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## Press Release *For Immediate Release*

March 17, 2020

### Emergency Period March 18, 2020 – May 15, 2020

**Limited Access to Town Hall - Effective 3/18/20:** Town leadership encourages customers to conduct Town business via telephone or mail as much as possible. Customers should pay by mail or phone using a credit cards, rather than coming into Town Hall. (A 3% fee applies to credit card payments.) However walk-up windows will be available to accommodate customers during regular business hours Monday-Friday if needed.

**Utility Payments:** The Town will NOT turn off utilities for missed payments during the emergency period, March 18, 2020 – May 15, 2020. The Town will give customers another 30 days beyond the Emergency Period until June 15, 2020 to work out a payment plan and/or pay their bills in full. This should ensure no interruption of service.

**Boat Permits:** The Town will cease enforcement relative to current/existing boat permits until June 15, 2020. However, everyone must secure new boat permits by June 15, 2020. All other regulations still apply.

**Burn Permits:** Burn Permits will not be issued during the Emergency Period.

#### **Limited In-Person Meetings - Effective 3/18/20:**

- All Town Board and Committee meetings other than those held by Town Council are suspended until May 15, 2020.
- The Town will be limiting Town Council meetings to ten or fewer face-to-face participants which will include Town Council and Town Staff. This is in keeping with best practices for social distancing as recommended by the latest National Guidelines.
- The Town will Live Stream Town Council Meetings to allow virtual participation in meetings as much as possible.
- A link to Live Streamed Meetings is accessible via the Town of Lake Lure Website Homepage at [www.townoflakelure.com](http://www.townoflakelure.com)

**Town Hall and Facilities:** Lake Lure Town Hall, Police Department, Fire Department, the Lake Operations building, and Public Works facility (including offices and garages) will be closed for any meetings or gatherings other than official Town business.

**Restaurants and Bars:** In accordance with the Governor of the State of North Carolina's executive order effective at 5:00 pm on 3/17/20, all restaurants and bars will be closed to dine-in customers in an effort to fight the coronavirus outbreak. Restaurants and bars may still provide take-out and delivery operations, but cannot have customers in the dining room.