



## City of Leavenworth

700 Highway 2 / Post Office Box 287  
Leavenworth, Washington 98826  
(509) 548-5275 / Fax: (509) 548-6429  
Web: [www.cityofleavenworth.com](http://www.cityofleavenworth.com)

**City Council**  
Carl J. Florea - *Mayor*  
Carolyn Wilson  
Mia Bretz  
Sharon Waters  
Clint Strand  
Jason Lundgren  
Anne Hessburg – *Mayor Pro Tem*  
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City Administrator - *Vacant*

April 29, 2020

Community Members,

The big question of this day is... did you miss me? Actually, yesterday was the first weekday since I started writing these messages that I did not get one written. Did I have a good excuse? I think I had one that a lot of you can relate to these days. My day did not start all that well, with a couple of difficult situations I had to deal with (you know how it is... I think it is called "life"). Then there was the prep required to be ready for last night's second ever Zoom City Council meeting. And by mid-afternoon, when I was reminded that I had not written my note to the residents yet, I had already shut down my engines for a time, and quite frankly, did not have the interest or energy to get one done. My response to Sue was, "I'm taking time off for bad behavior." Back in the day we used to call it a "mental health" day. We can all use those once in a while. Part of what I have learned in my 66+ years of life is the grace to let go once in a while. The grace to not live up to demands and expectations of others, or even yourself, once in a while. We can do that! You can do that! The world will not end if you need to check out for a while. It will still turn on its axis. Even those depending on you will survive it. And you can model something very valuable to those who depend on you. You can model perspective. You can model grace. You can model that you recognize and accept your human limits, and theirs as well!

So, that is why you did not hear from me yesterday. You survived, didn't you? 😊 There will be other days that this message will fall silent. I can almost guarantee it. It's not a concern. It is a reality of having and accepting limits. How are you doing with that? Are you, in these stressful times, doing things that help you to cope with the stress? Or are you beating yourself up, adding more stress, by your refusal to let go of any of those demands upon you? I encourage you to use this time to learn. There are just SO many things that happen in this life that we cannot control. That is hard for all of us "control freaks" to accept. We are raised to be in control. That is what being an adult is all about, right? No! It's about learning what you can control, and taking that to heart, and letting go of all the rest. And what we find in times like this, (I know, there have never been times like this, but you know what I mean), is the truth that there is really a whole bunch of really BIG stuff that we simply don't control, we can't control, and we shouldn't control. But the illusion that we should somehow persists. Learning to let go, I am convinced, is one of life's biggest lessons. And it really is OK!

Well, that very bad need for an afternoon of letting go, came full circle with a City Council meeting that was actually a fun experience! What made it fun? A number of business people joined in our Zoom Council meeting. And we had a very fruitful and hopeful discussion about how the business community and the Council can work more closely and to help each other. Out of that discussion, that started with Council member Jason Lundgren's proposal to use some of the Lodging Tax reserve to aid the businesses, came a new subgroup of the Council to work with the Chamber of Commerce to figure out ways that the City can help, in concrete ways, our local businesses to get through this very difficult and threatening time. It was a great, hopeful, sign of a community coming together as one single community, not two. We do not have a business community and a residential community. We have a single Leavenworth community. Somehow, we will get stronger going through this together. And in the meantime, stay safe!



**Carl J. Florea, Mayor**

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[cflorea@cityofleavenworth.com](mailto:cflorea@cityofleavenworth.com)