CITY OF STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

AGENDA
SPECIAL MEETING NO. SP-2020-04
TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2020
5:00 PM

MEETING LOCATION: Citizens’ Meeting Room, Centennial Hall;
124 10th Street, Steamboat Springs, CO

A. ROLL CALL

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. COMMUNITY REPORTS/CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION TOPIC:
   1. Covid 19 Update. (Suiter)
   2. Update on Remote Conduct of Quasi-Judicial Hearings. (Foote)

D. PUBLIC HEARING: MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES
   THE CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT OR PRESIDENT PRO-TEM WILL READ EACH ITEM TITLE INTO THE
   RECORD. PUBLIC COMMENT WILL BE PROVIDED FOR EVERY ITEM.

PUBLIC HEARING FORMAT:
   • Presentation by the Petitioner (estimated at 15 minutes). Petitioner to
     state name and residence address/location.
   • Presentation by the Opposition. Same guidelines as above.
   • Public Comment by individuals (not to exceed 3 minutes).
     Individuals to state name and residence address/location.
   • City staff to provide a response.

   3. MOTION: A motion to determine whether physical presence of City
      Council members, administrative staff members, and/or citizens at City
      Council is critical to the function of the City Council. (Foote)
4. **EMERGENCY ORDINANCE:** An emergency ordinance temporarily suspending Ordinance #2699 pertaining to disposable bags. (Bock)

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**E. ADJOURNMENT**

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**RAINBOW**

Rainbow Materials.
AGENDA ITEM #1.

The above is a discussion item.
AGENDA ITEM #2.

I. REQUEST/ISSUE & BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The consensus in Colorado for many years has been that decisionmakers should be physically present for quasi-judicial hearings and that telephonic or other remote participation is not appropriate. There are two related reasons for this. First, it has seldom, if ever, been necessary for Colorado municipalities to resort to remote meetings in order to seat a quorum for quasi-judicial hearings and therefore there has not been a compelling reason to hold these hearings remotely.

Second, the due process clauses of the federal and state constitutions impose certain procedural requirements on government agency decision making process. The basic requirement is notice and an opportunity to be heard. What that means in practice depends on the nature of the interest that is being affected, but it is clear that it is necessary for the public to have some advance notice of the hearings, to be able to hear the proceedings, and to present evidence, comments, or argument to the decisionmaker(s).

In the context of City land use decisions, members of the general public get general notice of hearings via distribution of agendas, property posting,
newspaper publications, etc. They have an opportunity to appear at Council hearings and to address the Council for three minutes and have standing to appeal if they speak at a hearing.

The City’s Community Development Code (“CDC”) recognizes that owners of surrounding property (i.e. property within three hundred feet) have a heightened interest in land use decisions. For this reason, surrounding property owners (“SPOs”) are accorded more rights than members of the general public. For example, SPOs are entitled to receive mailed notice of public hearings and they have standing to appeal regardless of whether they speak at a hearing.

The principal concern with holding quasi-judicial hearings remotely is that interested parties may be deprived of an adequate opportunity to participate in the hearing and to be heard. However, these concerns are more of a practical nature and are not necessarily a legal prohibition. If a meeting can be conducted remotely in a manner that gives interested parties a reasonable opportunity to be heard, then there is no legal bar to such a hearing.

There is a great deal of precedent for quasi-judicial or judicial hearings to conducted remotely in this country. In the criminal context, many jurisdictions conduct bail hearings and arraignments by video. The State of Alaska routinely conducts administrative hearings with telephonic participation by the parties. These types of remote hearings are a compromise between the advantages of physical presence and considerations such as the logistics of transporting prisoners or the geography of a sparsely populated state like Alaska.

It is important to note that many of these hearings are far less complex than a land use hearing. A bail hearing, for example, involves two attorneys, a judge, and a defendant. The factual and legal questions at issue are simple and well understood by all the parties except, maybe, the defendant. There is no public comment and rarely any public interest in these proceedings. So, while there is precedent for the remote conduct of judicial and quasi-judicial hearings, it is critical to remember that different types of hearings present different challenges with respect to complying with due process.

In sum, Colorado communities have not until very recently faced significant barriers to requiring physical presence at quasi-judicial hearings and there has been no pressing need to compromise the usual process. But this history does not mean that the City cannot change its procedures to address the current emergency situation.

If the City Council were to decide to allow for remote conduct of quasi-judicial hearings by the City Council and/or other boards and commissions, I would suggest considering the following questions:
Notice

With respect to notice, the City’s current procedures are adequate to notify interest persons (the public, SPOs, applicants) of scheduled public hearings. However, the content of the notices would need to be amended to give clear notice of the methods by which interested parties may participate. For example, our notices currently give a date and address for hearings on land use decisions. These notices would have to be amended to include notice of call in numbers, video conferencing instructions, or whatever information is necessary to allow reasonable participation.

Opportunity to be heard

There are a number of aspects of conducting a remote public hearing that would need to be considered.

First, is the presentation of written evidence. The City should tighten procedures with respect to written materials to ensure that all interested parties have access to the relevant documents.

Second would be the presentation of evidence or argument at the actual meeting. Currently, this occurs through applicant presentations, public comment by the general public or SPOs, and by written statements by the general public or SPOs. The current practice of submitting written statements can continue as is. However, the City would need to provide avenues for the applicant, general public, and SPOs to comment at the meeting.

A third consideration is that remote participation, whether by video or telephone, limits participants’ ability to understand what is being discussed at a hearing. References to exhibits, for example, would need to be precise, i.e. identifying the specific document that is being discussed or not relying on laser pointers to indicate features on maps or other documents. Ideally, the remote meeting platform would be able to display video of the person talking as well as the exhibit that is being referred to. And speakers would need to take care to speak clearly into their microphones.

A fourth consideration is that the municipal code currently permits any person to request the administration of oaths and the cross examination of witnesses. To date, these provisions have not been invoked. If the City were to conduct hearings remotely, we would need to be prepared for such a request.

In sum, it is legally possible for the City to implement a policy of remote conduct of quasi-judicial hearings. Doing so would present practical challenges that would require numerous changes to the City’s current meeting practices and Citizens’ Hall technological capabilities.
Alternatives

If the Council prefers not to attempt to overcome these practical challenges, Council would have two other options to address pending land use matters that require public hearings. Council could suspend the land use review process for matters requiring public hearings. We would have clear authority to determine that these hearings are not critical government functions, at least during the terms of Governor Polis’ stay at home order and the various federal, state, and local emergency declarations. The disadvantage to this course of action is that most major development activity would be put on hold with the associated economic impact.

Or the Council could delegate to the Planning Director approval authority for some or all land use matters that currently require public hearings. This obvious disadvantage to this solution is the limited public participation in the City’s administrative approval processes for land use applications.

Finally, I have received some questions about the City Council’s ability to approve land use matters on consent. Council could modify the existing rules of order to permit the Council to approve quasi-judicial matters on consent. This would mean that any member of the public or the City Council could effectively table a matter by requesting it to be pulled because we would not have procedures in place to conduct the necessary hearing remotely. However, it would allow projects that are not controversial to proceed without the City having to address the practical difficulties of hearing quasi-judicial matters on a remote basis.

II. SUMMARY AND ALTERNATIVES:

Staff requests direction as to how to address the need to schedule quasi-judicial hearings for land use and other matters.

III. STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

None

IV. FISCAL IMPACT:

None

V. LEGAL ISSUES:

As described above.
VI. **CONFLICTS OR ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:**

None.

VII. **CONSISTENCY WITH COUNCIL GOALS AND POLICIES:**

This item does not directly address any adopted City Council goals or policies.

**ATTACHMENTS:**
I. REQUEST/ISSUE & BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On March 25, 2020 Governor Polis issued an executive order requiring Coloradans to stay at home unless engaged in certain exempted activities to be further defined by order of the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (“CDPHE”). In response, CDPHE issued Public Health Order 20-24 (“PHO”), also on March 25, 2020. The PHO includes an exemption from the Governor’s stay at home order for Critical Government Functions, which are defined as, among other things, "any government service required for the public health and safety, government functionality, or vital to restoring normal services."

There is no question that it is critical to the function of the City that the City Council meet in some manner. The question presented to the City Council is whether it is critical to the function of the City Council for Council members, the City’s administrative staff, and/or the public to be able to appear in person at the Council chambers. A determination by the City Council that appearance in
person by one or more of these groups is critical to the function of the City Council would render those appearances lawful under the PHO.

If the City Council were to determine that the appearance in person by one or more of these groups is not critical to the function of the City Council, then that group or those groups of people could not lawfully appear in person at City Council meetings until the PHO is modified or rescinded.

The City’s IT staff is prepared to conduct City Council meetings entirely on a remote basis, with all interested parties appearing remotely via the Zoom teleconferencing platform. Staff requests a determination by the City Council whether it is critical for City Council members, the administrative staff, or the general public to be able to appear at Council meetings in person. Please note that under current Council rules, quasi-judicial matters may not be considered at Council meetings that are conducted remotely.

II. SUMMARY AND ALTERNATIVES:

The question for City Council is whose physical appearance at City Council meetings is necessary for the effective function of the City Council. Physical appearance at City Council meetings enhances the function of the City Council. Remote participation enhances federal, state, and local efforts to slow the spread of Covid-19.

III. STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the following findings and determination by the City Council:

1) City Council meetings are a critical government function for purposes of the PHO and the presence of IT staff in Council chambers is critical to the conduct of City Council meetings;
2) The physical presence of citizens of the City of Steamboat Springs at City Council meetings is not critical to the conduct of City Council meetings due to the availability of remote methods of participation;
3) The physical presence of the administrative staff of the City of Steamboat Springs at City Council meetings is not critical to the conduct of City Council meetings due to the availability of remote methods of participation, except as to the City Manager, City Attorney, or to the extent that another staff member is scheduled to present to the City Council or respond to City Council questions, in which case the relevant staff member may appear in Council chambers during the portion of the meeting scheduled for the presentation or response;
4) Any person authorized to appear in person at City Council chambers may elect to participate remotely.
Staff defers to the City Council as to whether the personal appearance of members of City Council is critical to the function of the City Council.

IV. **FISCAL IMPACT:**

None.

V. **LEGAL ISSUES:**

As described above.

VI. **CONFLICTS OR ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:**

This item requires the balancing protecting the public health and preserving the democratic function of the City Council.

VII. **CONSISTENCY WITH COUNCIL GOALS AND POLICIES:**

This item does not directly address any adopted goals or policies.

ATTACHMENTS:
AGENDA ITEM #4.

CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION FORM

FROM: Jennifer Bock, Assistant City Attorney
THROUGH: Dan Foote, City Attorney
DATE: March 31, 2020

ITEM: EMERGENCY ORDINANCE: An emergency ordinance temporarily suspending ordinance #2699 pertaining to disposable bags. (Bock)

DIRECTION ____________________________________________

INFORMATION ____________________________________________

ORDINANCE (Emergency, single reading) X

MOTION ______________________________________________

RESOLUTION ___________________________________________

PROCLAMATION _________________________________________

I. REQUEST/ISSUE & BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2699 in May 2019 to ban plastic bags and impose a fee on disposable paper bags. The ordinance had broad support and was implemented successfully across the City.

On March 16, 2020, the City made a Declaration of Disaster Emergency related to the presence of COVID-19 in Colorado. Since that declaration, Routt County has confirmed community spread of the virus in Steamboat Springs and the Governor has issued an executive order requiring Coloradans to stay at home unless they are conducting essential business. In his executive order announcement, the Governor also mentioned that local governments should consider allowing plastic bags for purposes of slowing the spread of COVID-19. Several members of the public have likewise urged the Council to allow plastic bags in grocery stores.

II. SUMMARY AND ALTERNATIVES:
• Adopt the emergency ordinance to suspend the City’s disposable bag regulations.
• Decline to adopt the ordinance.

III. **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that Council adopt the emergency ordinance.

IV. **FISCAL IMPACT:**

Temporary decline in fees collected for paper bags.

V. **LEGAL ISSUES:**

The City Charter at Section 7.7 allows City Council to adopt emergency ordinances on a single reading for the preservation of public health, welfare, peace, safety, or property.

Such emergency ordinances are approved by a majority vote of the Council Members present at any meeting at which the said emergency ordinance is introduced.

Staff has enumerated in the ordinance facts showing the urgency and need for the emergency ordinance as required by the Charter.

Emergency ordinances take effect upon passage and may not be in effect longer than ninety (90) days after passage.

VI. **CONFLICTS OR ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:**

The suspension will only be in effect for ninety (90) days, and Council may act to reinstate the ordinance sooner should the public health emergency resolve in the near term.

VII. **CONSISTENCY WITH COUNCIL GOALS AND POLICIES:**

n/a

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment #1: Ordinance No. 2699
Attachment #2: Public comments received to date
CITY OF STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO

ORDINANCE NO. 2699

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 19, TO ADD ARTICLE IV TO THE STEAMBOAT SPRINGS REVISED MUNICIPAL CODE, PERTAINING TO DISPOSABLE BAGS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND REPEALING ALL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES.

WHEREAS, the City of Steamboat Springs is a home rule municipality existing pursuant to the laws of the Colorado Constitution, the Colorado Revised Statutes and the City of Steamboat Springs Home Rule Charter; and

WHEREAS, the City of Steamboat Springs Vision is “to preserve our past while assuring an economically, culturally, and environmentally sustainable future”; and

WHEREAS, the use of disposable bags has significant impacts on the environment on a local and global scale, including greenhouse gas emissions, litter, harm to wildlife, atmospheric acidification, water consumption and solid waste generation; and

WHEREAS, despite recycling and voluntary solutions to control pollution from disposable bags, many disposable bags ultimately are disposed of in landfills, litter the environment, block storm drains and endanger wildlife; and

WHEREAS, reducing the use of disposable bags has a positive impact on the local environment; and

WHEREAS, studies and the experience of other Colorado municipalities document that banning plastic bags and placing a mandatory fee on paper bags will dramatically reduce the use of both types of bags; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to protect our local natural environment by banning the use of disposable single use plastic bags and implementing a paper bag fee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO:

Section 1. Chapter 19, Article IV of the City of Steamboat Springs Revised Municipal Code shall read as follows:

Chapter 19, Article IV—Disposable Bags

Sec. 19-200 Definitions.

For purposes of this Chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them:

Disposable Paper Bag. The term Disposable Paper Bag means a bag made predominately of paper that is provided to a customer by a Grocer at the point of sale for the purpose of transporting goods.
Disposable Plastic Bag. The term Disposable Plastic Bag means any bag that is less than two and one-quarter mil thick and is made predominately of plastic derived from petroleum or from bio-based sources, provided to a customer at the point of sale for the purpose of transporting goods. Disposable Plastic Bag does not mean:

(a) Bags used by consumers inside stores to:
   (1) Package bulk items, such as fruit, vegetables, nuts, grains, candy or small hardware items;
   (2) Contain or wrap frozen foods, meat, or fish;
   (3) Contain or wrap flowers, potted plants, or other items where dampness may be a problem; and,
   (4) Contain unwrapped prepared foods or bakery goods;
   (5) A non-handled bag used to protect a purchased item from damaging or contaminating other purchased items when placed in a recyclable paper bag or reusable bag.

(b) Bags provided by pharmacists to contain prescription drugs;

(c) Newspaper bags, door-hanger bags, laundry-dry cleaning bags, or bags sold in packages containing multiple bags intended for use as garbage, pet waste, or yard waste bags;

Market. The term Market means a retail establishment or business located within Steamboat Springs City limits in a permanent building, operating year round, that is a self-service market and which sells items including but not limited to a line of staple foodstuffs, meats, produce, household supplies, personal care items, or dairy products or other perishable items. Market does not mean:

(a) Temporary vending establishment for fruits, vegetables, packaged meats and dairy.

(b) Vendors at farmer’s markets or other temporary events.

(c) A retail establishment selling only incidental foodstuffs or small snack items.

(d) Location where the facility is less than 10,000 sq. ft.

Reusable Bag. The term Reusable Bag means a bag that is:

(a) Designed and manufactured to withstand repeated uses over a period of time; and

(b) Is made from a material that can be cleaned and disinfected regularly; and

(c) That is at least 2.25 mil thick if made from plastic; and

(d) Has a minimum lifetime of seventy five uses; and

(e) Has the capability of carrying a minimum of eighteen pounds.

Waste Reduction Fee. The term Waste Reduction Fee means a City fee imposed and required to be paid by each consumer making a purchase from a Market for each Disposable Paper Bag used during the purchase.

Sec. 19-201 Prohibitions On and after the effective date:

(a) No Market shall provide a Disposable Plastic Bag to a customer at the point of sale.
Nothing in this section shall preclude persons or Markets from making Reusable Bags available for sale or for no cost to customers.

Sec. 19-202 Paper Bag fee requirements

(a) Markets shall collect from customers, and customers shall pay, at the time of purchase, a Waste Reduction Fee of $0.20 for each Disposable Paper Bag provided to the customer.

(b) Markets shall record the number of Disposable Paper Bags provided and the total amount of Waste Reduction Fee charged on the customer transaction receipt.

(c) A Market shall not refund to the customer any part of the Waste Reduction Fee, nor shall the Market advertise or state to customers that any part of the Waste Reduction Fee will be refunded to the customer.

(d) A Market shall not exempt any customer from any part of the Waste Reduction Fee for any reason except as stated in Section 19-206, below.

Sec. 19-203 Voluntary Opt In  Any store or business may voluntarily opt in to the Waste Reduction Program and apply the ban and Waste Reduction Fee to its business by applying with the City of Steamboat Springs City Manager’s office and consenting to abide by the terms of this Article.

Sec. 19-204 Retention, remittance, and transfer of the Waste Reduction Fee

(a) A Market may retain 25% of each Waste Reduction Fee collected.

(b) The retained percent is limited to allowable use for the Market to:

1. Provide educational information about the Waste Reduction Fee and reusable bags free of cost to customers;

2. Provide required signage regarding the fee;

3. Train staff in the implementation and administration of the fee;

4. Improve or alter infrastructure to allow for the implementation, collection, and administration of the fee;

5. Collect, account for, and remit the fee to the city;

6. Develop and display informational signage to inform consumers about the fee; and

7. Provide and encourage the use of reusable bags.

(c) The portion of the fees retained by a Market or an opt in store or business pursuant to this ordinance shall not be classified as revenue for the purposes of calculating sales tax;

(d) The remaining portion of each Waste Reduction Fee collected by a Market shall be paid to the City of Steamboat Springs Finance Department and shall be deposited in the Waste Reduction and Recycling Account.

(e) A Market shall pay and the City of Steamboat Springs shall collect all Waste Reduction Fees at the same time as the City Sales Tax. The City shall provide the necessary forms for Markets to file individual returns with the City, separate from the required City Sales Tax forms, to demonstrate compliance with the provisions of this ordinance.
(1) If payment of any amounts to the City is not received on or before the applicable due date, penalty and interest charges shall be added to the amount due as described in Section 19-207.

(f) The Waste Reduction Fee shall be administered by the City of Steamboat Springs City Manager’s office.

(g) Funds deposited in the Waste Reduction and Recycling Account shall be used for the following projects:

(1) Campaigns conducted by the City of Steamboat Springs or a contractor retained by the City and begun within 365 days of the effective date of this act, to:

(A) Provide reusable carryout bags to residents and visitors; and

(B) Educate residents, businesses, and visitors about the impact of trash on the City's environmental health, the importance of reducing the number of disposable carryout bags entering the waste stream, and the impact of disposable carryout bags on the waterways and the environment.

(2) Ongoing campaigns conducted by the City of Steamboat Springs or a contractor retained by the City to:

(A) Provide reusable bags to both residents and visitors; and

(B) Create public educational campaigns to raise awareness about waste reduction and recycling;

(C) Funding programs and infrastructure that allows the Steamboat Springs community to reduce waste and recycle;

(D) Purchasing, installing, operating and maintaining equipment designed to minimize trash pollution, including, recycling containers, and waste receptacles;

(E) Funding community cleanup events and other activities that reduce trash;

(F) Maintaining a public website that educates residents on the progress of waste reduction efforts; and

(G) Paying for the administration of this program.

(h) No Waste Reduction Fee collected in accordance with this ordinance shall be used to supplant funds appropriated as part of an approved annual budget.

(i) No Waste Reduction Fee collected in accordance with this ordinance shall revert to the General Fund at the end of the fiscal year, or at any other time, but shall be continually available for the uses and purposes set forth in Subsection (g) of this Section without regard to fiscal year limitation.

(j) Businesses that do not meet the definition of Market in Section 19-200, but who wish to voluntarily opt-in to the program under Section 19-203 are not required to remit any portion of the Waste Reduction Fee back to the City, but will agree to use the fee exclusively for the purposes listed in part (b) above.

Sec. 19-205 Required Signage for Markets. Every Market subject to the collection of the Waste Reduction Fee shall display a sign in a location outside or inside of the business, viewable by customers, alerting customers to the City of Steamboat Springs imposed ban and fee.
Sec. 19-206 Exemptions A Market may provide a Disposable Paper Bag to a customer at no charge to that customer if the customer provides evidence that he or she is a participant in a Colorado Food Assistance Program.

Sec. 19-207 Audits and Violations

(a) Each Market licensed pursuant to the provisions of this Chapter shall maintain accurate and complete records of the Waste Reduction Fees collected, the number of Disposable Paper Bags provided to customers, the form and recipients of any notice required pursuant to this Chapter, and any underlying records, including any books, accounts, invoices, or other records necessary to verify the accuracy and completeness of such records. It shall be the duty of each Market to keep and preserve all such documents and records, including any electronic information, for a period of three (3) years from the end of the calendar year of such records.

(b) If requested, each Market shall make its records available for audit by the City Manager during regular business hours in order for the City to verify compliance with the provisions of this chapter. All such information shall be treated as confidential commercial documents.

(c) Violation of any of the requirements of this act shall subject a Market to the penalties set forth in this Section.

(1) If it is determined that a violation has occurred, the City of Steamboat Springs shall issue a warning notice to the Market for the initial violation.

