

Dale Copeland, Bartlesville Mayor

“The past few weeks and days have seen rapid change due to the Covid-19 virus spread across the world. Our lives have been altered and the outcome is still unknown. A time of crisis and challenge is now upon us and we will rise to that challenge, as our parents and grandparents did in their times. We face a massive medical battle against an invisible and still largely unknown viral enemy.

“In the last week I participated in calls with Governor Stitt and Senator Lankford, visited with our state Representative and Senator, plus state mayors and Congressional aides. I’ve talked to mayors who have acted to a greater or lesser degree than we. I visited with local medical professionals, faith leaders, government officials, police and fire, education heads and friends and neighbors across our community. All agree this is a new and critical illness that we must overcome. Not everyone agrees to what actions should be taken, but all have a heart and commitment to our city and its people. Their outpouring of concern and support has been truly gratifying.

“Many hours have passed in discussions with our City Manager and Attorney, the Vice Mayor and others in positions of leadership. Every official in our city, especially these councilmen, devote their best efforts to keep Bartlesville on the path to safety, prosperity and success.

“We are fully aware that any decision will find detractors, on both sides. I remain keenly aware that this period of disruption will leave some without steady incomes and imperil business owners whose work and even life savings have been poured into their business. All of us will suffer dislocation and unmet needs as we strive together to beat this illness.

“Our nation, state, community and our people have always met challenges head on and this will be no different. Sadly, we will suffer loss and we will mourn. But the time to act has come and we will exert every effort to meet the call to battle this enemy called Covid-19.”