



# CHOCTAW CITY NEWS

“Celebrating the Past, Enjoying the Present, and Planning for the Future”

May 2020

## Contact Numbers

City Hall	405-390-8198
Public Works	405-390-1121
Code Enforcement	405-281-6869
Court Clerk	405-390-3333
Permits/Licenses	405-390-2999
Police (non-emergency)	405-769-3821
Fire (non-emergency)	405-390-8300
Police/Fire Emergency	911
Choctaw Creek Golf	405-769-7166
Waste Connections	405-745-2942



## Recycling Pickup Schedule

Waste Connections picks up recycling every other week. Recycling will occur on the weeks of: **May 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>**.

## Closed for Hoilday

City Hall and its offices will be closed Monday, **May 25<sup>th</sup>** in observance of Memorial Day.

## Monthly Bulk Trash Pick-up

The Bulk Pick-Up schedule is subject to change, especially with distancing guidelines put forth to keep workers safe. During the month of April bulk trash was not picked up and there were dumpsters at Ten Acre Lake for bulk trash drop-off. As of publication a determination has not been made regarding resuming bulk pick-up. Please see our website for the latest updates. If Bulk Pick-Up is restored, we will post on the City website as well as Facebook.

## Water / Trash Bill Payments

We can now take payments for any service, including permits, by phone, online, by mail, and there is always a drop-box in our parking lot for your

convenience. Anything put in the drop-box needs to be clearly marked as to what it is payment for if you do not include your utility bill stub.

## City Council

On April 7, 2020, the City Council approved Resolution 20-08 calling for a special election for Choctaw regarding a proposed amendment to the Charter. The proposed amendment would be to establish an additional exception to the residential density dwelling requirements for any Council -approved development in the area, defined as follows: the northern boundary being NE 36th Street, the southern boundary NE 23rd Street, western boundary N Henney Road, and the eastern boundary N Choctaw Road.

What does this mean? The exception would allow Council to consider and approve developments within this area and only this area that exceed the current maximum of 8 single-family units per acre, as called for in Section 9.1 (A) of the current City Charter.

What is the goal of this change to the Charter? First and foremost it is in accordance with the Comprehensive Master Plan to focus the density of dwellings in a defined area, and this is the area called out specifically in the Plan. This amendment allows for the consideration of more diverse housing options for citizens while still maintaining the rural hometown feel. The ultimate vision is to create an environment of growth, an opportunity for small businesses, and to provide options for residents to live here as well as shop here. A mixed-use building, for example, a three-story structure with retail on the first floor, offices on the 2nd, and apartments on the 3rd, is not allowed to be proposed or considered under the current charter. The City Council vision is to create a stay-and-play community and keep tax dollars local while supporting local small businesses.

The election was slated for June 30, 2020. Due to constraints brought forth by the COVID-19 pandemic,

Council approved Resolution 20-12 during their regular meeting on April 21, 2020, to cancel the Charter Amendment election. The City is not abandoning a charter amendment and plans to schedule a special election in the future. Information related to the charter amendment and Frequently Asked Questions will remain available on the City website at [mychoctaw.org/360/Proposed-Charter-Amendment](http://mychoctaw.org/360/Proposed-Charter-Amendment).

The City Council also held a Special Meeting on **April 29<sup>th</sup>** to make determinations about the future of the stay-at-home orders. Garage sales have been postponed indefinitely, to include the Citywide Garage Sale day. The Fishing Derby has been rescheduled for September. Please see the City website for the latest information.

## Census 2020

Stuck at home? It has never been easier to respond to the census on your own. You can respond by phone, by mail, or online, all without meeting with a census taker. Respond today at [2020census.gov](http://2020census.gov) or call 844-330-2020.

## Drive-Thru Farmer's Market

The Farmer's Market has been modified to allow vendors to take orders online or by phone and for you to pick them up at the Choctaw Creek Park Farmer's Market area. You can visit our web page for more information: [mychoctaw.org/340/Friday-Night-Farmers-Market](http://mychoctaw.org/340/Friday-Night-Farmers-Market). Please note that this is not a place to shop but a place to pick up local favorites you've pre-ordered.

You can also contact Matt Floyd at 405-326-5708 or find all the vendors and their contact information at: [www.facebook.com/floydfarmstead](http://www.facebook.com/floydfarmstead).

## Choctaw Senior Center

The Choctaw Senior Center is located at **14653 Dean Street**. The Senior Center is **closed until further notice** by the direction of the Oklahoma County Health Department. When it is reopened we will post the information on the city webpage as well as Facebook.

Visit us online at [www.mychoctaw.org](http://www.mychoctaw.org) for more information.