(2) If it is determined that an additional violation of this Chapter has occurred within one year after a warning notice has been issued for an initial violation, the City of Steamboat Springs shall issue a notice of infraction and shall impose a penalty against the retail establishment.

(3) The penalty for each violation that occurs after the issuance of the warning notice shall be no more than: A) $50 for the first offense B) $100 for the second offense C) For the third and all subsequent offenses there shall be a mandatory Court appearance and such penalty as may be determined by the Court.

(4) No more than one (1) penalty shall be imposed upon a Market within a seven (7) calendar day period.

(5) A Market shall have fifteen (15) calendar days after the date that a notice of infraction is issued to pay the penalty.

(6) The penalty shall double after fifteen (15) calendars days if the Market does not pay the penalty; or fails to respond to a notice of infraction by either denying or objecting in writing to the infraction or penalty.

(d) If payment of any amounts of the Waste Reduction Fee to the City is not received on or before the applicable due date, penalty and interest charges shall be added to the amount due in the amount of:

(1) A penalty of five percent (5%) of total due, not to exceed ten dollars ($10) each month.

(2) Interest charge of one percent (1%) of total penalty per month.

Section 2. The City Council hereby finds, determines and declares that this ordinance is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety.

Section 3. Pursuant to Section 7-11 of the Charter of the City of Steamboat Springs, Colorado, the second publication of this ordinance may be by reference, utilizing the ordinance title.

Section 4. The Ordinance shall take effect on October 1, 2019.
Section 5. All ordinances heretofore passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Steamboat Springs, Colorado, are hereby repealed to the extent that said ordinances, or parts thereof, are in conflict herewith.

Section 6. A public hearing on this ordinance shall be held on May 21, 2019 at 5:00 P.M. in the Citizens Hall meeting room, Centennial Hall, Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

**INTRODUCED, READ AND ORDERED PUBLISHED**, as provided by law, by the City Council of the City of Steamboat Springs, at its regular meeting held on the 7th day of May, 2019.

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**ATTEST:**

Jason Lacy, President
Steamboat Springs City Council

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**FINALLY READ, PASSED AND APPROVED** this 21st day of May, 2019.

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**ATTEST:**

Julie Franklin
City Clerk

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Julie Franklin
City Clerk
From: A ROSS
To: City Council
Subject: Fwd: used again Cloth bags are dirty
Date: Saturday, March 28, 2020 9:26:11 AM

Ann Ross
Steamboat Springs, CO

ATTACHMENT #2

From: A ROSS
Date: March 28, 2020 at 9:06:42 AM MDT
Subject: Cloth bags are dirty

I do not EVER want used dirty cloth grocery bags taken into store where I buy food! I demand a clean store not infiltrated by used dirty cloth bags. How to rescind plastic bag order. How to. Stores don’t provide sanitary plastic bags ,a saving for store, then we can buy more plastic garbage bags . If and I agree we need to stop the plastics then the toss one time use water bottle is the place to curtail gross plastic use. Thanks ,will wait for your replies.

Ann Ross
Steamboat Springs, CO
City Council Contact Form

Contact Information

| First Name | Carol |
| Last Name  | Ward  |

Email Address

Questions or Comments

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<td>Please leave your comments or questions below.</td>
<td>Have you given any consideration to stopping the plastic bag ban at the grocery stores? This was a &quot;feel good&quot; measure to start with but now is a health concern as people bring their less than clean bags to the store and put them onto the conveyor belt where everyone's food is set down prior to checkout.</td>
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City Council Contact Form

Contact Information

First Name  CJ
Last Name  Berg

Questions or Comments

Please select the department(s) you want to contact:
Field not completed.

In the midst of COVID-19, states are implementing a temporary ban on reusable grocery bags. This will help slow the spread of the virus and protect our grocery store workers. Please consider a temporary ban.

Thank you,
CJ Berg

https://grist.org/climate/one-state-just-banned-reusable-shopping-bags-due-to-covid-19/?fbclid=IwAR1rh91LCCUkpxxENJPNG3hGd1GQfcdHbgkhKdVDWmcC71S4GcV38BzeQFQk

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sjDuwc9KBps&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1Mj6cutmHeiurqXbZJws5qkXJNcG6tLSnRd3nxHqy_V4F_vecNja7Hoo

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City Council Contact Form

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Email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.
Dear City Council members,

Researchers have found that re-usable grocery bags are an important vector for disease transmission. The re-usable bags become infected and transport bacteria and viruses into the grocery store from outside.

This problem is even more pronounced now, because the COVID-19 virus has an unusual ability to live on dry surfaces. Indeed this version of the Corona virus can live on stainless steel for 72 hours.

This problem is acute enough that the Governor of Massachusetts banned re-usable grocery bags this week.

I would urge you to ban re-usable bags and return to single use bags that do not bring infection INTO the grocery supply chain.

Thank You,
Dr. David S. Criste
Hello City Council members,

I hope you are all staying healthy in these challenging times.

We saw that City Council will be discussing an emergency ordinance regarding the recommendation from Governor Polis on COVID-19 and bag fees. Since there will be no way to make a public comment, I wanted to share YVSC’s recommendation with you to consider.

Warm regards,
Madison

Please add attachments here. YVSC recommendation for bag ban and COVID-19 3.30.20 - 3.pdf

Email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.
March 30, 2020

Recommendation:

Based on scientific research, adopt an emergency ordinance to ONLY suspend the bag fee associated with City's disposable bag regulations but to maintain the existing ban on single-use plastic bags as set forth in Ordinance #2699.

Background

On March 25, Governor Polis asked municipalities for a moratorium on plastic bag bans and fees for grocery stores for 30 days. Polis' request was made in response to public concerns about the increased risk of COVID contamination through the use of reusable bags.

We at YVSC acknowledge that the City of Steamboat Springs should abide by Polis' request to temporarily rescind the bag fees to limit the transmission of COVID-19 but recommend that the City NOT suspend the City's plastic bag ban as part of the moratorium. This recommendation is based on scientific evidence cited in this letter.

Research indicates that single-use paper bags will more likely limit COVID-19 contamination risk than single-use plastic bags. One recent study indicates that coronavirus may in fact remain infectious on plastic (and steel) for up to three days, compared with 24 hours for cardboard (and four hours for copper). Another recent study reports that coronavirus could remain stable on plastic for up to 9 days. These studies did not explicitly examine how long the virus remains infectious on cloth (pertaining to reusable bags), they do however suggest that paper bags are preferred if the City is trying to limit COVID-19 exposure.

Scientific evidence does not support the use of plastic bags to limit COVID-19 contamination, therefore we must evaluate if reintroduction of plastic bags is in our community's best interest. While the City's public health concerns are of paramount importance at this time, we at YVSC also recognize the importance of retaining successes earned via our recent Spur the Change campaign. Since the posting of the City Council agenda, YVSC has received numerous phone calls and emails from concerned citizens regarding the potential repeal of the plastic bag ban. At a time when so many concessions are being made, both economic and environmental, maintaining the plastic bag ban sends an important message that the City that is capable of enforcing COVID-19 health precautions without sacrificing our community's environmental ethic.

Other communities like ours are choosing to abide by the Governor's precautions while maintaining their plastic bag bans in order to safeguard their social and environmental well-being. Similar to the proposal we outline here, the City of Avon, for example, has suspended its bag fee to limit COVID-19 contamination risk but has maintained its plastic bag ban.
For those community members who wish to continue to use their reusable bags, we at the City and YVSC can encourage them to: 1) wash their bags regularly, and 2) be prepared to bag their own groceries at grocery store locations. At Natural Grocers, customers are already required to bag their own groceries to limit COVID-19 exposure, a practice also upheld in the greater Vail Valley and elsewhere.

By removing the bag fee, the City of Steamboat Springs will be able to report that our City has implemented Governor Polis' request to local governments whilst maintaining our plastic bag ban. This decision positions the City to make the best science-informed decision without sacrificing the social and environmental integrity of this valued community.

Please feel free to reach out with questions related to the above.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michelle O. Stewart
Executive Director

Madison Muxworthy
Waste Diversion Director
City Council Contact Form

Contact Information

First Name  Deborah
Last Name   Rose
Email Address  drose2542@gmail.com

Questions or Comments

Please select the department(s) you want to contact:

City Council

Please leave your comments or questions below.

Please do not reinstate the plastic ban for 90 days, most people have adjusted to the change to bringing their own bags. Take the fee away for paper until this crisis has subsided. Lastly, studies do show plastic does carry the virus longer than paper.

Thank you,
Deborah Rose

Please add attachments here.

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Email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.
From: noreply@civicplus.com  
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 7:24 AM  
To: City Council  
Subject: Online Form Submittal: City Council Contact Form

City Council Contact Form

Contact Information

First Name | maggie  
Last Name  | smith  
Email Address | maggiesteamboat@gmail.com

Questions or Comments

Please select the department(s) you want to contact: City Council

Please leave your comments or questions below.

I support that City Council temporarily waive the fee for paper bags but please do not lift the single-use plastic bag ban. We need to still care about our environment and based on scientific research the Covid-19 virus remains on plastic much longer than it remains on paper and cardboard.

Please add attachments here.  
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Email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.
City Council Contact Form

Contact Information

First Name       Jenny

Last Name        Frithsen

Email Address    jfrithsen@ssk12.org

Questions or Comments

Please select the department(s) you want to contact:
City Council

Please leave your comments or questions below.

Please, based on scientific research, adopt an emergency ordinance to ONLY suspend the bag fee associated with City's disposable bag regulations but to maintain the existing ban on single-use plastic bags as set forth in Ordinance #2699.

There are multiple alternatives to plastic bags that customers can use to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Plastic in fact may harbor the virus for many days. Customers may: 1) bag their own groceries, which many of us ALREADY do, 2) bag our groceries into our own reusable bags at our cars, utilizing the cart to get them out of the store, 3) use paper bags at no extra charge.

Thank you,
Jenny Frithsen

Please add attachments here.
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Frequently Asked Questions on Public Meetings and Public Notice Issues

In Light Of the COVID-19 Pandemic

The following guidance is based on the Colorado Open Meetings Law ("COML"). §§ 24-6-401, et seq., C.R.S., and the case law interpreting it, as well as the Colorado Administrative Procedures Act ("CAPA"). §§ 24-4-101, et seq., C.R.S. These FAQs also provide our current thinking related to "best practices" and potential technological measures to facilitate public access.

Q. May a public body conduct a “public meeting” entirely remotely by electronic means?
A. Yes.

The COML recognizes that “meetings” of public bodies may be conducted by “by telephone, electronically, or by other means of communication.” § 24-6-401(1)(b). The law provides that all “meetings” at which two or more members of a state public body, or three or more members (or a quorum) of a local public body, discuss “public business” must be “open to the public at all times.” § 24-6-402(2)(a). A meeting accessible only electronically, such as by webinar, online video conference (e.g., Zoom), or telephone conference, complies with the COML so long as the means to access the meeting electronically are made available to the public.

Q. May a public body provide electronic-only notice of a “public meeting”?
A. Yes.

The COML authorizes local public bodies to use electronic-only posting of notices of their meetings. § 24-6-402(2)(c)(III). For state public bodies, the statute requires that there must be “full and timely notice to the public.” State bodies should adopt a ‘flexible’ standard that takes into account the interest in providing access to a broad range of meetings at which public business is considered, as well as the public body’s need to conduct its business in a reasonable manner.” [Benson v. McCormick, 195 Colo. 381, 383, 578 P.2d 651, 652 (1978)].

Q. May a public body meet without any kind of notice if there is an “emergency”?
A. Yes, but the scope of what constitutes an “emergency” is narrow.

The COML has no provision for “emergency” meetings. The Colorado Court of Appeals has held that a town council’s “emergency” meeting without timely notice was permissible under the COML in light of the council’s subsequent notice, consideration, and ratification of the actions taken at the emergency meeting at a later properly noticed public meeting. Lewis v. Town of Nederland, 934 P.2d 848, 851 (Colo. App. 1996). The court observed, however, that an “emergency” is one that is “an unforeseen combination of circumstances or the resulting state that calls for immediate action.” As such, public bodies should provide some form of notice on their websites whenever possible.

Q. May a public body convert a previously scheduled in-person meeting into an electronic-only meeting?
A. Yes, so long as a new notice is published notifying the public of the new means of access.

Under the Town of Marble doctrine allowing for flexible standards in connection with notices of public meetings, it is permissible for a public body to amend a previously posted notice of a public meeting. Town of Marble v. Darien, 181 P.3d 1148, 1152 (Colo. 2008). Amendments can include the addition of new topics, changes in the location of a meeting, or the means of accessing the meeting.
Q. How much advance notice must be provided for a meeting of a public body.
A. At least 24 hours.

The COML requires at least 24 hours' notice for public meetings of local public bodies. § 24-6-402(2)(c)(I). While there is no similar provision for state public bodies, 24 hours' notice should be sufficient for a public meeting of a state public body, especially if there are extenuating circumstances that warrant a short notice period. Providing notice for more than 24 hours is appropriate where feasible. In addition, it is also important to consider whether a particular public body's statute, ordinances, charter, or rules require more than 24 hours of public notice. If so, then the more specific notice provision will control over the general provision in the COML.

Q. How much advance notice must be provided for an amended notice of a previously posted meeting of a public body.
A. At least 24 hours.

The COML does not distinguish between an initial notice of a meeting and an amended notice. The amended notice setting out the logistics and mechanics for an electronic-only meeting should be posted at least 24 hours before the start of the meeting.

Q. Is a public body required to provide a mechanism during an electronic-only meeting that would enable a member of the public to speak to the public body during the electronic-only meeting?
A. No.

The COML does not require a “public comment” period, or any other form of public input during a public meeting. Rather, the purpose of the statute is to allow the public to observe, not necessarily to participate. § 24-6-401. Note, though, that many local public bodies do have such requirements in their ordinances or rules. If that is the case, the public body will need to use a technology for its electronic meeting that facilitates a public comment period. Many current virtual-meeting services readily enable this function. The body may alternatively rely on the “chat” or similar functions of online video-conference systems such as Zoom or Skype, which allow participants to send comments to the body in writing.

Q. What is the best practice for setting up electronic-only access for an executive session in conjunction with a meeting of the public body?
A. Use a two-mode system of access for the meeting.

If the public body uses a commercial internet-based video conferencing service such as Zoom, the service will allow for the creation of side-bar meetings into which selected participants may join the portion of the meeting that has been closed to the public. This will allow for the public-meeting portion of the electronic meeting to remain open while the executive session is conducted. Otherwise, in the absence of a commercial video-conferencing system, the safest way to conduct a closed executive session during a body's meeting is by having a two-mode method for accessing the electronic meeting. That is, if the meeting is conducted by both webinar and a concurrent telephone dial-in conference bridge, the webinar portion of the meeting can be suspended or recessed while the executive session is conducted by telephone. Once the executive session is completed, the body's board members would then rejoin the webinar video conference.
**City Council Contact Form**

**Contact Information**

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<tr>
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<td>genello</td>
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<tr>
<td>Email Address</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cgenello@gmail.com">cgenello@gmail.com</a></td>
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**Questions or Comments**

Please select the department(s) you want to contact:

- City Council

Please leave your comments or questions below.

Dear city council I have spent several hours writing a paper on the COVID-19 issue, I urge you to please read it in its entirety immediately. I feel it is of the upmost importance for you to understand some of the information in this paper. I have included all of my sources so it can be fact checked easily. Thank you for your time.

Please add attachments here.

- coronavirus_paper.docx

Email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.
People’s lives all over the world are on hold because of a perceived threat from a virus called COVID-19. So is the economy. Millions of people all over the world have lost their jobs, their security, their livelihoods, etc. because of intense government lockdowns to combat the spread of a virus we know little about. The effect of this will be devastating for millions of people for potentially years to come and will completely change the face of the world as we know it. A majority of the media has been pushing fear more than facts. I find very little published data in the mainstream news articles. Mostly articles basically scaring us to believe that if we don’t lock down immediately we are going to get sick and potentially die. So therefore in a time like this it is of the utmost importance to have actual scientific facts published about COVID-19 instead of nonstop media bombardment of what we fear it might be. Here's what we do know. The following is a quote from the CDC website sourced below.

"The complete clinical picture with regard to COVID-19 is not fully known. Reported illnesses have ranged from mild (including some with no reported symptoms) to severe, including illness resulting in death. While information so far suggests that most COVID-19 illness is mild, a report[external icon] out of China suggests serious illness occurs in 16% of cases. Older people and people of all ages with severe chronic medical conditions — like heart disease, lung disease and diabetes, for example — seem to be at higher risk of developing serious COVID-19 illness. A CDC Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report that looked at severity of disease among COVID-19 cases in the United States by age group found that 80% of deaths were among adults 65 years and older with the highest percentage of severe outcomes occurring in people 85 years and older." (CDC 1)

A report labeled in the previous quote as "a report[external icon] (couldn’t fix it) is a medical journal study that claimed this rapidly spreading virus has caused 6.1% of the people in the study to go into critical condition with 1.4% dying. Report source below (NEJM 2). However, the first thing you must take note out of this is that the 1,099 people in the study were already at the hospital because they were sick enough to go to a hospital. How many people had COVID-19 that were not sick enough to be in the hospital? How long has COVID-19 been spreading around the earth until we noticed? Weeks? Months? Maybe years? We don’t know for sure. The answers to those questions could change everything and needs to be some of the main things we are trying to figure out before we destroy the lives of millions of people and ruin the economy worldwide. How many people are flooding the hospitals and clogging the system because they think they have COVID-19 and might just have the flu or another illness? The test results can take days to comeback and meanwhile they keep these people in the hospital clogging the system and that causes a greater issue. The issue being when someone does come into the hospital with COVID-19, then it can spread to all the people in there who are there with something else but think its COVID-19, because of the fear the media has spread. This creates a never-ending cycle of more and more people rushing to hospitals anytime they get sick, which causes the disease that is there to spread more prevalently than it would under normal conditions. This also affects the people in the hospital who are already there for other serious medical conditions, it could cause them to get COVID-19 on top of other medical conditions and that pushes them to their limit and they die. It is possible that the fear of this disease is causing more problems than the disease itself left unnoticed.

In times like this it is of the utmost importance that we base our decisions on facts not fear. As of March 17th, In Italy 99% of the people who died from COVID-19 had other illness (BB 3). 48.5% of them had 3 or more illnesses. A majority of them were over 65 years old. How do we know for a fact that it was COVID-19 that killed them and not their other illnesses? As of writing this there’s been 720,000 cases and 33,906 deaths from COVID-19. So we know for a fact that at least 33,906 people who died had COVID-19 at the time of death along with most of them having other illness as well. Based on the Italian data being effective on a bigger scale that means about 48.5% of these people had 3 or more illness at the time of death. Was it truly COVID-19 that killed them? Do we know that as a Fact? The answer still is that we don’t know.

Here is a quote from Dr. John Lee. I strongly recommend reading his article I have listed the link below (S 5).

"In the current climate, anyone with a positive test for Covid-19 will certainly be known to clinical staff looking after them: if any of these patients dies, staff will have to record the Covid-19 designation on the death certificate — contrary to usual practice for most infections of this kind. There is a big difference between Covid-19 causing death, and Covid-19 being found in someone who died of other causes. Making Covid-19 notifiable might give the appearance of it causing increasing numbers of deaths, whether this is true or not. It might appear far more of a killer than flu, simply because of the way deaths are recorded (S 5)."

From October 1, 2019 through March 21, 2020 the CDC estimates there was between 400,000 - 730,000 hospitalizations because of the flu with 24,000 - 62,000 deaths just in the United States (CDC 4). That’s 71 days which equals to between 6,634 - 10,282 hospitalizations a day and 338 - 873 deaths a day in the united states from influenza alone.

That means that if you only looked at the hospitalizations of the regular flu it would appear to have a death rate of between 6% and 8.4% based on the people who were sick enough to go to the hospital with it. That number
comes from dividing the total deaths from the flu vs the hospitalizations found in the information on the CDC website (CDC 4). So if you then compare that data to COVID-19 the study published in the New England Journal of Medicine found a 1.4% death rate in COVID-19 based on hospitalizations. Even if you just looked at the evidence from Italy with almost a 10% death rate (currently the highest in the world by far) among those hospitalized from COVID-19 then compare that to the 6% - 8.4% death rate of people who are hospitalized for the flu it still is only 1.6% higher than the worst death rate of the flu of 6.4% based on hospitalizations. We also know that ITALY has one of the oldest populations on earth with their median age being almost 10 years older than people in the US. Now the flu has a 0.1% death rate when you look at the people on the earth as a whole and don't just base your data off of hospitalized people. Right now for COVID-19 we are basing almost all of our data off of people who are already sick enough to be in the hospital and when you do that any sickness will appear to have a higher death rate just like the flu does.

So is there enough evidence to forcibly lock down the entire world and destroy millions of lives and the economy. I do not believe so. However, based on what we do know I do understand that some restrictive and preventative measures are a good thing. However these need to be based on realistic expectations of what people with an active life and economy can handle in a healthy way. For example, asking people who are over 65 or people with other serious illness to stay home and self quarantine until we know more about the situation. Younger generations have a higher likely hood to develop a herd immunity which eventually would protect the older at risk people. Overly restrictive movement policies will delay the possibility of a strong herd immunity developing. The media pushing fear and the government ordering lockdowns will cause panic and ruin the economy which will then make the problem even worse and could perhaps cause WW3. We are still at least over a year away from developing a vaccine and it is not possible to lock down for that long so we must allow a herd immunity to develop or risk the catastrophic effects lockdown will have on society. While also taking note it is a direct violation of our civil rights and the constitution.

**SOURCES**

1. CDC. Center for Disease Control.  
3. BB. Bloomberg.  
4. CDC. Center for Disease Control.  
   [https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/burden/preliminary-in-season-estimates.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/burden/preliminary-in-season-estimates.htm)
5. S. The Spectator  
I do not EVER want dirty used cloth grocery bags taken into store where I buy my food. I demand a clean store not infiltrated by used dirty cloth bags. How to rescind plastic bag order...? Stores don’t provide sanitary bags, a saving for store, then we can buy more plastic garbage bags.

