication with other key local service providers such as Fire/EMS, OSF, IGA, Dollar General, and Area Disposal to assure we're collaborating and helping each other appropriately. We are in contact with other local providers such as the Heyworth School, Ameren, MediaCom, Casey's, and Huck's to assure there is on-going communication and services as well. We also are exploring what options the Village may have available to assist our local business beyond what the Federal or State may be offering. In addition, Village officials will continue to be in regular contact with the State of Illinois, the Illinois Governor's Office, the Illinois and McLean County Public Health Departments, and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) in order to receive and communicate up-to-date information related to COVID-19 considerations.

Even during times such as these, the Village Board must still approve many actions essential to operating the Village, such as approving expenditures of funds, approval of contracts, adoption of budgets, giving authority to declare a local state of emergency, and many more. There are also many items the Board must take action on within a certain timeframe or by a certain date.

To that end, the Village Administration, at this Board meeting, is also placing an ordinance on the agenda that, if approved, will allow me to declare a state of local emergency if needed. This action is being recommended to me by several parties, including the Illinois Municipal League. This recommendation is not something that I have taken lightly and is something I have weighed heavily. The reason the Village Administration has decided to present this matter for vote to the Village Board is to assure that the Village operations can continue as necessary. More specifically, if a majority of our Village Trustees become unavailable because of COVID-19 or some other reason, and we do not have a sufficient number of Board members to vote on essential items, that could be extremely detrimental to Village operations and in the continuation of providing essential services. My intent, if the Village Board approves such a measure, is to **only** declare such measures if the Village Board

is unable to meet or legislate. This authority **DOES NOT** allow me to take various actions including matters relating to gun or ammunition sales or distribution or ceasing the sale or distribution of gasoline products as may be authorized in other communities. My intent and the authority given in such an ordinance would be to only allow the essential and necessary operations of the Village to continue in the event the Village Board is unable to do so.

Due to the recent Governor Executive Orders and for the health and safety of all involved, the Village cancelled its regularly scheduled meeting of March 19, 2020 to allow time to explore a variety of options to conduct its meetings in a safe and effective manner. We have decided to utilize Zoom Meetings to hold its meetings until further notice. A special board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 26th at 6:30 p.m. The action items will be limited to only those that are time sensitive, essential or to further improve contingency considerations, which are as follows: (1) approving the purchase of “Log Me In” to allow remote participation by some employees at a cost not to exceed \$700; (2) approving temporary suspensions of deadlines or timeframes that are self-imposed on the Village, such as for building permits or inspections; (3) amending the water & sewer ordinance to allow for temporary measures to help the citizens; (4) temporary amendments to allow paid leave for Village employees in order to promote segregation and continued operation of essential services; (5) approving the appointment of a mayor pro tem; (6) pertaining to and giving authority for the declaration of a local state of emergency; (7) approving the execution of the energy aggregation contract (8) approving the purchase of a voice over internet protocol (VOIP) system; and (9) approving the purchase of 2 laptop computers.

ZOOM MEETING

Zoom Meeting can be accessed using a computer, mobile phone, or home phone. Joining a meeting with a computer (via web browser) or mobile device with the Zoom App allows participation in a manner that has more features and is recommended. The Zoom Cloud Meeting App can be downloaded at no cost from either Google Play or the Apple App Store.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

During this period, members of the public are still able to participate in these board meetings in a variety of ways. You can join the meeting via Zoom Meeting and an opportunity will be provided to the public to provide public comments. Public comment rules still apply. During this period, public comments may also be submitted in advance via email and submitted comments will be read by a Village official at the meeting. To submit your comment, email the comment to villagehall@heyworth-il.gov by 3:00 pm the day of a board meeting or at least 3 hours prior to any other meeting. At this time and until further notice, Village Hall will not be open to the public during meetings.

SPECIFIC ZOOM MEETING ACCESS INFORMATION

Board Meeting - Thursday, March 26, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

The Village is having a special board meeting on Thursday, March 26, 2020. To see the agenda for this meeting, click [here](#).

The following is information for members of the public that would like to participate in the Board meeting utilizing Zoom Meeting:

Computer: In a web browser go to: <https://zoom.us/j/361296706>.

Input the following Use Meeting ID: 361 296 706.

App: If you are using the Zoom Cloud Meeting App on your smart phone or tablet, enter Meeting ID: 361 296 706.

Phone: If you'd prefer to join Zooming Meeting via telephone only, call (312) 626-6799. Use Meeting ID: 361 296 706 when prompted.

We will continue to provide regular updates via the Village web site at Heyworth-IL.GOV. If you do not have access to a computer, you can also call Village Hall at (309) 473-2811.

Together we will all meet this challenge. Please keep the faith and please continue to find safe ways to help and assist your neighbors and those in need.

Take care and be safe,

Todd Zalucha, Mayor