



May 11, 2020

Message from the Mayor and City Manager:

During this pandemic, your local government leaders had to make decisions we never thought we would have to make.

As a result, we have changed how to deliver city services. You've changed how you shop, and protect yourself in public. As difficult and devastating as this has been for many, it has also been inspiring and heartwarming to see how creative individuals and businesses have become to continue connections, enterprise and service.

I want to thank all our first responders, healthcare workers and essential employees who have been on the front lines during COVID-19. Thank you for braving what has been a scary world to help others, and provide services and products necessary for life. To our residents and businesses, thank you for working to help flatten the curve and stop the spread of COVID-19 by following the stay at home orders, practicing social distancing, wearing a facemask in public and washing your hands frequently. Even when we open back up, we strongly recommend you continue to follow these protocols.

The decision to close city facilities, which cancelled many programs, classes, events, reservations and plans, was not made lightly. Your city leadership has been working daily and diligently throughout the pandemic to balance needs, safety, health and wellbeing. From an economic standpoint, the city may be better positioned than most. We had reserves we activated to cover costs and anticipated shortfalls. We put a hiring freeze into effect. We may face budget cuts in the near future, as we wait to see how sales tax recovers once the economy opens up again.

You may continue to see residual effects of the pandemic through the summer. Our library's Summer Reading Club will be virtual, with online programs. Lone Star Park has cancelled Lone Stars and Stripes July 4 fireworks festival. Many Parks summer events have been cancelled to avoid large gatherings.

We hope to open city facilities sometime mid-May to early June, depending upon circumstances, State Orders and County Orders. We are so ready to see you again and serve you in person, but we need to balance that with your health and safety, as well as that of our employees.

As the world around us continues to evolve at a rapid pace, please stay informed through:

- gptx.org/COVID-19
- [Facebook.com/cityofgptx](https://www.facebook.com/cityofgptx)
- [Twitter.com/gp_tx](https://twitter.com/gp_tx)
- [Youtube.com/user/cityofgptx](https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofgptx)
- [Instagram.com/cityofgptx](https://www.instagram.com/cityofgptx)

Thank you again for weathering this storm together. Stay safe as we venture out as restrictions are lifted.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Jensen".

Ron Jensen
Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Hart".

Tom Hart
City Manager