I agree, we need to stop the plastics, the toss one time use water bottle is the place to curtail gross plastic use. Thanks, will wait for your reply.
I do not EVER want used dirty cloth grocery bags taken into store where I buy food! I demand a clean store not infiltrated by used dirty cloth bags. How to rescind plastic bag order? Stores don’t provide sanitary plastic bags, a saving for store, then we can buy more plastic garbage bags. If and I agree we need to stop the plastics then the toss one time use water bottle is the place to curtail gross plastic use. Thanks, will wait for your replies.

Ann Ross
Steamboat Springs, CO
Heather,

Here is an excerpt from the March 17th City Managers report showing that the City received $21,500 from October 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019. We have received $16K so far in 2020 which represents about $8,000 per month.

**Finance**
**Accounting**
Below is a report on the disposable bag program in 2019.

- From October 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019, or the first three months of collecting a Waste Reduction Fee from the four required entities in Steamboat Springs, the City has recorded $21,500 in collected revenue. This revenue represents 121,879 disposable bags distributed. While the requirement is for the market to send 15 cents of the 20 cents charged for each disposable bag sold, one of the markets has sent the City the entire 20 cents. Therefore, the average amount collected per bag is greater than 15 cents each.

Thanks,
Kim

---

**Kim Weber**
Finance Director
City of Steamboat Springs
kweber@steamboatsprings.net
(970) 871-8250 (office)

Need local information about COVID-19 (coronavirus) in Routt County?

Call-in for COVID-19 related questions: 970-871-8444

Routt County COVID-19 website: [www.covid19routtcounty.com](http://www.covid19routtcounty.com)
Kim,
Could you please give CC a quick fiscal breakdown on what has been collected from the bag ban and what has been spent?
Just trying to figure out if we temporarily lift the fees on paper if we’d have the capacity to reimburse the grocers for a paper only scenario.
Thanks,
Heather

*If we are not ashamed to think it, we should not be ashamed to say it.*

~ Marcus Cicero
From the City Manager

Coronavirus
The city has had multiple internal meetings regarding the coronavirus outbreak in Colorado. We receive regular updates from the CDC, CDPHE, Routt County Public Health, and other agencies. All operations and services continue as normal and with heightened awareness as to potential infection. Our public safety personnel and first responders all have established protocol and procedures as to infectious diseases. Briefings have been conducted and internal memorandums have been distributed to all employees with instructions to stay calm, wash hands, stay at home if you’re sick, and disinfect surfaces. We are communicating with Routt County emergency preparedness personnel in the event quarantines are necessary. Employees have the option to cancel work related trips if they so choose. Although the city does not provide telecommuting options to its employees, we are discussing flexible workplace policies in the event of an outbreak. This involves identifying essential and nonessential personnel in each department. Overall, this has been a beneficial exercise in emergency preparedness for the city and the community.

Glass and Recycling
Attached is a letter from Les Liman (Twin Enviro) requesting the City remove glass from single stream recycling (Attachment 1). Section 19-26 of the Municipal Code provides that the City Manager can waive requirements as to any type of listed recyclable material, which includes glass. Yampa Valley Sustainability Council has provided information on this topic and a broader community discussion is recommended before any decision is made. I suggest we schedule this as a Community Report at a future Council meeting where Twin Enviro, Yampa Valley Sustainability Council, and the public can weigh in.

Smartwool and Honey Stinger Leases
On March 4th, I signed the Lease Termination Agreement with Smartwool, effective March 31, 2020. Before executing the agreement, the city received a termination payment from Smartwool in the amount of $241,357 as rent and final payment on the remodel loan. Subsequently, President Lacy executed the new lease with Honey Stinger, effective April 1, 2020. My thanks to Smartwool CEO Jen McLaren, Honey Stinger representative Keith Caldwell, and Alan Lind, retired General Services Director for all of their work to ensure a smooth transition. Thanks to City Council for their work in reviewing and approving the new lease with Honey Stinger. We look forward to working with our new tenants!

Fire Station Site RFP
No proposals were received from private property owners in response to the city’s Request for Proposal, seeking offers from downtown property owners or agents. I did receive several calls from interested parties but no firm offers. We plan on proceeding with the committee’s work to date.

Solsmart Community Designation
The Yampa Valley Sustainability Council (YVSC) has asked the City to consider becoming a Solsmart designated community in recognition of the City’s support of solar projects. Staff reviewed the Solsmart program requirements and determined that the City currently meets the requirements for a bronze level designation. YVSC has offered their time to develop the documentation needed for the application. Staff plans on moving forward with
the application and designation process. Please let me know if you have any questions/concerns.

Kudos
Congratulations to Parks and Recreation employee Mike Farny who was named Alpine Coach of the Year by the Colorado High School Activities Association! Mike helped lead the Steamboat Springs High School team to a record number of athletes attending the State Championships including four who were named to All-State teams.

From the Departments
Fire
January and February 2020 Fire Monthly Summary
Notable Events:
• Steamboat Springs Fire and Rescue (SSFR) responded to 268 calls for service in January 2020 which is a decrease of 0.7% from January of 2019 and a 14.53% increase from 2015 (See Attachment 2).
• SSFR responded to 241 calls for service in February 2020 which is a slight decrease from February 2019. Total calls year to date are 509 which is also slightly lower than last year.
  o Year to date 2020 compared to 2015 shows a 18.10% increase.
• SSFR remembered the 15th anniversary of the Yampa Valley Air Ambulance crash that killed three co-workers. The remembrance took place at UC Health.
• A major snow event rolled through Winter Carnival weekend, taxing SSFR response capabilities with multiple concurrent calls and significant events.
• Pre-planning efforts for Winter Carnival came with many improvements and lessons learned regarding larger events at Howelsen Hill. An Incident Action Plan was put together with cooperation from many agencies to create a functional plan.
• Crews responded to and delivered a 28-week old baby in the ambulance, performed resuscitation efforts, and transported the baby to hospital (baby survived and is doing well).
• SSFR recognized longtime volunteer Dave Meissner for his 15 years at the department with a retirement gathering at Mountain Tap.

Fire Department Operations and Training:
• EMS Trainings: BLS Renewal, Neonatal Resuscitation.
• Fire Trainings: Communications, PPE Inspections, Fire Scenarios and Size-up.

Public Education Events:
• Two firefighters went to Steamboat Springs High School to teach a certification CPR class to the med prep students and a class on the proper use of fire extinguishers.
• Spanish speaking firefighter Nicholas Fernandez teamed up with the Police Department in cooperation with Integrated Communities to teach a free certification CPR/First Aid class to Spanish speaking members of the community.
• A firefighter went to Steamboat Mountain School to teach CPR/First Aid to the students.
• Two Firefighters became CPR instructors to help teach the community this life saving skill.
• The department needed to repair the Fire Extinguisher trainer. This is a very popular item and SSFR performs 20 trainings each year to different businesses and throughout the community.
• AED training at Mountain Valley Bank.
• Station tours at the Mountain Fire Station.
• Multiple Child safety seat inspections were completed.

Fire Prevention
• Fire Prevention activity for January 2020 was down 19% from January 2019 mostly due to fewer building permits. Revenue for January 2020 was up 137% over January 2019 mostly on the strength of 3 medium-sized projects with alarm and sprinkler permits.
• Fire Prevention activity for February 2020 was down 22% from February 2019 and year to date activity is down 21% compared to 2019.
• The Winter Carnival fireworks show was permitted, inspected, and witnessed and
included the successful launch of the World Record Largest Firework.

- Crew members completed several tent, stage, and food vendor inspections for Winter Wondergrass.

Finance

Accounting

Below is a report on the disposable bag program in 2019.

- From October 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019, or the first three months of collecting a Waste Reduction Fee from the four required entities in Steamboat Springs, the City has recorded $21,500 in collected revenue. This revenue represents 121,879 disposable bags distributed. While the requirement is for the market to send 15 cents of the 20 cents charged for each disposable bag sold, one of the markets has sent the City the entire 20 cents. Therefore, the average amount collected per bag is greater than 15 cents each.

- The number of bags sold in 2019 represent an 85% reduction of disposable bags that were previously distributed by these four markets. Projecting the average collected revenue during the first three months to an entire calendar year, and accounting for busier and slower months, it is likely that the City will receive close to the $100k budgeted from this revenue source in 2020.

- The City spent $51,435 launching the program in 2019. After accounting for $3,422 of revenue from taxable bag sales in 2019, we need to collect $29,935 in Waste Reduction Fees in 2020 in order to recoup 2019 expenses. It is anticipated that this amount should be collected by the end of ski season.

Budget Division

- 2019 year-end close out and carry forward supplemental has been the primary focus the past couple of months.

- Sue Davies is working with the Golf Management Committee (GMC) to plan out capital expenditures for six years similarly to the process we use for the capital projects fund. The GMC retreat is March 17, 2020 and two hours will be dedicated to the process and discussion projects.

Utility Division

- Shana Burkett and Justin Benson have been working diligently on getting the transmitters that are estimating reads replaced so that our utility customers are getting billed accurately for water usage.

- Staff recently participated in the Colorado Water Loss Initiative Stage III class held in Glenwood Springs. The billing division provides a lot of data to support the voluntary water audit so attending the training and having the operational and technical background of water delivery and distribution was immensely helpful.

- Amy Camilletti and Sondra Spratta have been working on tax audits and an uptick in use tax reconciliations as construction projects are wrapping up. Both are working with the building department on the new CityView implementation in helping with workflow, setting up fees, and any technical questions that arise.

- Kim Weber, Sue Davies, and Jennifer Bock are tuning in to the Colorado Municipal League (CML) Standard Definitions Subcommittee meetings and staying apprised on the home rule municipalities efforts to maintain the standard definitions and revise as necessary. In particular, CML is working on a draft ordinance for adoption by all home rule municipalities regarding the addition of “marketplace facilitator” and “marketplace seller” to the “retailer” definition.
Procurement and Contracting Division

Bids and RFPs currently open:
- EMS Billing and Collection Services RFP; due 3/11.
- Historic Survey of Mountain Area RFP; due 3/11.
- Mt. Werner Circle Complete Streets Segment 4b – Phase I Bid; due 3/17.
- Transit Bus Overhaul RFP; due 3/19.
- 2020 Paving Program Bid; due 3/31.
- Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan RFP; due 4/3.

Bids and RFPs closed:
- River Road Interceptor Replacement Phase 2 Bid; received three bids, contract awarded to Duckels Construction, Inc. for $1,731,127.56.
- On-Call Surveying Services RFP; received four proposals, under review.
- Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System and Implementation RFP; received six proposals, will be seeing demos from three of the proposers in April.
- Engineering Services – Downhill Drive and US 40 Intersection Improvements RFQ; received six statements, under review.
- Regional Solar Planning for Peak Power Shaving and Net Metering RFP; contract awarded to McKinstry Essention, LLC for $267,000.00.
- Steamboat Springs Redevelopment Authority Project Manager RFQ; received six statements, under review.

Bids and RFPs upcoming:
- Solar Powered Bus Shelter Lights and Community House Restoration and Rehabilitation RFP (to be issued mid-summer).

General Services

Communications
- Website visitation for February (2019 vs 2020) saw 51,289 vs 72,773 visits, 72,491 vs 93,457 page views, and 1,490 vs 1,451 searches. Top page visits for the month clicked to the Home Page, Transit, Howelsen Hill, Howelsen Ice, Lift Tickets, and Airport.
- For February, Facebook followers reached: 2,623 (City), 2,020 (Parks & Rec), 3,780 (SSFR), 323 (SST), 1,533 (Howelsen Hill), 694 (Ice Complex) and 1,516 (Haymaker). Posts with the greatest reach/engagement were Record Firework (11.9K), SSFR Promotions (2.7K), Snowstorm (2.6K) and Uniform to Uniform (1.7K)
- The city’s Twitter channel saw 25.7K impressions for February with the top posts for Winter Carnival Detours/Closures and Snowstorm. Parks and Recreation enjoyed 5.6K impressions with Emerald Firework Closure and Ski Free Sunday tweets coming in as the top posts. Instagram grew to 1,739 followers with top interaction seen from repost of nc_steamboat winter carnival photo.

IT
- Microsoft- Upgrading workstations at a rapid pace from Windows 7 to Windows 10. Approximately 50% of 250 Windows devices have been upgraded.
- Upgrade to Hyland Onbase- Implementation is re-scheduled to April to acquire latest version of software.
- Relocated all data equipment in the old Police Department building into the Facilities space on the lower level.
- AT&T FirstNet- Deploying 30 city-owned mobile phones to the Police Department personnel using the FirstNet network.
- Working with the Police Department to transfer legacy case files to evidence.com.
- Product research and demonstrations on Special Event software.
- Gearing up for the creation of a city-wide intranet to present company announcements, new, policies, and knowledgebase.
- New Server Installation: Completed the installation of three large server blades to support the implementation of CityView.
- CORE:
  - Narrowed six proposals to a short list of three.
  - Working with various team members and GFOA to finalize demo scripts for potential vendors and finalize scheduling
  - First demo scheduled for week of March 30th.

GIS
- In collaboration with County GIS, we are streamlining our process for managing City and County addresses.
- Completed GIS data updates required for the new address maintenance process.
- Provided a map for all city construction projects for 2020.
- Updated City water and sewer data.
- City GIS is participating in the CityView implementation and providing all GIS layers and property information for CityView.

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December 13, 2019

Mr. Gary Suiter
City of Steamboat Springs
via email

Dear Gary,

In accordance with the Steamboat Springs Municipal Code, Article II, Division 1, Section 19-26, Part (a), Twin Enviro Services is requesting that you, as City Manager, immediately authorize Waste Haulers to inform customers that glass will not be accepted for recycling in the City of Steamboat Springs due to:

1. There is no local glass crusher operating in Routt County that will accept glass for recycling from commercial hauling firms.
2. We know of no commercial recycler in Colorado who will accept glass for the cost of collecting, sorting and shipping this material to a facility.
3. Glass collected in single stream breaks and contaminates other recycling material, thereby driving down its already limited value when sold to recycling facilities and end users.

Please inform us as soon as possible of your decision regarding this request.

Yours truly,

Les A. Liman
Chairman

P.O.Box 774362 • 1049 Crawford Avenue • Steamboat Springs, CO 80477
lliman@twineniro.com • 970/875-0355W • 970/291-9357C • 815/301-2645F
Sec. 19-26. - Recycling program; removing materials from recycling containers.

(a) All commercial waste collection companies operating within the city limits of the City of Steamboat Springs shall offer to their residential customers within the city a voluntary, curbside recycling program for glass, tin, aluminum, numbers 1 and 2 plastics with necks, corrugated cardboard, and newspaper. The city manager may, upon a showing of unreasonable hardship, waive the requirements of this subsection as to any particular type of recyclable material listed in the preceding sentence. Residential customers are those customers residing in single-family homes or duplexes and receiving waste collection services at their place of residence. Commercial waste collection companies offering recycling services pursuant to this section shall not charge any fee for such service other than their fee for general waste collection services.

(1) Each commercial waste collection company may establish such reasonable and industry-accepted requirements, rules, or regulations for the separation and preparation of materials for recycling as are necessary to provide for the orderly collection of recyclable materials. Requirements, rules, or regulations established under this paragraph shall be provided in written form to the company's customers.

(2) Household recycling containers shall be made available by all commercial waste collection companies to their residential customers located within the city limits of the City of Steamboat Springs.

(3) Commercial waste collection companies shall notify their customers in writing of the availability of recycling services for no fee other than that charged for general waste collection services. Notice shall be made within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this section to existing customers. Notice to new customers shall be made upon the initial provision of solid waste collection services to new customers.

(4) Companies offering recycling services pursuant to this section shall collect recyclable materials from each customer on at least a twice monthly basis and on the same day as the day of collection of general solid waste for each customer.

(b) From the time that recyclable materials are placed at the curbside for collection or in recycling dropoff containers, the recyclable materials shall be the property of the waste collection company providing the curbside collection or the dropoff container. It shall be unlawful for any person other than the waste collection company which is the owner of the recyclable material to collect, remove, cause to be collected or removed or dispose of such recyclable materials. Each collection in violation of this section from any residence shall constitute a separate and distinct offense punishable as provided in this section.

(c) Any person convicted of violating subsection (b) of this section shall be punished by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars ($25.00) and not more than five hundred dollars ($500.00).

(Code 1975, § 8.05.077; Ord. No. 1732, § 1, 4-18-00)
February Rolling

12 Month Rolling Total Call Volume

2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019
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2800 | 2600 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019

2502 | 2400 | 2486 | 2200 | 2237 | 2000 | 1800 | 1600 | 1400

## 2020 January Numbers

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<tr>
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<td>36</td>
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</table>
City Council Contact Form

Contact Information

First Name
Scott

Last Name
Conner

Email Address
scottconner@gmail.com

Questions or Comments

Please select the department(s) you want to contact:
City Council

Please leave your comments or questions below.

First, please acknowledge City staff for continuing to groom the Nordic area at Howelson. It has been a great resource for the community to get fresh air, exercise and release a few inner demons. I believe the decision to continue grooming is a great example of balancing a minor amount of public risk with significant community benefit.

Second, I understand you are considering temporarily lifting the plastic bag ban. I do not fully support that action. Please don’t bring plastic back! Lift the fee for paper, encourage people to use paper and bag their own. Find a balance that respects the environmental wishes and needs of the community without unduly increasing their risk of contacting Covid-19. Plastic is not the answer, and may not actually be any safer based on research.

Finally, Thank you for your service. You are all doing a great job in unprecedented times and I applaud the decisions you’ve made and hard discussions you’ve had.

Respectfully,
Scott Conner
Please add attachments here. Field not completed.

Email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.
Honorable Councilmembers,

Re. temporary suspension of the plastic bag ban: 1) COV lives on plastic surfaces multiple times as long as on paper or canvas; 2) Young people in our community worked hard and long to earn CC support for the bag ban and reversal of policy dishonors that work; 3) Town of Avon and others are implementing perfectly workable alternatives to a return to plastic; and 4) Retailers have already successfully adjusted operations to comply with the prior ordinance.

Why not provide BOTH protection for citizenry and environment at the same time? Let’s heed the loud and clear message Mother Earth has sent to humanity within the past 6 months.

Thank you, Perry Ninger
To Whom it May Concern:

Now is not the time to backtrack on the progress we have made towards being a more sustainable community. The recent plastic bag ban is an essential measure for our community to address the plastic waste issue, and the greater garbage problem we face, that should be upheld in these trying times.

There is little evidence that the Corona virus can be transmitted on reusable bags any more than on single-use plastic, dollar bills, doorknobs or any other surfaces. It is an airborne transmission and groceries and other retailers are taking necessary precautions, including limiting customer numbers, providing priority hours to seniors, and installing barriers to protect their cashiers, that are effective measures for limiting transmission.

I urge the City Council to uphold the plastic bag ban and continue to support our essential service retailers by encouraging the measures already being taken to limit transmission of the Corona virus.

Field not completed.
Heather,

Here is a running balance of the Waste Reduction & Recycling fund. It is currently ($14,114) with expected revenue of about $8,000 for March leaving it at about ($6,114) if no additional revenue was collected.

Thanks,

Kim

---

**Kim Weber**
Finance Director
City of Steamboat Springs
kweber@steamboatsprings.net
(970) 871-8250 (office)

Need local information about COVID-19 (coronavirus) in Routt County?

Call-in for COVID-19 related questions: 970-871-8444

Routt County COVID-19 website: [www.covid19routtcounty.com](http://www.covid19routtcounty.com)

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From: Heather Sloop <hsloop@steamboatsprings.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 8:41 AM
To: Kim Weber <kweber@steamboatsprings.net>
Cc: Kathi Meyer <kmeyer@steamboatsprings.net>
Subject: Re: Bag fees

What about expenditures?

Heather

*If we are not ashamed to think it, we should not be ashamed to say it.*

— Marcus Cicero

On Mar 31, 2020, at 7:54 AM, Kim Weber <kweber@steamboatsprings.net> wrote:

Heather,

Here is an excerpt from the March 17th City Managers report showing that the City received $21,500 from October 1, 2019 -- December 31, 2019. We have received $16K so far in 2020 which represents about $8,000 per month.
City of Steamboat Springs  
Waste Reduction & Recycling  
as of 3/31/20  
prepared by K. Weber 3/31/20

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019 Revenue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retail Store Revenue</td>
<td>$21,500</td>
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<td>Reusable Bag sales</td>
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<table>
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<td>Contract Services</td>
<td>(7,850)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative Expense</td>
<td>(215)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operating Supplies</td>
<td>(34,980)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Education</td>
<td>(11,811)</td>
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<td>12/31/19 Balance</td>
<td>(29,934)</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<td>Retail Store Revenue</td>
<td>16,238</td>
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<th>2020 Expenditures</th>
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<td>Administrative Expense</td>
<td>(81)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Education</td>
<td>(337)</td>
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<td>2020 Transactions</td>
<td>15,820</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cumulative Balance as of 3/31/20</td>
<td>$(14,114)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Staff expects approximately $8,000 for March 2020 retail store revenue remitted in April*
Dear Steamboat Springs City Council Members,

Thank you so much to each of you for the work you do protecting our community and helping all to prosper in our beautiful mountain town.

I am writing to encourage you not to lift the grocery store plastic bag ban in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. I encourage you to, instead, lift the charge for bags and, when new bags are used, require use of paper ones at local grocery stores. The virus has been shown to survive a much shorter time on cardboard than on plastic, and paper bags are made from the same cellulose material as cardboard.

I also encourage you to allow the use of reusable bags for those who want to continue using them, with the proviso that those who use their own bags wash them regularly and bag their own groceries.

While I think all of us clearly understand the need to take extraordinary measures to protect public health at this time, it remains unclear that mandating the use of plastic bags at grocery stores will actually protect public health, and it is clear that the overuse of plastic has caused untold damage to the
health of our earth, and thereby, ultimately to ourselves.