### Board / Commission Meeting Dates

(All meetings @ City Hall unless otherwise noted)

**7 PM**

City Council Meeting followed by Choctaw Utilities Authority: **May 5th & 19th**

Planning Commission Meeting: **May 7th**

Public Recreation Advisory Board: **May 12th**

Board of Adjustments (as needed): **May 18th**  
**4:30 PM**

Choctaw Economic Development Authority (at Choctaw Creek Golf Course): **May 27th**

### Choctaw Public Library

The Choctaw branch of the Metropolitan Library System, located at **2525 Muzzy Street**, is **closed until at least April 30th**. For more information, including closure updates, visit [metrolibrary.org/locations/Choctaw](http://metrolibrary.org/locations/Choctaw).

### Resources

Need help with healthcare, housing, food, clothing, or utility assistance? Call 211. It's a 24-hour resource to provide referrals to community-based services for everyday needs or in times of crisis or disaster. Talk to someone who cares and knows where to go for help - Call 2-1-1.

### City Manger's Corner

Hello Choctaw. As of the date I am writing this article, the 73020 Zip Code has recorded 16 COVID cases, 8 recoveries, and sadly, 1 death. The Governor has proclaimed the "Oklahoma Bounce Back Plan," implementing a 3-phased recovery approach in accordance with White House guidance for opening businesses and government. Your City Council will mirror what Oklahoma City implements, to keep consistency in the metro area, as we also work to implement the Governor's "Oklahoma Bounce Back Plan." The overall goal is to get back to some semblance of normalcy by 01 June. Your City staff has been working hard behind the

scenes preparing and analyzing what is still yet to come. City Hall and other City facilities should be fully open in the next few weeks as we implement the Phased opening of services. The biggest issue staring us down next is what will the next year's budget look like?

As of right now, and we have not seen the downturn, but are preparing and planning for a 10% reduction in income and expenditures for the City General Fund budget for 2020-2021. Municipalities in Oklahoma, all of which run on Sales Tax alone, are planning budgets in the midst of this emergency. If you look around the state and the country, municipalities are struggling with 'crystal ball' projections on the impact of the 2 month "Safer at Home" orders. OKC is projecting a 3.3% cut to Police and then an 11.5% cut to the General fund, and I have seen the State project a 20% reduction for the coming year. The City of Choctaw will present a balanced budget, nonetheless. As my Finance Director and I work through the math, it is readily apparent there will be impacts to what we can accomplish next year in the form of capital projects, training, and equipment. As an added challenge, we must figure in how to achieve a balance without impacting citizen services and cutting employees. I think the City Utility Authority will be a little less challenging, as it is a business activity—fee for service. Obvious areas we will be looking to cut are programming and special events for the Parks & Recreation Department. I have frozen manpower and hiring, salaries, travel, and training is limited to those essential to maintaining certifications and licenses. I say all this as we are working to avoid layoffs and personnel cuts as our last resort. When we start cutting personnel, we really start impacting services to citizens. Council will be taking action on budget approval on or about 19 May.

With all that said, we are looking at some limited event activities through

the summer from the Parks & Recreation department. Food Truck Friday's will still go on, as well as a scaled back July 4th Celebration with fireworks. We may have to move the Fishing Derby to the fall, as we may not be able to make the June 20 target date. Rock the Park, Movie in the Park, and our first BBQ Competition are all set aside, as of now.

We encourage everyone to remain safe through the CDC recommended distancing, and urge you to stay tuned to the City website and Facebook pages for the latest information of adjustments, openings and activities.

The City website has many links to other pages filled with a wealth of information and contacts to help you navigate this national pandemic. We urge you to visit the **Public Safety** page under "Departments" on the home page, and find what works best for you. <https://mychoctaw.org/157/Public-Safety>.

From the World Health Organization,  
**DO THE FIVE:**

1. HANDS—Wash them often
2. ELBOW—Cough into it
3. FACE—Don't touch it
4. FEET—Stay more than 6 feet apart
5. FEEL sick?—Stay home

**OCCHD (Oklahoma City-County Health Department) phone bank hotline**, 405-425-4489, currently staffed **M-F, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm**. Outside of those hours, please call the state hotline, which is operational **24 hours a day**:

COVID-19  
**CALL CENTER**  
**(877) 215-8336**



## Choctaw City Hall

P.O. Box 567  
2500 N. Choctaw Road  
Choctaw, Oklahoma 73020

Phone: (405) 390-8198

Fax: (405) 390-8607

Email: [citymanager@choctawcity.org](mailto:citymanager@choctawcity.org)

Web Site: [www.mychoctaw.org](http://www.mychoctaw.org)

### **Did you know?**

The City Council agendas, as well as all of the back-up information, are available on the City's website: [www.mychoctaw.org](http://www.mychoctaw.org)  
Check it out and subscribe today!