Thank you for considering my comments, and best to you in your governance work that is so very important, especially at this time of crisis.

Please add attachments here. Field not completed.

Email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.
Julie Franklin

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 10:58 AM
To: City Council
Subject: Online Form Submittal: City Council Contact Form

City Council Contact Form

Contact Information

First Name          Carrie
Last Name           Sabin
Email Address       carrie.m.sabin@gmail.com

Questions or Comments

Please select the department(s) you want to contact:

City Council

Please leave your comments or questions below.

I was so pleased when the City implemented a plastic bag ban. For the past 10 years I have carried my own reusable bags and have not needed to take any plastic bags. It is a very simple step to do and makes a huge difference in minimizing plastic waste. In the face of COVID-19, I understand that some people would rather not require the use of reusable bags. With so much unknown about this pandemic, I respect that concern.

I am writing now, however, to implore you to please NOT make any changes to the plastic bag ban. Instead, please temporarily wave the fee associated with paper bag use. Please continue to allow us to use our reusable bags (ok to say that we are the only ones to handle so that the store workers aren't exposed) and make it easier for shoppers who want to use paper bags.

Once more is known about how the virus lives on surfaces and how to protect ourselves, then we can discuss next steps. In the meantime, let's not take a huge step backwards in reducing our plastic wastes.

Please add attachments here. Field not completed.

Email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.
I am writing today to please encourage you to support the following position regarding maintaining the single-use plastic bag ban. Thank you for all you do, especially in these challenging times.

Based on scientific research, adopt an emergency ordinance to ONLY suspend the bag fee associated with City's disposable bag regulations but to maintain the existing ban on single-use plastic bags as set forth in Ordinance #2699.

Hazel Hoff

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City Council Contact Form

Contact Information

First Name  Alaya  
Last Name  Morning  
Email Address  alaya.morning@gmail.com  

Questions or Comments

Please select the department(s) you want to contact:
City Council  

Please leave your comments or questions below.
Based on scientific research, please adopt an emergency ordinance to ONLY suspend the bag fee associated with City's disposable bag regulations while maintaining the existing ban on single-use plastic bags as set forth in Ordinance #2699.

Research indicates that single-use paper bags will more likely limit COVID-19 contamination risk than single-use plastic bags. One recent study indicates that coronavirus may, in fact, remain infectious on plastic (and steel) for up to three days, compared with 24 hours for cardboard (and four hours for copper). Another recent study reports that coronavirus could remain stable on plastic for up to 9 days. These studies did not explicitly examine how long the virus remains infectious on cloth (pertaining to reusable bags), they do however suggest that "paper bags are preferred" if the City is trying to limit COVID-19 exposure.

Other communities like ours are choosing to abide by the Governor's precautions while maintaining their plastic bag bans in order to safeguard their social and environmental well-being. Similar to the proposal we outline here, the City of Avon, for example, has suspended its bag fee to limit COVID-19 contamination risk but has maintained its plastic bag ban.
For those community members who wish to continue to use their reusable bags, we can encourage them to 1) wash their bags regularly, and 2) be prepared to bag their own groceries at grocery store locations. At Natural Grocers, customers are already required to bag their own groceries to limit COVID-19 exposure, a practice also upheld in the greater Vail Valley and elsewhere.

Thank you,

Alaya Morning
Council,

I am writing to comment on Item D.4 - EMERGENCY ORDINANCE: An emergency ordinance temporarily suspending ordinance #2699 pertaining to disposable bags. Upon review of information compiled by the Yampa Valley Sustainability Council and research done online I would echo the following recommendations made by YVSC:

1. Abide by the Governor's request to temporarily rescind bag fees (removing financial burden on customers for bags) to limit transmission potential of COVID-19 by encouraging use of paper bags

2. Do not suspend the plastic bag ban as part of the moratorium

In order to best limit risk of transmission and protect public health we need to be taking every possible precaution. Scientific evidence shows the use of plastic may in fact pose a higher risk by remaining infectious over a longer period of time compared to paper.

As you know, the Routt County Department of Environmental
Health provides oversight for retail food establishments (including grocery stores) through regulations promulgated by the State Department of Public Health and Environment. Grocery stores (City Market, Safeway, Walmart, Walgreens) have responded well to guidance supplied by the State to adjust their operating procedures in an effort to limit transmission of COVID-19 including:

1. Closure of seating areas
2. Monitoring number of customers entering store
3. Enhanced daily sanitation practices including regular cleaning of commonly used areas and touched surfaces
4. Installation of plexiglass partitions at cash registers
5. Posting of educational materials and signage
6. Reminders to promote physical distancing
7. Frequent PA announcements
8. One-way arrows down aisles to discourage close passing
9. Adjusted store hours
10. Others...

These measures including use of paper bags and personal responsibility should limit our risk to the extent possible and maintain the critical service of food availability during this outbreak.
To Our Great City Council-

Surprise, it's Lulu here to express my thoughts on the proposed lifting of the plastic bag ordinance! Rather than detailing statistics that I'm sure are being thrown at you right now, I'd like to address the message this sends to our community.

You all have been a productive, successful and proactive Council with many accomplishments to be proud of for the COSS, and for that we are grateful. This action however, if taken, seems highly reactive. How will you explain to all the youth and adults who worked very hard on this ordinance that literally inspired thousands of people to get on board with little to no true backlash? Without any real evidence that this will help, that is a dangerous route to take as far as the credibility of your voices and votes going forward. Our youth deserve to know that hard work for important causes pays off and that we as a community value even the smallest of steps forward when it comes to sensible environmental action.

Please know that all the work you are all putting in during this difficult time is so very appreciated and certainly does not go unnoticed by me. Each one of you are a saint and your
patience, level-headedness and compassion will keep us moving forward. Ever onward and thank you so very much for setting stellar examples as leaders of our wonderful and resilient town.

Lulu Gould
Unfortunately, one crisis doesn't stop while we are waiting for another to end." ~ Mitch Hedlund, Recycle Across America

The impact of COVID 19 on our community and globally is absolutely devastating and the loss of life is heart wrenching.

At this moment in time, a key question to ask ourselves is whether the changes we make prevent the spread of COVID 19 or are they driven by fear.

In some situations, single use-items are required to prevent the spread of COVID 19. It is critical to balance our minimal but growing understanding of the overwhelming pandemic with our long term community sustainability goals.

COVID 19 health precautions can be achieved without sacrificing our environment.

Please amend the emergency ordinance to suspend the bag fee but NOT to lift the single-use plastic bag ban.

Thank you for all you are doing and your efforts to keep our community safe.
Dear City Council members,

I am writing to urge you to continue the ban on single-use plastic bags that you enacted, and instead to waive the fee on paper bags only.

As I'm sure you are aware, COVID-19 will be more effectively limited by the use of single-use paper bags, rather than plastic. Research shows that the virus lives exponentially longer on plastic than it does on paper or cardboard.

As you are also likely aware, other cities in Colorado have been able to act in accordance with the state-wide recommendations while also maintaining their commitment to phasing out plastic bags. Steamboat should be a leader in these efforts, rather than moving backwards.

Please consider maintaining the ban on single use plastic, and waiving the fee for paper bags only. Plastic will not only continue to damage our environment, but will actually compound the spread of COVID-19 because of how long the virus can survive on plastic. Please do not surrender to fear, but rather continue to act with common sense in the interest of the public good.
Thank you for all that you are doing to safeguard our community during this terrible crisis.
Sincerely, Deirdre Boyd

Email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.
Dear Member of City Council,

Hello. I hope everyone is staying healthy and well. I understand that there is a possible emergency ordinance to remove the plastic bag ban because of COVID-19. Though I understand the reasons for removing the bag ban, waving the fee on paper bags is a better, more efficient solution than removing the plastic bag ban. Research shows that paper bags are more likely to limit the spread of COVID-19 than plastic bags. For example, evidence shows that the corona virus could remain stable on plastic materials for up to 8 days. For this reason, we should not necessarily encourage single-use plastic. Not only is single-use plastic not efficient in preventing the spread of corona virus, it is still detrimental to the environment. Single-use plastic bags take at least 500 years to degrade; they are a contributing factor in pollution. On a similar point, 100,000 marine animals are killed by plastic bags annually. Why take a step backward after making so much progress? We can help limit the spread of corona by suspending the bag fee, but we should uphold the plastic bag ban to maintain social and environmental well-being as other communities similar to Steamboat, such as Avon, are doing. In terms of reusable bags, we can encourage grocery shoppers to wash their reusable bags often and bag their own groceries. These are
challenging times. However, we can continue to heed the governor's instructions while persevering in our effort to take better care of the environment. By adopting an emergency ordinance to suspend the bag fee associated with the Steamboat Springs' disposable bag regulations but to sustain the ban on single-use plastic bags as outlined by YVSC's ordinance #2699, we can do our part in working to minimize corona virus while protecting the environment.

Yours Truly,
Ella Chapman

Please add attachments here.

Field not completed.

Email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.
Julie Franklin

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 3:01 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Online Form Submittal: City Council Contact Form

City Council Contact Form

Contact Information

First Name: Michelle
Last Name: Stewart
Email Address: molsgard@gmail.com

Questions or Comments

Please select the department(s) you want to contact:

City Council

Please leave your comments or questions below.

Dear Valued Members of City Council,

In response to Polis' recent call "upon municipalities in our state to temporarily suspend plastic bag fee ordinances for 30 days," and the need to prioritize public health concerns at this unprecedented time, I encourage City Council to temporarily suspend the bag fee but maintain the city's plastic bag ban.

Suspending the bag fee stands to mitigate the potential COVID-19 contamination risk associated with reusable bags. Though there is no scientific evidence showing that reusable bags are a vector for COVID-19, and grocery markets are wiping down check out services between customers, these precautionary measures are justifiable since reusable bags could in principle potentially transport COVID-19 from contaminated households.

The city should maintain the plastic bag ban whilst suspending the fee because the public health concerns (over reusable bags) can be addressed using disposable paper bags. Additionally, paper bags are a potentially "safer" disposable bag option when compared to plastic bags during the COVID crisis. One recent study showed that coronavirus remains infectious for a much shorter time on cardboard (up to 24-
hours) than on plastic (up to 3 days); paper bags are made from the same cellulose material as cardboard. Further, the plastic bag ban is an important part of our City’s sustainability actions and is celebrated by many members of the community; rolling this important program back without scientific backing compromises the social and environmental integrity of our community.

Other communities with bag ban fee ordinances like ours -- e.g. Avon -- are suspending bag fees and maintaining plastic bag bans, which demonstrate that Polis’ “call” can be implemented accordingly.

Suspending the bag fees and maintaining our city’s plastic bag ban will address the public health and environmental concerns that are at issue in the current decision.

Thank you for your leadership and support during this challenging time in our community. We will come through this and be stronger on the other side, and here I encourage us to take actions when possible that safeguard our public health and social-environmental values.

Sincerely,
Michelle O. Stewart, Ph.D.
March 30, 2020

Recommendation:

Based on scientific research, adopt an emergency ordinance to (1) suspend the bag fee associated with the City's disposable bag regulations, AND (2) maintain the existing ban on single-use plastic bags.

Background

On March 25, Governor Polis called "...upon municipalities in our state to temporarily suspend plastic bag fee ordinances for 30 days." Polis’ request was made in response to public concerns about the increased risk of COVID contamination through the use of reusable bags.

We at YVSC acknowledge that the City of Steamboat Springs should abide by Polis’ request to temporarily rescind the bag fees to limit the transmission of COVID-19 but recommend that the City NOT suspend the City’s plastic bag ban as part of the moratorium. This recommendation is based on scientific evidence cited in this letter.

Research indicates that single-use paper bags will more likely limit COVID-19 contamination risk than single-use plastic bags. One recent study indicates that coronavirus may in fact remain infectious on plastic (and steel) for up to three days, compared with 24 hours for cardboard (and four hours for copper). Another recent study reports that coronavirus could remain stable on plastic for up to 9 days. These studies did not explicitly examine how long the virus remains infectious on cloth (pertaining to reusable bags), they do however suggest that paper bags are preferred if the City is trying to limit COVID-19 exposure.

Scientific evidence does not support the use of plastic bags to limit COVID-19 contamination, therefore we must evaluate if reintroduction of plastic bags is in our community’s best interest. While the City’s public health concerns are of paramount importance at this time, we at YVSC also recognize the importance of retaining successes earned via our recent Spur the Change campaign. Since the posting of the City Council agenda, YVSC has received numerous phone calls and emails from concerned citizens regarding the potential repeal of the plastic bag ban. At a time when so many concessions are being made, both economic and environmental, maintaining the plastic bag ban sends an important message that the City that is capable of enforcing COVID-19 health precautions without sacrificing our community’s environmental ethic.

Other communities like ours are choosing to abide by the Governor’s precautions while maintaining their plastic bag bans in order to safeguard their social and environmental well-being. Similar to the proposal we outline here, the City of Avon, for example, has suspended its bag fee to limit COVID-19 contamination risk but has maintained its plastic bag ban.
For those community members who wish to continue to use their reusable bags, we at the City and YVSC can encourage them to: 1) wash their bags regularly, and 2) be prepared to bag their own groceries at grocery store locations. At Natural Grocers, customers are already required to bag their own groceries to limit COVID-19 exposure, a practice also upheld in the greater Vail Valley and elsewhere.

By removing the bag fee, the City of Steamboat Springs will be able to report that our City has implemented Governor Polis’ request to local governments whilst maintaining our plastic bag ban. This decision positions the City to make the best science-informed decision without sacrificing the social and environmental integrity of this valued community.

Please feel free to reach out with questions related to the above.

Sincerely,

Madison Muxworthy
Waste Diversion Director

Dr. Michelle O. Stewart
Executive Director
Dear Council,

I respectfully ask you to please consider the science when making the decision of whether to temporarily lift the City of Steamboat Springs' ban on plastic bags. Attached is a pre-print paper from researchers at the National Institute of Health (NIH) which was published in the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM) on March 17, 2020 presenting results of their recent study. Line #230 Figure 1 (pg. 11) of the report presents a visual representation of the data, which demonstrates that the COVID-19 virus (displayed in red) survives up to three days on plastic and stainless steel, whereas it survives only four hours on copper and only 24 hours on cardboard (paper).

Figure 2 (B), line #239, on pg. 12 examines the half-life of the virus on surfaces and shows plastic with the highest half-life of 16 hours, while the half-life of the COVID-19 virus on cardboard (paper) is only 8 hours. This research demonstrates that the virus lives approximately twice as long on plastic surfaces as it does on paper surfaces, which supports the use of paper bags, not plastic, to reduce risks to public health.

Alternately, using our own clean reusable bags to collect groceries and then bagging them ourselves will reduce customer exposure to store provided bags and staff exposure to personal bags.

Best,
Winn Cowman
Senior Scientist
Aerosol and surface stability of HCoV-19 (SARS-CoV-2) compared to SARS-CoV-1

Neeltje van Doremalen\textsuperscript{1*}, Trenton Bushmaker\textsuperscript{1*}, Dylan H. Morris\textsuperscript{2*}, Myndi G. Holbrook\textsuperscript{1}, Amandine Gamble\textsuperscript{3}, Brandi N. Williamson\textsuperscript{1}, Azaibi Tamin\textsuperscript{4}, Jennifer L. Harcourt\textsuperscript{4}, Natalie J. Thomburg\textsuperscript{4}, Susan I. Gerber\textsuperscript{4}, James O. Lloyd-Smith\textsuperscript{3,5}, Emmie de Wit\textsuperscript{1}, Vincent J. Munster\textsuperscript{1}

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* These authors contributed equally to this article
Abstract

HCoV-19 (SARS-2) has caused >88,000 reported illnesses with a current case-fatality ratio of ~2%. Here, we investigate the stability of viable HCoV-19 on surfaces and in aerosols in comparison with SARS-CoV-1. Overall, stability is very similar between HCoV-19 and SARS-CoV-1. We found that viable virus could be detected in aerosols up to 3 hours post aerosolization, up to 4 hours on copper, up to 24 hours on cardboard and up to 2-3 days on plastic and stainless steel. HCoV-19 and SARS-CoV-1 exhibited similar half-lives in aerosols, with median estimates around 2.7 hours. Both viruses show relatively long viability on stainless steel and polypropylene compared to copper or cardboard: the median half-life estimate for HCoV-19 is around 13 hours on steel and around 16 hours on polypropylene. Our results indicate that aerosol and fomite transmission of HCoV-19 is plausible, as the virus can remain viable in aerosols for multiple hours and on surfaces up to days.
A novel human coronavirus, now named severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2, referred to as HCoV-19 throughout this manuscript) emerged in Wuhan, China in late 2019. As of March 3, 2020, >88,000 cases have been diagnosed in 64 countries, including 2915 deaths.\(^1\) The rapid expansion of this outbreak is indicative of efficient human-to-human transmission.\(^2,3\) HCoV-19 has been detected in upper and lower respiratory tract samples from patients, with high viral loads in upper respiratory tract samples.\(^4,5\) Therefore, virus transmission via respiratory secretions in the form of droplets (>5 microns) or aerosols (<5 microns) appears to be likely. Virus stability in air and on surfaces may directly affect virus transmission, as virus particles need to remain viable long enough after being expelled from the host to be taken up by a novel host. Airborne transmission or fomite transmission were thought to play important roles in the epidemiology of the two zoonotic coronaviruses that emerged this century, SARS-CoV-1 and MERS-CoV.\(^6\) Airborne transmission may have been responsible for the largest superspreading event during the SARS epidemic of 2002-2003,\(^7\) and numerous nosocomial superspreading events of SARS-CoV-1 were linked to aerosol-generating medical procedures.\(^8-10\) Fomite transmission was also suspected during the SARS epidemic, and one analysis of a nosocomial SARS-CoV-1 superspreading event concluded that fomites had played a significant role.\(^11\)

Given the potential impact of different routes of transmission on the epidemiology of emerging viruses, it is crucial to quantify the virological traits that may shape these aspects of HCoV-19 transmission. Here, we analyze the aerosol and surface stability of HCoV-19 and compare it with SARS-CoV-1, the most closely related coronavirus known to infect humans.\(^12\) We evaluated the aerosol stability of HCoV-19 and SARS-CoV-1 for up to three hours in aerosols and up to 7 days on different surfaces. We estimated decay rates of HCoV-19 and SARS-CoV-1 in each condition using a Bayesian regression model.

**Methods**

HCoV-19 nCoV-WA1-2020 (MN985325.1)\(^13\) and SARS-CoV-1 Tor2 (AY274119.3)\(^14\) were the strains used in our comparison. Virus stability in aerosols was determined as described previously at 65%
Relative humidity (RH) and 21-23°C. In short, aerosols (<5 μm) containing HCoV-19 (10^7.25 TCID₅₀/mL) or SARS-CoV-1 (10^6.25-7 TCID₅₀/mL) were generated using a 3-jet Collison nebulizer and fed into a Goldberg drum to create an aerosolized environment. Aerosols were maintained in the Goldberg drum and samples were collected at 0, 30, 60, 120 and 180 minutes post-aerosolization on a 47mm gelatin filter (Sartorius). Filters were dissolved in 10 mL of DMEM containing 10% FBS. Three replicate experiments were performed.

Surface stability was evaluated on plastic (polypropylene, ePlastics), AISI 304 alloy stainless steel (Metal Remnants), copper (99.9%) (Metal Remnants) and cardboard (local supplier) representing a variety of household and hospital situations and was performed as described previously at 40% RH and 21-23°C using an inoculum of 10^5 TCID₅₀/mL. This inoculum resulted in cycle-threshold values (Ct) between 20 and 22 similar to those observed in samples from human upper and lower respiratory tract. In short, 50 μL of virus was deposited on the surface and recovered at predefined time-points by adding 1 mL of DMEM. Stability on cardboard was evaluated by depositing 50 μL of virus on the surface and recovering the inoculum by swabbing of the surface, the swab was deposited 1 mL of DMEM. Three replicate experiments were performed for each surface. Viable virus in all surface and aerosol samples was quantified by end-point titration on Vero E6 cells as described previously. The Limit of Detection (LOD) for the assays was 10^3.5 TCID₅₀/mL for plastic, steel and cardboard and 10^1.5 TCID₅₀/mL for copper (due to toxicity caused by the copper in the undiluted samples).

The durations of detectability depend on initial inoculum and sampling method, as expected. To evaluate the inherent stability of the viruses, we estimated the decay rates of viable virus titers using a Bayesian regression model. This modeling approach allowed us to account for differences in initial inoculum levels across replicates, as well as interval-censoring of titer data and other sources of experimental noise. The model yields estimates of posterior distributions of viral decay rates and half-lives in the various experimental conditions – that is, estimates of the range of plausible values for these parameters given our data, with an estimate of the overall uncertainty. We describe our modeling approach in more detail in the Supplemental Materials.
Results

HCoV-19 remained viable in aerosols throughout the duration of our experiment (180 minutes) with a reduction in infectious titer 3 hours post-aerosolization from $10^{3.5}$ to $10^{2.7}$ TCID$_{50}$/L (mean across three replicates). This reduction in viable virus titer is relatively similar to the reduction observed in aerosols containing SARS-CoV-1, from $10^{4.3}$ to $10^{3.5}$ TCID$_{50}$/mL (mean across three replicates) (Figure 1A).

HCoV-19 was most stable on plastic and stainless steel and viable virus could be detected up to 72 hours post application (Figure 1B), though by then the virus titer was greatly reduced (polypropylene from $10^{3.7}$ to $10^{5.6}$ TCID$_{50}$/mL after 72 hours, stainless steel from $10^{3.7}$ to $10^{9.6}$ TCID$_{50}$/mL after 48 hours, mean across three replicates). SARS-CoV-1 had similar stability kinetics and live virus could be detected on these surfaces up to 72 hours on polypropylene and 48 hours on stainless steel (polypropylene from $10^{3.4}$ to $10^{5.9}$ TCID$_{50}$/mL after 72 hours, stainless steel from $10^{3.6}$ to $10^{6.6}$ TCID$_{50}$/mL after 48 hours, mean across three replicates). No viable virus could be measured after 4 hours on copper for HCoV-19 and 8 hours for SARS-CoV-1, or after 24 hours on cardboard for HCoV-19 and 8 hours for SARS-CoV-1 (Figure 1B).

Both viruses exhibited exponential decay in viable virus titer across all experimental conditions, as indicated by linear decrease in the log$_{10}$TCID$_{50}$/mL over time (Figure 2A). From the posterior distributions on decay slope parameters we computed posterior distributions for the half-life of each virus in each condition (Figure 2B, Table 1). HCoV-19 and SARS-CoV exhibited similar half-lives in aerosols, with median estimates around 2.7 hours, and 95% credible intervals (2.5%–97.5% quantile range) of (1.65, 7.24 hours) for HCoV-19 and (1.81, 5.45 hours) for SARS-CoV-1 (Table 1). Half-lives on copper were also similar between the two viruses. On cardboard, HCoV-19 showed a considerably longer half-life than SARS-CoV-1. Both viruses showed markedly longer viability on stainless steel and polypropylene: the median half-life estimate for HCoV-19 was roughly 13 hours on steel and 16 hours on polypropylene. In general, there was no statistically discernable difference in half-life between the two
121 viruses on any given surface except for cardboard: all other 95% credible intervals for the difference in
122 half-lives overlapped 0 (Fig 2B, Table 1).

124 Discussion

125 HCoV-19 has caused many more cases of illness and resulted in more deaths than SARS-CoV-1
126 and is proving more difficult to contain. Our results indicate that the greater transmissibility observed for
127 HCoV-19 is unlikely to be due to greater environmental viability of this virus compared to SARS-CoV-1.
128 Instead, there are a number of potential factors which could account for the epidemiological differences
129 between the two viruses. There have been early indications that individuals infected with HCoV-19 may
130 shed and transmit the virus while pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic. This reduces the efficacy of
131 quarantine and contact tracing as control measures relative to SARS-CoV-1. Other factors likely to play
132 a role include the infectious dose required to establish an infection, the stability of virus in mucus, and
133 environmental factors such as temperature and relative humidity. In ongoing experiments, we are
134 studying virus viability in different matrices, such as nasal secretion, sputum and fecal matter, and while
135 varying environmental conditions, such as temperature and relative humidity.

136 The epidemiology of SARS-CoV-1 was dominated by nosocomial transmission and SARS-CoV
137 was detected on variety of surfaces and objects in healthcare settings. HCoV-19 transmission is also
138 occurring in hospital settings, with over 3000 reported cases of hospital-acquired infections. These cases
139 highlight the vulnerability of healthcare settings for introduction and spread of HCoV-19. However, in
140 contrast to SARS-CoV-1, most secondary transmission has been reported outside healthcare settings and
141 widespread transmission in the community is being seen in several settings, such as households,
142 workplace and group gatherings.

143 A notable feature of SARS-CoV-1 was super-spreading events, in which a single infected
144 individual was responsible for a large number of secondary cases, well above the average number denoted
145 by the reproduction number $R_{\text{eff}}$. A tendency toward such super-spreading events has two important
146 consequences for the epidemiology of emerging infections: it makes any given introduction of infection
more likely to die out by chance, but when outbreaks do occur they are explosive and can overwhelm hospital and public health capacity. A number of hypothesized super-spreading events have been reported for HCoV-19. Given that SARS-CoV-1 superspreading events were linked to aerosol and fomite transmission, our finding that HCoV-19 has viability in the environment comparable to that of SARS-CoV-1 lends credence to the hypothesis that it too may be associated with superspreading.

We found that the half-life of HCoV-19 on cardboard is longer than the half-life of SARS-CoV-1. It should be noted that individual replicate data were noticeably noisier for this surface than the other surfaces tested (Figures S1-S5), so we advise caution in interpreting this result.

Here, we show that the stability of HCoV-19 and SARS-CoV-1 under the experimental circumstances tested is similar. Taken together, our results indicate that aerosol and fomite transmission of HCoV-19 are plausible, as the virus can remain viable in aerosols for multiple hours and on surfaces up to days.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Kwe Claude Yinde and Michael Letko for experimental assistance. This research was supported by the Intramural Research Program of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), National Institutes of Health (NIH). JOL-S and AG were supported by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency DARPA PREEMPT #D18AC00031, and JOL-S was supported by the U.S. National Science Foundation (DEB-1557022) and the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (SERDP, RC22635) of the U.S. Department of Defense. The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Names of specific vendors, manufacturers, or products are included for public health and informational purposes; inclusion does not imply endorsement of the vendors, manufacturers, or products by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
173 Code and data availability

174 Code and data to reproduce the Bayesian estimation results and produce corresponding figures are
175 archived online at OSF: <insert link> and available on Github: <insert link>

177

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228
Figure 1. Viability of SARS-CoV and HCoV-19 in aerosols and on different surfaces. A) SARS-CoV and HCoV-19 were aerosolized in a rotating drum maintained at 21-23°C and 65% RH. Aerosols were
maintained over 180 minutes and samples were collected at 0-, 30-, 60-, 120- and 180-minutes post aerosolization. Viable virus titer per liter of air is shown in TCID$_{50}$/L air. B) 50 µl of 10$^5$ TCID$_{50}$/mL of SARS-CoV and HCoV-19 was applied on plastic, steel, copper and cardboard surfaces. At 1, 4, 8, 24, 48, 72, and 96 hours samples were obtained for viability assessment. All samples were quantified by end-point titration on Vero E6 cells. Plots show the mean and standard error across three replicates. Dotted line shows Limit of Detection (LOD), 10$^{0.5}$ TCID$_{50}$/mL for plastic, steel and cardboard and 10$^{1.5}$ TCID$_{50}$/mL for copper.

Figure 2. Estimated exponential decay rates and corresponding half-lives for HCoV-19 and SARS-CoV-1. Experimental conditions are ordered by posterior median half-life for HCoV-19. A: Regression plots showing predicted decay of virus titer over time; titer plotted on a logarithmic scale. Points show measured titers and are slightly jittered along the time axis to avoid overplotting. Lines are random draws from the joint posterior distribution of the exponential decay rate (negative of the slope) and intercept (initial virus titer), thus visualizing the range of possible decay patterns for each experimental condition.
150 lines per panel: 50 lines from each plotted replicate. Dotted line shows Limit of Detection (LOD), $10^{0.5}$ TCID$_{50}$/mL. B: Violin plots showing posterior distribution for half-life of viable virus. Dot shows the posterior median estimate and black line shows a 95% credible interval.

Table 1. Posterior median estimates and 95% credible intervals (2.5%–97.5% quantile range) for half-lives of HCoV-19 and SARS-CoV in aerosols and on various surfaces, as well as a median estimate and 95% credible interval for the difference between the two half-lives (HCoV-19 – SARS-CoV).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>HCoV-19 half-life (hrs)</th>
<th>SARS-CoV-1 half-life (hrs)</th>
<th>HCoV-19 – SARS-CoV-1 difference (hrs)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aerosols</td>
<td>2.74 (1.65, 7.24)</td>
<td>2.74 (1.81, 5.45)</td>
<td>-0.00418 (-2.72, 4.45)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper</td>
<td>3.4 (2.4, 5.11)</td>
<td>3.76 (2.43, 5.43)</td>
<td>-0.321 (-2.31, 1.78)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardboard</td>
<td>8.45 (5.95, 12.4)</td>
<td>1.74 (0.827, 4.42)</td>
<td>6.6 (3.07, 10.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steel</td>
<td>13.1 (10.5, 16.1)</td>
<td>9.77 (7.69, 12.3)</td>
<td>3.36 (-0.173, 7.12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic</td>
<td>15.9 (13, 19.2)</td>
<td>17.7 (14.8, 21.5)</td>
<td>-1.79 (-6.31, 2.51)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CITY OF STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 2699 PERTAINING TO DISPOSABLE BAGS.

WHEREAS, on May 21, 2019, the City Council approved Ordinance number 2699 amending Chapter 19 of the Steamboat Springs Revised Municipal Code to add Article IV regarding disposable bags; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance number 2699 prohibits the provision of disposable plastic bags by certain retailers to customers at the point of sale and requires that those retailers collect from customers a fee of $0.20 for disposable bags made from materials other than plastic; and

WHEREAS, at its March 16, 2020 meeting, the City Council ratified and extended to April 15, 2020 the City’s Manager’s Declaration of a Local Disaster Emergency related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Governor Polis on March 25, 2020 issued Executive Order D2020 017 ordering Coloradans to stay at home due to the presence of COVID-19 in the State and made an ancillary statement in announcing said Order encouraging local governments to waive disposable bag fees and allow the provision of plastic bags in order to discourage the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the City encourages the public to clean and properly wash their reusable bags; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that suspending Ordinance number 2699 is urgent and will aid in the preservation of public health.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO:

Section 1. Ordinance Number 2699 pertaining to disposable bags as codified at Chapter 19, Article IV of the Steamboat Springs Revised Municipal Code is hereby suspended for a period of ninety (90) days. No enforcement or penalties related to the ordinance shall be undertaken by the City during this period.

Section 2. The City Council hereby finds, determines and declares that this ordinance is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety.
Section 3. Pursuant to Section 7.7 of the Charter of the City of Steamboat Springs, Colorado, allowing the passage of emergency ordinances, this ordinance shall take effect upon immediately passage and shall expire ninety (90) days after passage.

INTRODUCED, READ, PASSED, AND APPROVED this ____ day of _____ 2020.

_____________________________
Jason Lacy, President
Steamboat Springs City Council

ATTEST:

_____________________
Julie Franklin
City Clerk
Dear city council,

I have spent several hours writing a paper on the COVID-19 issue, and I urge you to please read it in its entirety immediately. I feel it is of the utmost importance for you to understand some of the information in this paper. I have included all of my sources so it can be fact checked easily. Thank you for your time.

[Attached file: coronavirus paper.docx]

Email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser
People’s lives all over the world are on hold because of a perceived threat from a virus called COVID-19. So is the economy. Millions of people all over the world have lost their jobs, their security, their livelihoods, etc. because of intense government lockdowns to combat the spread of a virus we know little about. The effect of this will be devastating for millions of people for potentially years to come and will completely change the face of the world as we know it. A majority of the media has been pushing fear more than facts. I find very little published data in the mainstream news articles. Mostly articles basically scaring us to believe that if we don’t lock down immediately we are going to get sick and potentially die. So therefor in a time like this it is of the utmost importance to have actual scientific facts published about COVID-19 instead of nonstop media bombardment of what we fear it might be. Here’s what we do know. The following is a quote from the CDC website sourced below.

"The complete clinical picture with regard to COVID-19 is not fully known. Reported illnesses have ranged from very mild (including some with no reported symptoms) to severe, including illness resulting in death. While information so far suggests that most COVID-19 illness is mild, a report external icon out of China suggests serious illness occurs in 16% of cases. Older people and people of all ages with severe chronic medical conditions — like heart disease, lung disease and diabetes, for example — seem to be at higher risk of developing serious COVID-19 illness. A CDC Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report that looked at severity of disease among COVID-19 cases in the United States by age group found that 80% of deaths were among adults 65 years and older with the highest percentage of severe outcomes occurring in people 85 years and older." (CDC 1)

A report labeled in the previous quote as "a report external icon" (couldn’t fix it) is a medical journal study that claimed this rapidly spreading virus has caused 6.1% of the people in the study to go into critical condition with 1.4% dying. Report source below (NEJM 2). However, the first thing you must take note out of this is that the 1,099 people in the study were already at the hospital because they were sick enough to go to a hospital. How many people had COVID-19 that were not sick enough to be in the hospital? How long has COVID-19 been spreading around the earth until we noticed? Weeks? Months? Maybe years? We don’t know for sure. The answers to those questions could change everything and needs to be one of the main things we are trying to figure out before we destroy the lives of millions of people and ruin the economy worldwide. How many people are flooding the hospitals and clogging the system because they think they have COVID-19 and might just have the flu or another illness? The test results can take days to come back and meanwhile they keep those people in the hospital clogging the system and that causes a greater issue. The issue being when someone does come into the hospital with COVID-19, then it can spread to all the people in there who are there with something else but think its COVID-19, because of the fear the media has spread. This creates a never-ending cycle of more and more people rushing to hospitals anytime they get sick, which causes the disease that is there to spread more prevalent than it would under normal conditions. This also affects the people in the hospital who are already there for other serious medical conditions, it could cause them to get COVID-19 on top of other medical conditions and that pushes them to their limit and they die. It is possible that the fear of this disease is causing more problems than the disease itself left unnoticed.

In times like this it is of the utmost importance that we base our decisions on facts not fear. As of March 17th, In Italy 99% of the people who died from COVID-19 had other illness (BB 3). 48.5% of them had 3 or more illnesses. A majority of them were over 65 years old. How do we know for a fact that it was COVID-19 that killed them and not their other illnesses? As of writing this there’s been 720,000 cases and 33,906 deaths from COVID-19. So we know for a fact that at least 33,906 people who died had COVID-19 at the time of death along with most of them having other illness as well. Based on the Italian data being effective on a bigger scale that means about 48.5% of these people had 3 or more illness at the time of death. Was it truly COVID-19 that killed them? Do we know that as a Fact? The answer still is that we don’t know.

Here is a quote from Dr. John Lee. I strongly recommend reading his article I have listed the link below (S 5).

"In the current climate, anyone with a positive test for Covid-19 will certainly be known to clinical staff looking after them: if any of these patients dies, staff will have to record the Covid-19 designation on the death certificate— contrary to usual practice for most infections of this kind. There is a big difference between Covid-19 causing death, and Covid-19 being found in someone who died of other causes. Making Covid-19 notifiable might give the appearance of it causing increasing numbers of deaths, whether this is true or not. It might appear far more of a killer than flu, simply because of the way deaths are recorded (S 5)."

From October 1, 2019 through March 21, 2020 the CDC estimates there was between 400,000 - 730,000 hospitalizations because of the flu with 24,000 - 62,000 deaths just in the United States (CDC 4). That’s 71 days which equals to between 5,634 - 10,282 hospitalizations a day and 338 - 873 deaths a day in the united states from influenza alone.

That means that if you only looked at the hospitalizations of the regular flu it would appear to have a death rate of between 6% and 8.4% based on the people who were sick enough to go to the hospital with it. That number
comes from dividing the total deaths from the flu vs the hospitalizations found in the information on the CDC website (CDC 4). So if you then compare that data to COVID-19 the study published in the New England Journal of Medicine found a 1.4% death rate in COVID-19 based on hospitalizations. Even if you just looked at the evidence from Italy with almost a 10% death rate (currently the highest in the world by far) among those hospitalized from COVID-19 then compare that to the 6% - 8.4% death rate of people who are hospitalized for the flu it still is only 1.6% higher then the worst death rate of the flu of 8.4% based on hospitalizations. We also know that ITALY has one of the oldest populations on earth with their median age being almost 10 years older than people in the US. Now the flu has a 0.1% death rate when you look at the people on the earth as a whole and don't just base your data off of hospitalized people. Right now for COVID-19 we are basing almost all of our data off of people who are already sick enough to be in the hospital and when you do that any sickness will appear to have a higher death rate just like the flu does.

So is there enough evidence to forcibly lock down the entire world and destroy millions of lives and the economy. I do not believe so. However, based on what we do know I do understand that some restrictive and preventative measures are a good thing. However these need to be based on realistic expectations of what people with an active life and economy can handle in a healthy way. For example, asking people who are over 65 or people with other serious illness to stay home and self quarantine until we know more about the situation. Younger generations have a higher likely hood to develop a herd immunity which eventually would protect the older at risk people. Overly restrictive movement policies will delay the possibility of a strong herd immunity developing. The media pushing fear and the government ordering lockdowns will cause panic and ruin the economy which will then make the problem even worse and could perhaps cause WW3. We are still at least over a year away from developing a vaccine and it is not possible to lock down for that long so we must allow a herd immunity to develop or risk the catastrophic effects lockdown will have on society. While also taking note it is a direct violation of our civil rights and the constitution.

SOURCES
Dear City Council members,

I am writing to urge you to continue the ban on single-use plastic bags that you enacted, and instead to waive the fee on paper bags only.

As I'm sure you are aware, COVID-19 will be more effectively limited by the use of single-use paper bags, rather than plastic. Research shows that the virus lives exponentially longer on plastic than it does on paper or cardboard.

As you are also likely aware, other cities in Colorado have been able to act in accordance with the state-wide recommendations while also maintaining their commitment to phasing out plastic bags. Steamboat should be a leader in these efforts, rather than moving backwards.

Please consider maintaining the ban on single-use plastic, and waiving the fee for paper bags only. Plastic will not only continue to damage our environment, but will actually compound the spread of COVID-19 because of how long the virus can survive on plastic. Please do not surrender to fear, but rather continue to act with common sense in the interest of the public good.

Thank you for all that you are doing to safeguard our community during this terrible crisis.

Sincerely, Deirdre Boyd
Dear Member of City Council,

Hello. I hope everyone is staying healthy and well. I understand that there is a possible emergency ordinance to remove the plastic bag ban because of COVID-19. Though I understand the reasons for removing the bag ban, waving the fee on paper bags is a better, more efficient solution than removing the plastic bag ban. Research shows that paper bags are more likely to limit the spread of COVID-19 than plastic bags. For example, evidence shows that the corona virus could remain stable on plastic materials for up to 8 days. For this reason, we should not necessarily encourage single-use plastic. Not only is single use plastic not efficient in preventing the spread of corona virus, it is still detrimental to the environment. Single-use plastic bags take at least 500 years to degrade; they are a contributing factor in pollution. On a similar point, 100,000 marine animals are killed by plastic bags annually. Why take a step backward after making so much progress? We can help limit the spread of corona by suspending the bag fee, but we should uphold the plastic bag ban to maintain social and environmental well-being as other communities similar to Steamboat, such as Avon, are doing. In terms of reusable bags, we can encourage grocery shoppers to wash their reusable bags often and bag their own groceries. These are challenging times. However, we can continue to heed the governor's instructions while persevering in our effort to take better care of the environment. By adopting an emergency ordinance to suspend the bag fee associated with the Steamboat Springs’ disposable bag regulations but to sustain the ban on single-use plastic bags as outlined by YVSC's ordinance #2699,
we can do our part in working to minimize corona virus while protecting the environment.

Yours Truly,
Ella Chapman
City Council Contact Form

Contact Information

First Name                      Scott
Last Name                       Conner
Email Address

Questions or Comments

Please select the department(s) you want to contact:
City Council

Please leave your comments or questions below.

First, please acknowledge City staff for continuing to groom the Nordic area at Howelson. It has been a great resource for the community to get fresh air, exercise and release a few inner demons. I believe the decision to continue grooming is a great example of balancing a minor amount of public risk with significant community benefit.

Second, I understand you are considering temporarily lifting the plastic bag ban. I do not fully support that action. Please don't bring plastic back! Lift the fee for paper, encourage people to use paper and bag their own. Find a balance that respects the environmental wishes and needs of the community without unduly increasing their risk of contacting Covid-19. Plastic is not the answer, and may not actually be any safer based on research.

Finally, Thank you for your service. You are all doing a great job in unprecedented times and I applaud the decisions you've made and hard discussions you've had.

Respectfully,
Scott Conner

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City Council Contact Form

Contact Information

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Questions or Comments

Please select the department(s) you want to contact:

City Council

Please leave your comments or questions below.

Hi,
I just wanted to speak out in support of Madison Muxworthy from YVSC's proposal to avoid repealing the plastic bag ban. This bag ban was an important step in Steamboat's climate action plan, and I don't think we should undo all that work. Thanks for considering this.

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Dear Council,

I respectfully ask you to please consider the science when making the decision of whether to temporarily lift the City of Steamboat Springs' ban on plastic bags. Attached is a pre-print paper from researchers at the National Institute of Health (NIH) which was published in the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM) on March 17, 2020 presenting results of their recent study. Line #230 Figure 1 (pg. 11) of the report presents a visual representation of the data, which demonstrates that the COVID-19 virus (displayed in red) survives up to three days on plastic and stainless steel, whereas it survives only four hours on copper and only 24 hours on cardboard (paper).

Figure 2 (B), line #239, on pg. 12 examines the half-life of the virus on surfaces and shows plastic with the highest half-life of 16 hours, while the half-life of the COVID-19 virus on cardboard (paper) is only 8 hours. This research demonstrates that the virus lives approximately twice as long on plastic surfaces as it does on paper surfaces, which supports the use of paper bags, not plastic, to reduce risks to public health.

Alternately, using our own clean reusable bags to collect groceries and then bagging them ourselves will reduce customer exposure to store provided bags and staff exposure to personal bags.

Best,
Winn Cowman
Senior Scientist
From: Winn Cowman  
To: City Council  
Subject: Agenda Item #4 Bag Ban  
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 4:05:50 PM  
Attachments: 2020.03.09.20033217v1.full.pdf  

Dear Council,

I respectfully ask you to please consider the science when making the decision of whether to temporarily lift the City of Steamboat Springs' ban on plastic bags. Attached is a pre-print paper from researchers at the National Institute of Health (NIH) which was published in the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM) on March 17, 2020 presenting results of their recent study. Line #230 Figure 1 (pg. 11) of the report presents a visual representation of the data, which demonstrates that the COVID-19 virus (displayed in red) survives up to three days on plastic and stainless steel, whereas it survives only four hours on copper and only 24 hours on cardboard (paper).

Figure 2 (B), line #239, on pg. 12 examines the half-life of the virus on surfaces and shows plastic with the highest half-life of 16 hours, while the half-life of the COVID-19 virus on cardboard (paper) is only 8 hours. This research demonstrates that the virus lives approximately twice as long on plastic surfaces as it does on paper surfaces, which supports the use of paper bags, not plastic, to reduce risks to public health.

Alternately, using our own clean reusable bags to collect groceries and then bagging them ourselves will reduce customer exposure to store provided bags and staff exposure to personal bags.

Best,
Winn Cowman
Senior Scientist
City Council Contact Form

Contact Information

First Name  Scott
Last Name  Cowman
Email Address  

Questions or Comments

Please select the department(s) you want to contact:

City Council

Please leave your comments or questions below.

Council,

I am writing to comment on Item D.4 - EMERGENCY ORDINANCE: An emergency ordinance temporarily suspending ordinance #2699 pertaining to disposable bags. Upon review of information compiled by the Yampa Valley Sustainability Council and research done online I would echo the following recommendations made by YVSC:

1. Abide by the Governor’s request to temporarily rescind bag fees (removing financial burden on customers for bags) to limit transmission potential of COVID-19 by encouraging use of paper bags

2. Do not suspend the plastic bag ban as part of the moratorium

In order to best limit risk of transmission and protect public health we need to be taking every possible precaution. Scientific evidence shows the use of plastic may in fact pose a higher risk by remaining infectious over a longer period of time compared to paper.

As you know, the Routt County Department of Environmental Health provides oversight for retail food establishments (including grocery stores) through regulations promulgated by the State Department of Public Health and Environment. Grocery stores (City Market, Safeway, Walmart, Walgreens) have responded well to guidance supplied the the State to adjust their operating procedures in an effort to limit transmission of COVID-19.
including:

1. Closure of seating areas
2. Monitoring number of customers entering store
3. Enhanced daily sanitation practices including regular cleaning of commonly used areas and touched surfaces
4. Installation of plexiglass partitions at cash registers
5. Posting of educational materials and signage
6. Reminders to promote physical distancing
7. Frequent PA announcements
8. One-way arrows down aisles to discourage close passing
9. Adjusted store hours
10. Others...

These measures including use of paper bags and personal responsibility should limit our risk to the extent possible and maintain the critical service of food availability during this outbreak.

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Acrosol and surface stability of HCoV-19 (SARS-CoV-2) compared to SARS-CoV-1

Neeltje van Doremalen\textsuperscript{1,2}, Trenton Bushmaker\textsuperscript{1,2}, Dylan H. Morris\textsuperscript{1,2}, Myndi G. Holbrook\textsuperscript{1}, Amandine Gamble\textsuperscript{3}, Brandi N. Williamson\textsuperscript{1}, Azaibi Tamin\textsuperscript{4}, Jennifer L. Harcourt\textsuperscript{4}, Natalie J. Thomburg\textsuperscript{4}, Susan I. Gerber\textsuperscript{4}, James O. Lloyd-Smith\textsuperscript{3,5}, Emmie de Wit\textsuperscript{1}, Vincent J. Munster\textsuperscript{1}

1. Laboratory of Virology, Division of Intramural Research, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health, Hamilton, MT, USA
2. Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, USA
3. Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA, USA
4. Division of Viral Diseases, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA, USA.
5. Fogarty International Center, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD, USA.

* These authors contributed equally to this article
Abstract

HCoV-19 (SARS-2) has caused >88,000 reported illnesses with a current case-fatality ratio of ~2%. Here, we investigate the stability of viable HCoV-19 on surfaces and in aerosols in comparison with SARS-CoV-1. Overall, stability is very similar between HCoV-19 and SARS-CoV-1. We found that viable virus could be detected in aerosols up to 3 hours post aerosolization, up to 4 hours on copper, up to 24 hours on cardboard and up to 2-3 days on plastic and stainless steel. HCoV-19 and SARS-CoV-1 exhibited similar half-lives in aerosols, with median estimates around 2.7 hours. Both viruses show relatively long viability on stainless steel and polypropylene compared to copper or cardboard: the median half-life estimate for HCoV-19 is around 13 hours on steel and around 16 hours on polypropylene. Our results indicate that aerosol and fomite transmission of HCoV-19 is plausible, as the virus can remain viable in aerosols for multiple hours and on surfaces up to days.
A novel human coronavirus, now named severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2, referred to as HCoV-19 throughout this manuscript) emerged in Wuhan, China in late 2019. As of March 3, 2020, >88,000 cases have been diagnosed in 64 countries, including 2915 deaths. The rapid expansion of this outbreak is indicative of efficient human-to-human transmission. HCoV-19 has been detected in upper and lower respiratory tract samples from patients, with high viral loads in upper respiratory tract samples. Therefore, virus transmission via respiratory secretions in the form of droplets (>5 microns) or aerosols (<5 microns) appears to be likely. Virus stability in air and on surfaces may directly affect virus transmission, as virus particles need to remain viable long enough after being expelled from the host to be taken up by a novel host. Airborne transmission or fomite transmission were thought to play important roles in the epidemiology of the two zoonotic coronaviruses that emerged this century, SARS-CoV-1 and MERS-CoV. Airborne transmission may have been responsible for the largest superspreading event during the SARS epidemic of 2002-2003, and numerous nosocomial superspreading events of SARS-CoV-1 were linked to aerosol-generating medical procedures. Fomite transmission was also suspected during the SARS epidemic, and one analysis of a nosocomial SARS-CoV-1 superspreading event concluded that fomites had played a significant role. Given the potential impact of different routes of transmission on the epidemiology of emerging viruses, it is crucial to quantify the virological traits that may shape these aspects of HCoV-19 transmission. Here, we analyze the aerosol and surface stability of HCoV-19 and compare it with SARS-CoV-1, the most closely related coronavirus known to infect humans. We evaluated the aerosol stability of HCoV-19 and SARS-CoV-1 for up to three hours in aerosols and up to 7 days on different surfaces. We estimated decay rates of HCoV-19 and SARS-CoV-1 in each condition using a Bayesian regression model.

Methods

HCoV-19 nCoV-WAI-2020 (MN985325.1) and SARS-CoV-1 Tor2 (AY274119.3) were the strains used in our comparison. Virus stability in aerosols was determined as described previously at 65%
relative humidity (RH) and 21-23°C. In short, aerosols (<5 μm) containing HCoV-19 (10^{5.25})
TCID_{50}/mL or SARS-CoV-1 (10^{6.25-7} TCID_{50}/mL) were generated using a 3-jet Collison nebulizer and
fed into a Goldberg drum to create an aerosolized environment. Aerosols were maintained in the
Goldberg drum and samples were collected at 0, 30, 60, 120 and 180 minutes post-aerosolization on a
47 mm gelatin filter (Sartorius). Filters were dissolved in 10 mL of DMEM containing 10% FBS. Three
 replicate experiments were performed.

Surface stability was evaluated on plastic (polypropylene, ePlastics), AISI 304 alloy stainless
steel (Metal Remnants), copper (99.9%) (Metal Remnants) and cardboard (local supplier) representing a
variety of household and hospital situations and was performed as described previously at 40% RH and
21-23°C using an inoculum of 10^5 TCID_{50}/mL. This inoculum resulted in cycle-threshold values (Ct)
between 20 and 22 similar to those observed in samples from human upper and lower respiratory tract. In
short, 50 μL of virus was deposited on the surface and recovered at predefined time-points by adding 1 mL
of DMEM. Stability on cardboard was evaluated by depositing 50 μL of virus on the surface and
recovering the inoculum by swabbing of the surface, the swab was deposited 1 mL of DMEM. Three
 replicate experiments were performed for each surface. Viable virus in all surface and aerosol samples
was quantified by end-point titration on Vero E6 cells as described previously. The Limit of Detection
(LOD) for the assays was 10^{5.5} TCID_{50}/mL for plastic, steel and cardboard and 10^{1.5} TCID_{50}/mL for copper
(due to toxicity caused by the copper in the undiluted samples).

The durations of detectability depend on initial inoculum and sampling method, as expected. To
evaluate the inherent stability of the viruses, we estimated the decay rates of viable virus titers using a
Bayesian regression model. This modeling approach allowed us to account for differences in initial
inoculum levels across replicates, as well as interval-censoring of titer data and other sources of
 experimental noise. The model yields estimates of posterior distributions of viral decay rates and half-
lives in the various experimental conditions – that is, estimates of the range of plausible values for these
parameters given our data, with an estimate of the overall uncertainty. We describe our modeling
 approach in more detail in the Supplemental Materials.
Results

HCoV-19 remained viable in aerosols throughout the duration of our experiment (180 minutes) with a reduction in infectious titer 3 hours post-aerosolization from $10^{3.15}$ to $10^{2.7}$ TCID$_{50}$/L (mean across three replicates). This reduction in viable virus titer is relatively similar to the reduction observed in aerosols containing SARS-CoV-1, from $10^{4.3}$ to $10^{3.5}$ TCID$_{50}$/mL (mean across three replicates) (Figure 1A).

HCoV-19 was most stable on plastic and stainless steel and viable virus could be detected up to 72 hours post application (Figure 1B), though by then the virus titer was greatly reduced (polypropylene from $10^{3.7}$ to $10^{0.6}$ TCID$_{50}$/mL after 72 hours, stainless steel from $10^{3.7}$ to $10^{0.6}$ TCID$_{50}$/mL after 48 hours, mean across three replicates). SARS-CoV-1 had similar stability kinetics and live virus could be detected on these surfaces up to 72 hours on polypropylene and 48 hours on stainless steel (polypropylene from $10^{3.4}$ to $10^{0.7}$ TCID$_{50}$/mL after 72 hours, stainless steel from $10^{3.6}$ to $10^{0.6}$ TCID$_{50}$/mL after 48 hours, mean across three replicates). No viable virus could be measured after 4 hours on copper for HCoV-19 and 8 hours for SARS-CoV-1, or after 24 hours on cardboard for HCoV-19 and 8 hours for SARS-CoV-1 (Figure 1B).

Both viruses exhibited exponential decay in viable virus titer across all experimental conditions, as indicated by linear decrease in the log$_{10}$TCID$_{50}$/mL over time (Figure 2A). From the posterior distributions on decay slope parameters we computed posterior distributions for the half-life of each virus in each condition (Figure 2B, Table 1). HCoV-19 and SARS-CoV exhibited similar half-lives in aerosols, with median estimates around 2.7 hours, and 95% credible intervals (2.5%–97.5% quantile range) of (1.65, 7.24 hours) for HCoV-19 and (1.81, 5.45 hours) for SARS-CoV-1 (Table 1). Half-lives on copper were also similar between the two viruses. On cardboard, HCoV-19 showed a considerably longer half-life than SARS-CoV-1. Both viruses showed markedly longer viability on stainless steel and polypropylene: the median half-life estimate for HCoV-19 was roughly 13 hours on steel and 16 hours on polypropylene. In general, there was no statistically discernable difference in half-life between the two.
viruses on any given surface except for cardboard: all other 95% credible intervals for the difference in half-lives overlapped 0 (Fig 2B, Table 1).

Discussion

HCoV-19 has caused many more cases of illness and resulted in more deaths than SARS-CoV-1 and is proving more difficult to contain. Our results indicate that the greater transmissibility observed for HCoV-19 is unlikely to be due to greater environmental viability of this virus compared to SARS-CoV-1. Instead, there are a number of potential factors which could account for the epidemiological differences between the two viruses. There have been early indications that individuals infected with HCoV-19 may shed and transmit the virus while pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic\cite{4,18,20}. This reduces the efficacy of quarantine and contact tracing as control measures relative to SARS-CoV-1.\cite{21} Other factors likely to play a role include the infectious dose required to establish an infection, the stability of virus in mucus, and environmental factors such as temperature and relative humidity.\cite{16,22} In ongoing experiments, we are studying virus viability in different matrices, such as nasal secretion, sputum and fecal matter, and while varying environmental conditions, such as temperature and relative humidity.

The epidemiology of SARS-CoV-1 was dominated by nosocomial transmission and SARS-CoV was detected on variety of surfaces and objects in healthcare settings.\cite{9} HCoV-19 transmission is also occurring in hospital settings, with over 3000 reported cases of hospital-acquired infections.\cite{23} These cases highlight the vulnerability of healthcare settings for introduction and spread of HCoV-19.\cite{10} However, in contrast to SARS-CoV-1, most secondary transmission has been reported outside healthcare settings\cite{23} and widespread transmission in the community is being seen in several settings, such as households, workplace and group gatherings.

A notable feature of SARS-CoV-1 was super-spreading events, in which a single infected individual was responsible for a large number of secondary cases, well above the average number denoted by the reproduction number $R_{eff}$.\cite{7,11,20} A tendency toward such super-spreading events has two important consequences for the epidemiology of emerging infections: it makes any given introduction of infection
more likely to die out by chance, but when outbreaks do occur they are explosive and can overwhelm hospital and public health capacity. A number of hypothesized super-spreading events have been reported for HCoV-19. Given that SARS-CoV-1 superspreading events were linked to aerosol and fomite transmission, our finding that HCoV-19 has viability in the environment comparable to that of SARS-CoV-1 lends credence to the hypothesis that it too may be associated with superspreading.

We found that the half-life of HCoV-19 on cardboard is longer than the half-life of SARS-CoV-1. It should be noted that individual replicate data were noticeably noisier for this surface than the other surfaces tested (Figures S1–S5), so we advise caution in interpreting this result.

Here, we show that the stability of HCoV-19 and SARS-CoV-1 under the experimental circumstances tested is similar. Taken together, our results indicate that aerosol and fomite transmission of HCoV-19 are plausible, as the virus can remain viable in aerosols for multiple hours and on surfaces up to days.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Kwe Claude Yinde and Michael Letko for experimental assistance. This research was supported by the Intramural Research Program of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), National Institutes of Health (NIH). JOL-S and AG were supported by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency DARPA PREEMPT # D18AC00031, and JOL-S was supported by the U.S. National Science Foundation (DEB-1557022) and the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (SERDP, RCQ2635) of the U.S. Department of Defense. The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Names of specific vendors, manufacturers, or products are included for public health and informational purposes; inclusion does not imply endorsement of the vendors, manufacturers, or products by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the US Department of Health and Human Services.
173 Code and data availability

174 Code and data to reproduce the Bayesian estimation results and produce corresponding figures are
175 archived online at OSF: <insert link> and available on Github: <insert link>

Figure 1. Viability of SARS-CoV and HCoV-19 in aerosols and on different surfaces. A) SARS-CoV and HCoV-19 were aerosolized in a rotating drum maintained at 21-23°C and 65% RH. Aerosols were
maintained over 180 minutes and samples were collected at 0-, 30-, 60-, 120- and 180-minutes post aerosolization. Viable virus titer per liter of air is shown in TCID$_{50}$/L air. B) 50 μL of 10$^5$ TCID$_{50}$/mL of SARS-CoV and HCoV-19 was applied on plastic, steel, copper and cardboard surfaces. At 1, 4, 8, 24, 48, 72, and 96 hours samples were obtained for viability assessment. All samples were quantified by end-point titration on Vero E6 cells. Plots show the mean and standard error across three replicates. Dotted line shows Limit of Detection (LOD), 10$^{0.5}$ TCID$_{50}$/mL for plastic, steel and cardboard and 10$^{1.5}$ TCID$_{50}$/mL for copper.

![Graph showing decay rates and half-lives for HCoV-19 and SARS-CoV-1](image_url)

Figure 2. Estimated exponential decay rates and corresponding half-lives for HCoV-19 and SARS-CoV-1. Experimental conditions are ordered by posterior median half-life for HCoV-19. A: Regression plots showing predicted decay of virus titer over time; titer plotted on a logarithmic scale. Points show measured titers and are slightly jittered along the time axis to avoid overplotting. Lines are random draws from the joint posterior distribution of the exponential decay rate (negative of the slope) and intercept (initial virus titer), thus visualizing the range of possible decay patterns for each experimental condition.
150 lines per panel: 50 lines from each plotted replicate. Dotted line shows Limit of Detection (LOD), $10^{0.5}$ TCID<sub>50</sub>/mL. B: Violin plots showing posterior distribution for half-life of viable virus. Dot shows the posterior median estimate and black line shows a 95% credible interval.

Table 1. Posterior median estimates and 95% credible intervals (2.5%–97.5% quantile range) for half-lives of HCoV-19 and SARS-CoV in aerosols and on various surfaces, as well as a median estimate and 95% credible interval for the difference between the two half-lives (HCoV-19 – SARS-CoV).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>HCoV-19 half-life (hrs)</th>
<th>SARS-CoV-1 half-life (hrs)</th>
<th>HCoV-19 – SARS-CoV-1 difference (hrs)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aerosols</td>
<td>median: 2.74 2.5%: 1.65 97.5%: 7.24</td>
<td>median: 2.74 2.5%: 1.81 97.5%: 5.45</td>
<td>median: -0.00418 2.5%: -2.72 97.5%: 4.45</td>
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<td>Copper</td>
<td>median: 3.4 2.5%: 2.4 97.5%: 5.11</td>
<td>median: 3.76 2.5%: 2.43 97.5%: 5.43</td>
<td>median: -0.321 2.5%: -2.31 97.5%: 1.78</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cardboard</td>
<td>median: 8.45 2.5%: 5.95 97.5%: 12.4</td>
<td>median: 1.74 2.5%: 0.827 97.5%: 4.42</td>
<td>median: 6.6 2.5%: 3.07 97.5%: 10.7</td>
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<td>Steel</td>
<td>median: 13.1 2.5%: 10.5 97.5%: 16.1</td>
<td>median: 9.77 2.5%: 7.69 97.5%: 12.3</td>
<td>median: 3.36 2.5%: -0.173 97.5%: 7.12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plastic</td>
<td>median: 15.9 2.5%: 13 97.5%: 19.2</td>
<td>median: 17.7 2.5%: 14.8 97.5%: 21.5</td>
<td>median: -1.79 2.5%: -6.31 97.5%: 2.51</td>
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Dear Steamboat Springs City Council Members,

Thank you so much to each of you for the work you do protecting our community and helping all to prosper in our beautiful mountain town.

I am writing to encourage you not to lift the grocery store plastic bag ban in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. I encourage you to, instead, lift the charge for bags and, when new bags are used, require use of paper ones at local grocery stores. The virus has been shown to survive a much shorter time on cardboard than on plastic, and paper bags are made from the same cellulose material as cardboard.

I also encourage you to allow the use of reusable bags for those who want to continue using them, with the proviso that those who use their own bags wash them regularly and bag their own groceries.

While I think all of us clearly understand the need to take extraordinary measures to protect public health at this time, it remains unclear that mandating the use of plastic bags at grocery stores will actually protect public health, and it is clear that the overuse of plastic has caused untold damage to the health of our earth, and thereby, ultimately to ourselves.

Thank you for considering my comments, and best to you in your governance work that is so very important, especially at this time of crisis.
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Questions or Comments

Please select the department(s) you want to contact:

City Council

Please leave your comments or questions below.

Unfortunately, one crisis doesn't stop while we are waiting for another to end." ~ Mitch Hedlund, Recycle Across America

The impact of COVID 19 on our community and globally is absolutely devastating and the loss of life is heart wrenching.

At this moment in time, a key question to ask ourselves is will the changes we make prevent the spread of COVID 19 or are they driven by fear.

In some situations, single use-items are required to prevent the spread of COVID 19. It is critical to balance our minimal but growing understanding of the overwhelming pandemic with our long term community sustainability goals.

COVID 19 health precautions can be achieved without sacrificing our environment.

Please amend the emergency ordinance to suspend the bag fee but NOT to lift the single-use plastic bag ban.

Thank you for all you are doing and your efforts to keep our community safe.

Gail Garey
636 Yahmonite

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City Council Contact Form

Contact Information

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Questions or Comments

Please select the department(s) you want to contact:

City Council

Please leave your comments or questions below.

To Our Great City Council-

Surprise, it's Lulu here to express my thoughts on the proposed lifting of the plastic bag ordinance! Rather than detailing statistics that I'm sure are being thrown at you right now, I'd like to address the message this sends to our community.

You all have been a productive, successful and proactive Council with many accomplishments to be proud of for the COSS, and for that we are grateful. This action however, if taken, seems highly reactive. How will you explain to all the youth and adults who worked very hard on this ordinance that literally inspired thousands of people to get on board with little to no true backlash? Without any real evidence that this will help, that is a dangerous route to take as far as the credibility of your voices and votes going forward. Our youth deserve to know that hard work for important causes pays off and that we hear their voices, and that we as a community value even the smallest of steps forward when it comes to sensible environmental action.

Please know that all the work you are all putting in during this difficult time is so very appreciated and certainly does not go unnoticed by me. Each one of you are a saint and your patience, level-headedness and compassion will keep us moving forward. Ever onward and thank you so very much for setting stellar examples as leaders of our wonderful and resilient town-

Lulu Gould
Based on scientific research, adopt an emergency ordinance to ONLY suspend the bag fee associated with City’s disposable bag regulations but to maintain the existing ban on single-use plastic bags as set forth in Ordinance #2699.

Hazel Hoff
Based on scientific research, please adopt an emergency ordinance to ONLY suspend the bag fee associated with City's disposable bag regulations while maintaining the existing ban on single-use plastic bags as set forth in Ordinance #2699.

Research indicates that single-use paper bags will more likely limit COVID-19 contamination risk than single-use plastic bags. One recent study indicates that coronavirus may, in fact, remain infectious on plastic (and steel) for up to three days, compared with 24 hours for cardboard (and four hours for copper). Another recent study reports that coronavirus could remain stable on plastic for up to 9 days. These studies did not explicitly examine how long the virus remains infectious on cloth (pertaining to reusable bags), they do however suggest that "paper bags are preferred" if the City is trying to limit COVID-19 exposure.

Other communities like ours are choosing to abide by the Governor's precautions while maintaining their plastic bag bans in order to safeguard their social and environmental well-being. Similar to the proposal we outline here, the City of Avon, for example, has suspended its bag fee to limit COVID-19 contamination risk but has maintained its plastic bag ban.

For those community members who wish to continue to use their reusable bags, we can encourage them to 1) wash their bags regularly, and 2) be prepared to bag their own groceries at grocery store locations. At Natural Grocers, customers are already required to bag their own groceries to limit COVID-19 exposure, a practice also upheld in the greater Vail Valley and
elsewhere.

Thank you,

Alaya Morning

Please add attachments here.

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Email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.
City Council Contact Form

Contact Information

First Name: Madison
Last Name: Muxworthy
Email Address: [Redacted]

Questions or Comments

Please select the department(s) you want to contact:
City Council

Please leave your comments or questions below.

Hello City Council members,
I hope you are all staying healthy in these challenging times.

We saw that City Council will be discussing an emergency ordinance regarding the recommendation from Governor Polis on COVID-19 and bag fees. Since there will be no way to make a public comment, I wanted to share YVSC's recommendation with you to consider.

Warm regards,
Madison

Please add attachments here.

YVSC recommendation for bag ban and COVID-19 3.30.20-3.pdf

Email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.
March 30, 2020

Recommendation:

Based on scientific research, adopt an emergency ordinance to ONLY suspend the bag fee associated with City’s disposable bag regulations but to maintain the existing ban on single-use plastic bags as set forth in Ordinance #2699.

Background

On March 25, Governor Polis asked municipalities for a moratorium on plastic bag bans and fees for grocery stores for 30 days. Polis’ request was made in response to public concerns about the increased risk of COVID contamination through the use of reusable bags.

We at YVSC acknowledge that the City of Steamboat Springs should abide by Polis’ request to temporarily rescind the bag fees to limit the transmission of COVID-19 but recommend that the City NOT suspend the City’s plastic bag ban as part of the moratorium. This recommendation is based on scientific evidence cited in this letter.

Research indicates that single-use paper bags will more likely limit COVID-19 contamination risk than single-use plastic bags. One recent study indicates that coronavirus may in fact remain infectious on plastic (and steel) for up to three days, compared with 24 hours for cardboard (and four hours for copper). Another recent study reports that coronavirus could remain stable on plastic for up to 9 days. These studies did not explicitly examine how long the virus remains infectious on cloth (pertaining to reusable bags), they do however suggest that paper bags are preferred if the City is trying to limit COVID-19 exposure.

Scientific evidence does not support the use of plastic bags to limit COVID-19 contamination, therefore we must evaluate if reintroduction of plastic bags is in our community’s best interest. While the City’s public health concerns are of paramount importance at this time, we at YVSC also recognize the importance of retaining successes earned via our recent Spur the Change campaign. Since the posting of the City Council agenda, YVSC has received numerous phone calls and emails from concerned citizens regarding the potential repeal of the plastic bag ban. At a time when so many concessions are being made, both economic and environmental, maintaining the plastic bag ban sends an important message that the City that is capable of enforcing COVID-19 health precautions without sacrificing our community’s environmental ethic.

Other communities like ours are choosing to abide by the Governor’s precautions while maintaining their plastic bag bans in order to safeguard their social and environmental well-being. Similar to the proposal we outline here, the City of Avon, for example, has suspended its bag fee to limit COVID-19 contamination risk but has maintained its plastic bag ban.
For those community members who wish to continue to use their reusable bags, we at the City and YVSC can encourage them to: 1) wash their bags regularly, and 2) be prepared to bag their own groceries at grocery store locations. At Natural Grocers, customers are already required to bag their own groceries to limit COVID-19 exposure, a practice also upheld in the greater Vail Valley and elsewhere.

By removing the bag fee, the City of Steamboat Springs will be able to report that our City has implemented Governor Polis’ request to local governments whilst maintaining our plastic bag ban. This decision positions the City to make the best science-informed decision without sacrificing the social and environmental integrity of this valued community.

Please feel free to reach out with questions related to the above.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michelle O. Stewart
Executive Director

Madison Muxworthy
Waste Diversion Director
Public comment for tomorrow night...

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Good evening Gary,

I hope you are staying healthy in these challenging times.

We saw that City Council will be discussing an emergency ordinance regarding the recommendation from Governor Polis on COVID-19 and bag fees. I know it is too late and you are not presenting the ordinance but since there will be no way to make a public comment, we wanted to share this recommendation with you and the Council members to consider.

Warm regards,

Madison
City Council Contact Form

Contact Information

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Questions or Comments

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<th>City Council</th>
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<tr>
<td>Please leave your comments or questions below.</td>
<td>Honorable Councilmembers,</td>
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<td>Re. temporary suspension of the plastic bag ban: 1) COV lives on plastic surfaces multiple times as long as on paper or canvas; 2) Young people in our community worked hard and long to earn CC support for the bag ban and reversal of policy dishonors that work; 3) Town of Avon and others are implementing perfectly workable alternatives to a return to plastic; and 4) Retailers have already successfully adjusted operations to comply with the prior ordinance.</td>
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<td>Why not provide BOTH protection for citizenry and environment at the same time? Let's heed the loud and clear message Mother Earth has sent to humanity within the past 6 months.</td>
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<td>Thank you, Perry Ninger</td>
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Email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.
City Council Contact Form

Contact Information

First Name: Deborah
Last Name: Rose
Email Address: [redacted]

Questions or Comments

Please select the City Council department(s) you want to contact:

Please leave your comments or questions below.

Please do not reinstate the plastic ban for 90 days, most people have adjusted to the change to bringing their own bags. Take the fee away for paper until this crisis has subsided. Lastly, studies do show plastic does carry the virus longer than paper.

Thank you,
Deborah Rose

Please add attachments here.

Email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.
I was so pleased when the City implemented a plastic bag ban. For the past 10 years I have carried my own reusable bags and have not needed to take any plastic bags. It is a very simple step to do and makes a huge difference in minimizing plastic waste. In the face of COVID-19, I understand that some people would rather not require the use of reusable bags. With so much unknown about this pandemic, I respect that concern.

I am writing now, however, to implore you to please NOT make any changes to the plastic bag ban. Instead, please temporarily waive the fee associated with paper bag use. Please continue to allow us to use our reusable bags (ok to say that we are the only ones to handle so that the store workers aren't exposed) and make it easier for shoppers who want to use paper bags.

Once more is known about how the virus lives on surfaces and how to protect ourselves, then we can discuss next steps. In the meantime, let's not take a huge step backwards in reducing our plastic wastes.
City Council Contact Form

Contact Information

First Name: maggie
Last Name: smith
Email Address: [Redacted]

Questions or Comments

Please select the department(s) you want to contact:

City Council

Please leave your comments or questions below.

I support that City Council temporarily waive the fee for paper bags but please do not lift the single-use plastic bag ban. We need to still care about our environment and based on scientific research the Covid-19 virus remains on plastic much longer than it remains on paper and cardboard.

Please add attachments here.

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Email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.
Dear Valued Members of City Council,

In response to Polis' recent call "upon municipalities in our state to temporarily suspend plastic bag fee ordinances for 30 days," and the need to prioritize public health concerns at this unprecedented time, I encourage City Council to temporarily suspend the bag fee but maintain the city's plastic bag ban.

Suspending the bag fee stands to mitigate the potential COVID-19 contamination risk associated with reusable bags. Though there is no scientific evidence showing that reusable bags are a vector for COVID-19, and grocery markets are wiping down check out services between customers, these precautionary measures are justifiable since reusable bags could in principle potentially transport COVID-19 from contaminated households.

The city should maintain the plastic bag ban whilst suspending the fee because the public health concerns (over reusable bags) can be addressed using disposable paper bags. Additionally, paper bags are a potentially "safer" disposable bag option when compared to plastic bags during the COVID crisis. One recent study showed that coronavirus remains infectious for a much shorter time on cardboard (up to 24-hours) than on plastic (up to 3 days); paper bags are made from the same cellulose material as cardboard. Further, the plastic bag ban is an important part of our City's sustainability actions and is celebrated by many members of the community; rolling this important program back without scientific backing compromises the social and environmental integrity of our community.
Other communities with bag ban fee ordinances like ours — e.g., Avon — are suspending bag fees and maintaining plastic bag bans, which demonstrate that Polls' "call" can be implemented accordingly.

Suspending the bag fees and maintaining our city's plastic bag ban will address the public health and environmental concerns that are at issue in the current decision.

Thank you for your leadership and support during this challenging time in our community. We will come through this and be stronger on the other side, and here I encourage us to take actions when possible that safeguard our public health and social-environmental values.

Sincerely,
Michelle O. Stewart, Ph.D.

Please add attachments here.

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Email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.
City Council Contact Form

Contact Information

First Name
Charles

Last Name
Preston-Townsend

Email Address

Questions or Comments

Please select the department(s) you want to contact:
City Council

Please leave your comments or questions below.

To Whom it May Concern:

Now is not the time to backtrack on the progress we have made towards being a more sustainable community. The recent plastic bag ban is an essential measure for our community to address the plastic waste issue, and the greater garbage problem we face, that should be upheld in these trying times.

There is little evidence that the Corona virus can be transmitted on reusable bags any more than on single-use plastic, dollar bills, doorknobs or any other surfaces. It is an airborne transmission. Groceries and other retailers are taking necessary precautions, including limiting customer numbers, providing priority hours to seniors, and installing barriers to protect their cashiers, that are effective measures for limiting transmission.

I urge the City Council to uphold the plastic bag ban and continue to support our essential service retailers by encouraging the measures already being taken to limit transmission of the Corona virus.

Please add attachments here.

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Email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.
City Council,

I sincerely apologize for the multiple emails. I have worked with Winnie to determine the outstanding invoices that have been incurred, but not yet paid. Here is a revised spreadsheet. Currently the fund is ($16,000) with an expected $8,000 in revenue, therefore the fund is approximately ($8,000)

Thanks,
Kim

Kim Weber
Finance Director
City of Steamboat Springs
kweber@steamboatsprings.net
(970) 871-8250 (office)

Need local information about COVID-19 (coronavirus) in Routt County?
Call-in for COVID-19 related questions: 970-871-8444
Routt County COVID-19 website: www.covid19routtcounty.com

Waste Reduction and Recycling expenses in 2020: To date this year we have paid out $3,212.50 for public education. We just put together and rolled out a “Wash Your Bag” campaign that I haven’t been billed for – it should be under $500.

Heather,
Here is a running balance of the Waste Reduction & Recycling fund. It is currently ($14,114) with expected revenue of about $8,000 for March leaving it at about ($6,114) if no additional revenue was collected.

Thanks,
Kim

Kim Weber
Finance Director
City of Steamboat Springs
kweber@steamboatsprings.net
(970) 871-8250 (office)

Need local information about COVID-19 (coronavirus) in Routt County? Call-in for COVID-19 related questions: 970-871-8444
Routt County COVID-19 website: www.covid19routtcounty.com

From: Heather Sloop <hsloop@steamboatsprings.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 8:41 AM
To: Kim Weber <kweber@steamboatsprings.net>
Cc: Kathi Meyer <kmeyer@steamboatsprings.net>
Subject: Re: Bag fees

What about expenditures?

Heather

if we are not ashamed to think it, we should not be ashamed to say it.
~ Marcus Cicero

On Mar 31, 2020, at 7:54 AM, Kim Weber <kweber@steamboatsprings.net> wrote:

Heather,
Here is an excerpt from the March 17th City Managers report showing that the City received $21,500 from October 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019. We have received $16K so far in 2020 which represents about $8,000 per month.
Rightwing thinktanks use fear of Covid-19 to fight bans on plastic bags

Articles from conservative groups argue plastic bags are safer for coronavirus than reusable bags, misrepresenting recent studies

Coronavirus - latest updates
See all our coronavirus coverage

Seascape: the state of our oceans is supported by the David Lucile Packard Foundation

About this content

The fight to ban plastic bags, many of which end up polluting oceans and rivers, has taken a step backward as conservative US think tanks exploit the fear of Covid-19, campaigners have said.

Articles warning that reusable tote bags are worse than plastic ones for spreading coronavirus have been linked to major rightwing nonprofits such as the Manhattan Institute, and contain misinformation aimed at defeating or repealing plastic bag bans, said Greenpeace USA.

The effort “risks further confusion” amid a global public health crisis, it said.

Recent studies have found that Covid-19 could be stable on plastic and steel for up to three days, compared with 24 hours for cardboard and four hours for copper. The studies have not examined how long the virus remained on tote bags and there is little scientific evidence comparing reusable bags with plastic.

Last week a number of US states and cities nevertheless took the decision to roll back plastic bag bans, citing the coronavirus. Maine repealed its ban. The governor of New Hampshire went further by issuing an order banning reusable bags, saying they risk spreading coronavirus. The governor of Massachusetts banned reusable bags and lifted plastic bag bans. And New York state, which implemented its plastic bag ban on 1 March, will delay enforcement until June.

The moves follow articles by researchers at the Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI) - a libertarian nonprofit instrumental in persuading the Trump administration to abandon the Paris climate agreement - suggesting reusable grocery bags are riskier than plastic, and in a journal published by the Manhattan Institute suggesting sustainable bags can carry viruses for up to nine days.

While nonprofits are not required to disclose their donors, both have reportedly received money from fossil fuel companies. Among the sponsors for a CEI gala last year were the Charles Koch Institute and the American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers association, the New York Times reported.

Greenpeace USA criticised the Manhattan Institute and the CEI for a series of articles suggesting that reusable bags are a higher risk for transmitting coronavirus than plastic bags, misrepresenting recent research that shows the virus survives at least as long on plastic.
Such misinformation is already being used to lobby state legislatures to defeat or repeal plastic bag ban legislation, it said.

John Hocevar, Greenpeace USA’s oceans campaigner, condemned what he described as industry groups that have “seen the crisis as an opportunity to exploit people’s fears around Covid-19 to push their pro-pollution agendas”.

“Even in the short term, plastic does not inherently make something clean and safe, and we should not confuse corporate public relations with factual medical research,” Hocevar said.

New York was the third US state to outlaw non-biodegradable carrier bags, but the ban is yet to be enforced. Photograph: Timothy A Clary/AFP

Similar moves are under way in Britain, where the environment secretary, George Eustice, has waived the 5p charge on plastic bags for supermarket shoppers online. Eustice said it was a temporary measure aimed at reducing potential cross-infection between delivery workers and those in isolation, and to speed up deliveries.

Plans to further reduce single-use plastic, under the environment bill, have been put on hold due to Covid-19.

The timing of the Welsh government’s plans to restrict single-use plastics is also under review, it told the Guardian.

In the US, the misinformation campaign against reusable bags ramped up after two recent studies. The first, from the University of California, published last month in the Journal of Hospital Infection, reported that viruses similar to Covid-19 could remain on plastic for up to nine days. The second, published on 17 March in the New England Journal of Medicine, found that Covid-19 could be stable on plastic for up to three days. The viruses could be inactivated by disinfection. Neither study examined reusable bags.

However, the day after the first study was published, the Plastics Industry Association wrote to the US Department for Health and Human Services, urging the government to make a pronouncement supporting single-use plastic. The association claimed “study
Rightwing thinktanks use fear of Covid-19 to fight bans on plastic bags | Environment | T...

after study” showed reusable bags to be a health risk. It did not mention the University of California study.

Then on 12 March, the City Journal, published by the MI, ran an article claiming: “The ‘sustainable’ bags that environmentalists and politicians have been so eager to impose on the public ... can sustain the Covid-19 and flu viruses and spread the virus throughout the store.”

The piece, headlined “Greening our way to infection” and written by John Tierney, cites unnamed research that Tierney claims showed viruses and bacteria can survive on tote bags for nine days. It offers no evidence to back this claim - in fact, it links to a study showing viruses can remain on plastic for nine days.

The piece also quotes a 2018 study published in the Journal of Environmental Health where researchers found traces of a surrogate virus on surfaces and the hands of shoppers and store staff high enough “to risk transmission”. They recommended in-store hand hygiene and washing reusable bags. They did not compare the risk of reusable bags with new plastic bags.

Another piece by Tierney, with a similar argument, appeared in the New York Post entitled “Using tote bags instead of plastic could help spread coronavirus”.

Meanwhile, the Washington Examiner published a piece by Angela Logomasini of the Competitive Enterprise Institute on 18 March, a day after the New England Journal of Medicine study, headlined: “Plastic bag bans aren’t helping us fight against coronavirus”.

Logomasini quotes the same 2018 study as Tierney, as well as a 2011 study on reusable and plastic bags that looked at bacteria, not viruses, and was partly funded by the American Chemistry Council.

Ivy Schlegel, a researcher at Greenpeace USA, said: “This is a classic PR tactic. After new studies showing Covid-19 lasts longer on plastic, they have pulled back into their bag of tricks to redeploy old studies, linking them to legitimate public fear of the coronavirus.”

Hocevar said: “The truth is that we don’t have all of the answers to this Covid-19 emergency yet, and for industry to use this as an opportunity to increase profits for the fossil fuel and plastics sectors is dangerous and irresponsible.

“What we do know is that there is no substitute for strict hygiene. Just because a material is made from single-use plastic does not make it less likely to transmit viral infections during use; in fact, plastic surfaces appear to allow coronaviruses to remain infectious for particularly long periods compared to other materials.”

“The decisions we make for our families in this health crisis should be based on science and the advice of medical professionals, not lobbyists for the fossil fuel and plastics
industries. Wherever reusables are an option, it is incumbent upon all of us to do our part to protect one another by washing them thoroughly after every use.”

A spokesperson for the Manhattan Institute said: “A clear reading of Mr Tierney’s City Journal article shows support of his argument by multiple scientific studies on the use of reusable bags in supermarkets. We stand by the integrity of Mr Tierney’s journalism and will continue to publish articles that shed light on various aspects of this pandemic that we are all going through together.”

In a response to the Guardian, Logomasini, a senior fellow at the CEI, defended her Washington Examiner article. She said: “Greenpeace’s assertions that promoting clean single-use plastic bags over reusable ones exploits Covid-19 fears and is part of a pro-pollution agenda are ridiculous.

“It’s clearly helpful - not exploitative - for people to point out the relative risks associated with reusable grocery bags and single-use plastic bags. Greenpeace basically admits that the reusable bags can harbour dangerous pathogens, including Covid-19, by explaining that people should wash them after every use.”

A CEI spokesperson said: “Angela Logomasini is a well-respected expert with 30 years of working on plastic issues. Her positions are developed independently and are not influenced by the views of our supporters. The Competitive Enterprise Institute is funded by thousands of individuals, businesses and foundations around the globe, and we respect their privacy.”

This article was amended on 31 March 2020 because an earlier version incorrectly referred to “reusable cloth bags”; to remove a reference to “a lobbying effort” in connection with the Manhattan Institute; to clarify that an article appeared in the City Journal which is published by the Manhattan Institute and was not “authored by” that organisation and to make it clear that it is the timing of the Welsh government’s plans that is affected.
We've got an announcement...
...on our progress as an organisation. In service of the escalating climate emergency, we have made an important decision - to renounce fossil fuel advertising, becoming the first major global news organisation to institute an outright ban on taking money from companies that extract fossil fuels.

In October we outlined our pledge: that the Guardian will give global heating, wildlife extinction and pollution the urgent attention and prominence they demand. This resonated with so many readers around the world. We promise to update you on the steps we take to hold ourselves accountable at this defining point in our lifetimes. With climate misinformation rife, and never more dangerous than now, the Guardian's accurate, authoritative reporting is vital - and we will not stay quiet.

We chose a different approach: to keep Guardian journalism open for all. We don't have a paywall because we believe everyone deserves access to factual information, regardless of where they live or what they can afford to pay.

Our editorial independence means we are free to investigate and challenge inaction by those in power. We will inform our readers about threats to the environment based on scientific facts, not driven by commercial or political interests. And we have made several important changes to our style guide to ensure the language we use accurately reflects the environmental emergency.

The Guardian believes that the problems we face on the climate crisis are systemic and that fundamental societal change is needed. We will keep reporting on the efforts of individuals and communities around the world who are fearlessly taking a stand for future generations and the preservation of human life on earth. We want their stories to inspire hope.

We hope you will consider supporting us today. We need your support to keep delivering quality journalism that's open and independent. Every reader contribution, however big or small, is so valuable. Support the Guardian from as little as $1 - and it only takes a minute. Thank you.

Support The Guardian
Rightwing thinktanks use fear of Covid-19 to fight bans on plastic bags | Environment | T...
March 30, 2020

Recommendation:

Based on scientific research, adopt an emergency ordinance to (1) suspend the bag fee associated with the City’s disposable bag regulations, AND (2) maintain the existing ban on single-use plastic bags.

Background

On March 25, Governor Polis called "...upon municipalities in our state to temporarily suspend plastic bag fee ordinances for 30 days." Polis’ request was made in response to public concerns about the increased risk of COVID contamination through the use of reusable bags.

We at YVSC acknowledge that the City of Steamboat Springs should abide by Polis’ request to temporarily rescind the bag fees to limit the transmission of COVID-19 but recommend that the City NOT suspend the City’s plastic bag ban as part of the moratorium. This recommendation is based on scientific evidence cited in this letter.

Research indicates that single-use paper bags will more likely limit COVID-19 contamination risk than single-use plastic bags. One recent study indicates that coronavirus may in fact remain infectious on plastic (and steel) for up to three days, compared with 24 hours for cardboard (and four hours for copper). Another recent study reports that coronavirus could remain stable on plastic for up to 9 days. These studies did not explicitly examine how long the virus remains infectious on cloth (pertaining to reusable bags), they do however suggest that paper bags are preferred if the City is trying to limit COVID-19 exposure.

Scientific evidence does not support the use of plastic bags to limit COVID-19 contamination, therefore we must evaluate if reintroduction of plastic bags is in our community’s best interest. While the City’s public health concerns are of paramount importance at this time, we at YVSC also recognize the importance of retaining successes earned via our recent Spur the Change campaign. Since the posting of the City Council agenda, YVSC has received numerous phone calls and emails from concerned citizens regarding the potential repeal of the plastic bag ban. At a time when so many concessions are being made, both economic and environmental, maintaining the plastic bag ban sends an important message that the City that is capable of enforcing COVID-19 health precautions without sacrificing our community’s environmental ethic.

Other communities like ours are choosing to abide by the Governor’s precautions while maintaining their plastic bag bans in order to safeguard their social and environmental well-being. Similar to the proposal we outline here, the City of Avon, for example, has suspended its bag fee to limit COVID-19 contamination risk but has maintained its plastic bag ban.
For those community members who wish to continue to use their reusable bags, we at the City and YVSC can encourage them to: 1) wash their bags regularly, and 2) be prepared to bag their own groceries at grocery store locations. At Natural Grocers, customers are already required to bag their own groceries to limit COVID-19 exposure, a practice also upheld in the greater Vail Valley and elsewhere.

By removing the bag fee, the City of Steamboat Springs will be able to report that our City has implemented Governor Polis' request to local governments whilst maintaining our plastic bag ban. This decision positions the City to make the best science-informed decision without sacrificing the social and environmental integrity of this valued community.

Please feel free to reach out with questions related to the above.

Sincerely,

Madison Muxworthy
Waste Diversion Director

Dr. Michelle O. Stewart
Executive Director
Frequently Asked Questions on Public Meetings and Public Notice Issues

In Light Of the COVID-19 Pandemic

The following guidance is based on the Colorado Open Meetings Law ("COML"). §§ 24-6-401, et seq., C.R.S., and the case law interpreting it, as well as the Colorado Administrative Procedures Act ("CAPA"). §§ 24-4-101, et seq., C.R.S. These FAQs also provide our current thinking related to "best practices" and potential technological measures to facilitate public access.

Q. May a public body conduct a “public meeting” entirely remotely by electronic means?
A. Yes.

The COML recognizes that “meetings” of public bodies may be conducted by “by telephone, electronically, or by other means of communication.” § 24-6-401(l)(b). The law provides that all “meetings” at which two or more members of a state public body, or three or more members (or a quorum) of a local public body, discuss “public business” must be “open to the public at all times.” § 24-6-402(2)(a). A meeting accessible only electronically, such as by webinar, online video conference (e.g., Zoom), or telephone conference, complies with the COML so long as the means to access the meeting electronically are made available to the public.

Q. May a public body provide electronic-only notice of a “public meeting”?
A. Yes.

The COML authorizes local public bodies to use electronic-only posting of notices of their meetings. § 24-6-402(2)(c)(II). For state public bodies, the statute requires that there must be “full and timely notice to the public.” State bodies should adopt a ‘flexible’ standard that takes into account the interest in providing access to a broad range of meetings at which public business is considered, as well as the public body’s need to conduct its business “in a reasonable manner.” (Benson v. McCormick, 195 Colo. 381, 383, 578 P.2d 651, 652 (1978)).

Q. May a public body meet without any kind of notice if there is an “emergency”?
A. Yes, but the scope of what constitutes an “emergency” is narrow.

The COML has no provision for “emergency” meetings. The Colorado Court of Appeals has held that a town council’s “emergency” meeting without timely notice was permissible under the COML in light of the council’s subsequent notice, consideration, and ratification of the actions taken at the emergency meeting at a later properly noticed public meeting. Lewis v. Town of Nederland, 934 P.2d 848, 851 (Colo. App. 1996). The court observed, however, that an “emergency” is one that is “an unforeseen combination of circumstances or the resulting state that calls for immediate action.” As such, public bodies should provide some form of notice on their websites whenever possible.

Q. May a public body convert a previously scheduled in-person meeting into an electronic-only meeting?
A. Yes, so long as a new notice is published notifying the public of the new means of access.

Under the Town of Marble doctrine allowing for flexible standards in connection with notices of public meetings, it is permissible for a public body to amend a previously posted notice of a public meeting. Town of Marble v. Darien, 181 P.3d 1148, 1152 (Colo. 2008). Amendments can include the addition of new topics, changes in the location of a meeting, or the means of accessing the meeting.
Q. How much advance notice must be provided for a meeting of a public body.
A. At least 24 hours.

The COML requires at least 24 hours’ notice for public meetings of local public bodies. § 24-6-402(2)(c)(l). While there is no similar provision for state public bodies, 24 hours’ notice should be sufficient for a public meeting of a state public body, especially if there are extenuating circumstances that warrant a short notice period. Providing notice for more than 24 hours is appropriate where feasible. In addition, it is also important to consider whether a particular public body’s statute, ordinances, charter, or rules require more than 24 hours of public notice. If so, then the more specific notice provision will control over the general provision in the COML.

Q. How much advance notice must be provided for an amended notice of a previously posted meeting of a public body.
A. At least 24 hours.

The COML does not distinguish between an initial notice of a meeting and an amended notice. The amended notice setting out the logistics and mechanics for an electronic-only meeting should be posted at least 24 hours before the start of the meeting.

Q. Is a public body required to provide a mechanism during an electronic-only meeting that would enable a member of the public to speak to the public body during the electronic-only meeting?
A. No.

The COML does not require a “public comment” period, or any other form of public input during a public meeting. Rather, the purpose of the statute is to allow the public to observe, not necessarily to participate. § 24-6-401. Note, though, that many local public bodies do have such requirements in their ordinances or rules. If that is the case, the public body will need to use a technology for its electronic meeting that facilitates a public comment period. Many current virtual-meeting services readily enable this function. The body may alternatively rely on the “chat” or similar functions of online video-conference systems such as Zoom or Skype, which allow participants to send comments to the body in writing.

Q. What is the best practice for setting up electronic-only access for an executive session in conjunction with a meeting of the public body?
A. Use a two-mode system of access for the meeting.

If the public body uses a commercial internet-based video conferencing service such as Zoom, the service will allow for the creation of side-bar meetings into which selected participants may join the portion of the meeting that has been closed to the public. This will allow for the public-meeting portion of the electronic meeting to remain open while the executive session is conducted. Otherwise, in the absence of a commercial video-conferencing system, the safest way to conduct a closed executive session during a body’s meeting is by having a two-mode method for accessing the electronic meeting. That is, if the meeting is conducted by both webinar and a concurrent telephone dial-in conference bridge, the webinar portion of the meeting can be suspended or recessed while the executive session is conducted by telephone. Once the executive session is completed, the body’s board members would then rejoin the webinar video conference.
From: A ROSS <maxine49@live.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2020 9:26 AM
To: City Council
Subject: Fwd: used again Cloth bags are dirty

Ann Ross
879 2545

From: A ROSS <maxine49@live.com>
Date: March 28, 2020 at 9:06:42 AM MDT
Subject: Cloth bags are dirty

I do not EVER want used dirty cloth grocery bags taken into store where I buy food! I demand a clean store not infiltrated by used dirty cloth bags. How to rescind plastic bag order..? Stores don’t provide sanitary plastic bags ,a saving for store, then we can buy more plastic garbage bags . If and I agree we need to stop the plastics then the toss one time use water bottle is the place to curtail gross plastic use. Thanks ,will wait for your replies.

Ann Ross
Steamboat Springs, CO
Heather,

Here is an excerpt from the March 17th City Managers report showing that the City received $21,500 from October 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019. We have received $16K so far in 2020 which represents about $8,000 per month.

Finance
Accounting
Below is a report on the disposable bag program in 2019.

- From October 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019, or the first three months of collecting a Waste Reduction Fee from the four required entities in Steamboat Springs, the City has recorded $21,500 in collected revenue. This revenue represents 121,879 disposable bags distributed. While the requirement is for the market to send 15 cents of the 20 cents charged for each disposable bag sold, one of the markets has sent the City the entire 20 cents. Therefore, the average amount collected per bag is greater than 15 cents each.

Thanks,
Kim

Kim Weber
Finance Director
City of Steamboat Springs
kweber@steamboatsprings.net
(970) 871-8250 (office)

Need local information about COVID-19 (coronavirus) in Routt County?

Call-in for COVID-19 related questions: 970-871-8444

Routt County COVID-19 website: www.covid19routtcounty.com
Kim,
Could you please give CC a quick fiscal breakdown on what has been collected from the bag ban and what has been spent?
Just trying to figure out if we temporarily lift the fees on paper if we’d have the capacity to reimburse the grocers for a paper only scenario.
Thanks,
Heather

If we are not ashamed to think it, we should not be ashamed to say it.

~ Marcus Cicero
From the City Manager

Coronavirus
The city has had multiple internal meetings regarding the coronavirus outbreak in Colorado. We receive regular updates from the CDC, CDPHE, Routt County Public Health, and other agencies. All operations and services continue as normal and with heightened awareness as to potential infection. Our public safety personnel and first responders all have established protocol and procedures as to infectious diseases. Briefings have been conducted and internal memorandums have been distributed to all employees with instructions to stay calm, wash hands, stay at home if you’re sick, and disinfect surfaces. We are communicating with Routt County emergency preparedness personnel in the event quarantines are necessary. Employees have the option to cancel work related trips if they so choose. Although the city does not provide telecommuting options to its employees, we are discussing flexible workplace policies in the event of an outbreak. This involves identifying essential and nonessential personnel in each department. Overall, this has been a beneficial exercise in emergency preparedness for the city and the community.

Glass and Recycling
Attached is a letter from Les Liman (Twin Enviro) requesting the City remove glass from single stream recycling (Attachment 1). Section 19-26 of the Municipal Code provides that the City Manager can waive requirements as to any type of listed recyclable material, which includes glass. Yampa Valley Sustainability Council has provided information on this topic and a broader community discussion is recommended before any decision is made. I suggest we schedule this as a Community Report at a future Council meeting where Twin Enviro, Yampa Valley Sustainability Council, and the public can weigh in.

Smartwool and Honey Stinger Leases
On March 4th, I signed the Lease Termination Agreement with Smartwool, effective March 31, 2020. Before executing the agreement, the city received a termination payment from Smartwool in the amount of $241,357 as rent and final payment on the remodel loan. Subsequently, President Lacy executed the new lease with Honey Stinger, effective April 1, 2020. My thanks to Smartwool CEO Jen McLaren, Honey Stinger representative Keith Caldwell, and Alan Lind, retired General Services Director for all of their work to ensure a smooth transition. Thanks to City Council for their work in reviewing and approving the new lease with Honey Stinger. We look forward to working with our new tenants!

Fire Station Site RFP
No proposals were received from private property owners in response to the city’s Request For Proposal, seeking offers from downtown property owners or agents. I did receive several calls from interested parties but no firm offers. We plan on proceeding with the committee’s work to date.

Solsmart Community Designation
The Yampa Valley Sustainability Council (YVSC) has asked the City to consider becoming a Solsmart designated community in recognition of the City’s support of solar projects. Staff reviewed the Solsmart program requirements and determined that the City currently meets the requirements for a bronze level designation. YVSC has offered their time to develop the documentation needed for the application. Staff plans on moving forward with
the application and designation process. Please let me know if you have any questions/concerns.

Kudos
Congratulations to Parks and Recreation employee Mike Farny who was named Alpine Coach of the Year by the Colorado High School Activities Association! Mike helped lead the Steamboat Springs High School team to a record number of athletes attending the State Championships including four who were named to All-State teams.

From the Departments
Fire
January and February 2020 Fire Monthly Summary
Notable Events:
- Steamboat Springs Fire and Rescue (SSFR) responded to 268 calls for service in January 2020 which is a decrease of 0.7% from January of 2019 and a 14.53% increase from 2015 (See Attachment 2).
- SSFR responded to 241 calls for service in February 2020 which is a slight decrease from February 2019. Total calls year to date are 509 which is also slightly lower than last year.
  - Year to date 2020 compared to 2015 shows a 18.10% increase.
- SSFR remembered the 15th anniversary of the Yampa Valley Air Ambulance crash that killed three co-workers. The remembrance took place at UC Health.
- A major snow event rolled through Winter Carnival weekend, taxing SSFR response capabilities with multiple concurrent calls and significant events.
- Pre-planning efforts for Winter Carnival came with many improvements and lessons learned regarding larger events at Howelsen Hill. An Incident Action Plan was put together with cooperation from many agencies to create a functional plan.
- Crews responded to and delivered a 28-week old baby in the ambulance, performed resuscitation efforts, and transported the baby to hospital (baby survived and is doing well).
- SSFR recognized longtime volunteer Dave Meissner for his 15 years at the department with a retirement gathering at Mountain Tap.

Fire Department Operations and Training:
- Fire Trainings: Communications, PPE Inspections, Fire Scenarios and Size-up.

Public Education Events:
- Two firefighters went to Steamboat Springs High School to teach a certification CPR class to the med prep students and a class on the proper use of fire extinguishers.
- Spanish speaking firefighter Nicholas Fernandez teamed up with the Police Department in cooperation with Integrated Communities to teach a free certification CPR/First Aid class to Spanish speaking members of the community.
- A firefighter went to Steamboat Mountain School to teach CPR/First Aid to the students.
- Two Firefighters became CPR instructors to help teach the community this life saving skill.
- The department needed to repair the Fire Extinguisher trainer. This is a very popular item and SSFR performs 20 trainings each year to different businesses and throughout the community.
- AED training at Mountain Valley Bank.
- Station tours at the Mountain Fire Station.
- Multiple Child safety seat inspections were completed.

Fire Prevention
- Fire Prevention activity for January 2020 was down 19% from January 2019 mostly due to fewer building permits. Revenue for January 2020 was up 137% over January 2019 mostly on the strength of 3 medium-sized projects with alarm and sprinkler permits.
- Fire Prevention activity for February 2020 was down 22% from February 2019 and year to date activity is down 21% compared to 2019.
- The Winter Carnival fireworks show was permitted, inspected, and witnessed and
included the successful launch of the World Record Largest Firework.

- Crew members completed several tent, stage, and food vendor inspections for Winter Wondergrass.

Finance
Accounting
Below is a report on the disposable bag program in 2019.

- From October 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019, or the first three months of collecting a Waste Reduction Fee from the four required entities in Steamboat Springs, the City has recorded $21,500 in collected revenue. This revenue represents 121,879 disposable bags distributed. While the requirement is for the market to send 15 cents of the 20 cents charged for each disposable bag sold, one of the markets has sent the City the entire 20 cents. Therefore, the average amount collected per bag is greater than 15 cents each.

- The number of bags sold in 2019 represent an 85% reduction of disposable bags that were previously distributed by these four markets. Projecting the average collected revenue during the first three months to an entire calendar year, and accounting for busier and slower months, it is likely that the City will receive close to the $100k budgeted from this revenue source in 2020.

- The City spent $51,435 launching the program in 2019. After accounting for $3,422 of revenue from taxable bag sales in 2019, we need to collect $29,935 in Waste Reduction Fees in 2020 in order to recoup 2019 expenses. It is anticipated that this amount should be collected by the end of ski season.

- Amy Camilletti and Sondra Spratta have been working on tax audits and an uptick in use tax reconciliations as construction projects are wrapping up. Both are working with the building department on the new CityView implementation in helping with workflow, setting up fees, and any technical questions that arise.

- Kim Weber, Sue Davies, and Jennifer Bock are tuning in to the Colorado Municipal League (CML) Standard Definitions Subcommittee meetings and staying apprised on the home rule municipalities efforts to maintain the standard definitions and revise as necessary. In particular, CML is working on a draft ordinance for adoption by all home rule municipalities regarding the addition of “marketplace facilitator” and “marketplace seller” to the “retailer” definition.

Budget Division

- 2019 year-end close out and carry forward supplemental has been the primary focus the past couple of months.

- Sue Davies is working with the Golf Management Committee (GMC) to plan out capital expenditures for six years similarly to the process we use for the capital projects fund. The GMC retreat is March 17, 2020 and two hours will be dedicated to the process and discussion projects.

Utility Division

- Shana Burkett and Justin Benson have been working diligently on getting the transmitters that are estimating reads replaced so that our utility customers are getting billed accurately for water usage.

- Staff recently participated in the Colorado Water Loss Initiative Stage III class held in Glenwood Springs. The billing division provides a lot of data to support the voluntary water audit so attending the training and having the operational and technical background of water delivery and distribution was immensely helpful.
Procurement and Contracting Division

Bids and RFPs currently open:
- EMS Billing and Collection Services RFP; due 3/11.
- Historic Survey of Mountain Area RFP; due 3/11.
- Mt. Werner Circle Complete Streets Segment 4b - Phase I Bid; due 3/17.
- Transit Bus Overhaul RFP; due 3/19.
- 2020 Paving Program Bid; due 3/31.
- Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan RFP; due 4/3.

Bids and RFPs closed:
- River Road Interceptor Replacement Phase 2 Bid; received three bids, contract awarded to Duckels Construction, Inc. for $1,731,127.56.
- On-Call Surveying Services RFP; received four proposals, under review.
- Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System and Implementation RFP; received six proposals, will be seeing demos from three of the proposers in April.
- Engineering Services - Downhill Drive and US 40 Intersection Improvements RFQ; received six statements, under review.
- Regional Solar Planning for Peak Power Shaving and Net Metering RFP; contract awarded to McKinstry Essention, LLC for $267,000.00.
- Steamboat Springs Redevelopment Authority Project Manager RFQ; received six statements, under review.

Bids and RFPs upcoming:
- Solar Powered Bus Shelter Lights and Community House Restoration and Rehabilitation RFP (to be issued mid-summer).

General Services

Communications
- Website visitation for February (2019 vs 2020) saw 51,289 vs 72,773 visits, 72,491 vs 93,457 page views, and 1,490 vs 1,451 searches. Top page visits for the month clicked to the Home Page, Transit, Howelsen Hill, Howelsen Ice, Lift Tickets, and Airport.
- For February, Facebook followers reached: 2,623 (City), 2,020 (Parks & Rec), 3,780 (SSFR), 323 (SST), 1,533 (Howelsen Hill), 694 (Ice Complex) and 1,516 (Haymaker). Posts with the greatest reach/engagement were Record Firework (11.9K), SSFR Promotions (2.7K), Snowstorm (2.6K) and Uniform to Uniform (1.7K)
- The city’s Twitter channel saw 25.7K impressions for February with the top posts for Winter Carnival Detours/Closures and Snowstorm. Parks and Recreation enjoyed 5.6K impressions with Emerald Firework Closure and Ski Free Sunday tweets coming in as the top posts. Instagram grew to 1,739 followers with top interaction seen from repost of nc_steamboat winter carnival photo.

IT
- Microsoft- Upgrading workstations at a rapid pace from Windows 7 to Windows 10. Approximately 50% of 250 Windows devices have been upgraded.
- Upgrade to Hyland Onbase- Implementation is re-scheduled to April to acquire latest version of software.
- Relocated all data equipment in the old Police Department building into the Facilities space on the lower level.
- AT&T FirstNet- Deploying 30 city-owned mobile phones to the Police Department personnel using the FirstNet network.
- Working with the Police Department to transfer legacy case files to evidence.com.
- Product research and demonstrations on Special Event software.
- Gearing up for the creation of a city-wide intranet to present company announcements, new, policies, and knowledgebase.
• New Server Installation- Completed the installation of three large server blades to support the implementation of CityView.

• CORE-
  o Narrowed six proposals to a short list of three.
  o Working with various team members and GFOA to finalize demo scripts for potential vendors and finalize scheduling
  o First demo scheduled for week of March 30th.

GIS
• In collaboration with County GIS, we are streamlining our process for managing City and County addresses.
• Completed GIS data updates required for the new address maintenance process.
• Provided a map for all city construction projects for 2020.
• Updated City water and sewer data.
• City GIS is participating in the CityView implementation and providing all GIS layers and property information for CityView.

***
December 13, 2019

Mr. Gary Suiter
City of Steamboat Springs
via email

Dear Gary,

In accordance with the Steamboat Springs Municipal Code, Article II, Division 1, Section 19-26, Part (a), Twin Enviro Services is requesting that you, as City Manager, immediately authorize Waste Haulers to inform customers that glass will not be accepted for recycling in the City of Steamboat Springs due to:

1. There is no local glass crusher operating in Routt County that will accept glass for recycling from commercial hauling firms.
2. We know of no commercial recycler in Colorado who will accept glass for the cost of collecting, sorting and shipping this material to a facility.
3. Glass collected in single stream breaks and contaminates other recycling material, thereby driving down its already limited value when sold to recycling facilities and end users.

Please inform us as soon as possible of your decision regarding this request.

Yours truly,

Les A. Liman
Chairman

P.O. Box 774362 • 1049 Crawford Avenue • Steamboat Springs, CO 80477
lliman@twinenviro.com • 970/875-0355W • 970/291-9357C • 815/301-2645F
Sec. 19-26. - Recycling program; removing materials from recycling containers.

(a) All commercial waste collection companies operating within the city limits of the City of Steamboat Springs shall offer to their residential customers within the city a voluntary, curbside recycling program for glass, tin, aluminum, numbers 1 and 2 plastics with necks, corrugated cardboard, and newspaper. The city manager may, upon a showing of unreasonable hardship, waive the requirements of this subsection as to any particular type of recyclable material listed in the preceding sentence. Residential customers are those customers residing in single-family homes or duplexes and receiving waste collection services at their place of residence. Commercial waste collection companies offering recycling services pursuant to this section shall not charge any fee for such service other than their fee for general waste collection services.

1) Each commercial waste collection company may establish such reasonable and industry-accepted requirements, rules, or regulations for the separation and preparation of materials for recycling as are necessary to provide for the orderly collection of recyclable materials. Requirements, rules, or regulations established under this paragraph shall be provided in written form to the company's customers.

2) Household recycling containers shall be made available by all commercial waste collection companies to their residential customers located within the city limits of the City of Steamboat Springs.

3) Commercial waste collection companies shall notify their customers in writing of the availability of recycling services for no fee other than that charged for general waste collection services. Notice shall be made within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this section to existing customers. Notice to new customers shall be made upon the initial provision of solid waste collection services to new customers.

4) Companies offering recycling services pursuant to this section shall collect recyclable materials from each customer on at least a twice monthly basis and on the same day as the day of collection of general solid waste for each customer.

(b) From the time that recyclable materials are placed at the curbside for collection or in recycling dropoff containers, the recyclable materials shall be the property of the waste collection company providing the curbside collection or the dropoff container. It shall be unlawful for any person other than the waste collection company which is the owner of the recyclable material to collect, remove, cause to be collected or removed or dispose of such recyclable materials. Each collection in violation of this section from any residence shall constitute a separate and distinct offense punishable as provided in this section.

(c) Any person convicted of violating subsection (b) of this section shall be punished by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars ($25.00) and not more than five hundred dollars ($500.00).

(Code 1975, § 8.05.077; Ord. No. 1732, § 1, 4-18-00)
12 Month Rolling Total Call Volume

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