

RESOLUTION 2020 - 16

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SUNNYSIDE EXTENDING THE PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY AND ADOPTING FINDINGS OF FACT AND PROCEDURES FOR MANAGING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary, Alex Azar, declared a public emergency for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) beginning on January 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee signed a Proclamation declaring a State of Emergency exists in all counties in the State of Washington due to the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the state and directed that plans and procedures of the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan be implemented; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee signed Proclamation 20-25 directing Washington residents to "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" until April 8, 2020, restricting public gatherings and travel except to buy food and supplies or to obtain medical care and medicines, and all in-person work activity not related to essential critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee signed Proclamation 20-28 temporarily suspending portions of the Open Public Meetings Act and prohibiting state and local government entities from holding in-person public meetings through April 23, 2020, and which was extended until May 4, 2020, in writing by the leadership of the State Senate and the House of Representatives on April 22, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 29, 2020, the President of the United States, Donald J. Trump, directed residents of the United States of America to observe social distancing practices through April 30, 2020, due to the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the United States and public health projections of potentially more than 100,000 deaths from COVID-19 nationwide; and

WHEREAS, on April 2, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee signed Proclamation 20-25.1 extending the "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" Executive Order and all amendments thereto until 11:59 pm on May 4, 2020; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a highly infectious disease that can result in serious respiratory illness, organ damage, and death, and more than 950 COVID-19 cases have now been confirmed in Yakima County, and Yakima County has the highest per capita rate of COVID-019 cases in the state, and disruption of important services, damage to

life, or damage to property is occurring in local municipalities, including the City of Sunnyside, from the above conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Yakima Valley Office of Emergency Management and the Yakima County Health District have declared a local health emergency and have recommended that cities in Yakima County likewise declare an emergency to manage the impacts of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Mayor Francisco Guerrero and City Manager Martin Casey issued a Proclamation of Emergency, declaring the COVID-19 pandemic to be an emergency in the City of Sunnyside pursuant to Section 38.52.010 RCW and other relevant provisions of state and federal law; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, the Sunnyside City Council ratified the Mayoral Proclamation of Emergency, declaring the COVID-19 pandemic to be an emergency in the City of Sunnyside pursuant to Section 38.52.010 RCW and other relevant provisions of state and federal law, and implemented temporary policy and procedural changes to enable the City to respond effectively to the COVID-19 emergency, expiring on April 28, 2020, unless further extended or modified by action of Council; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety and welfare of City residents, businesses, visitors and staff is of utmost importance to the City and additional future measures may be needed to protect the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1 - FINDING OF FACT

Council hereby finds that an emergency exists pursuant to RCW 38.52.070 and authorizes the City Manager to waive any necessary competitive bidding requirements related to the COVID-19 emergency and to use other emergency powers authorized by law as necessary.

SECTION 2 - CITY'S RESPONSE

- A. The City is committed to protecting the public and staff by minimizing the spread of COVID-19. The City has and will continue to follow the direction and guidelines provided by the State of Washington and the Yakima County Health Officer to best combat the spread of COVID-19.
- B. The Council authorizes the City Manager to reduce hours of service or close City Hall or other City facilities to the general public upon consultation with the Yakima Valley Office of Emergency Management and the Yakima County Health District. The City Manager shall post notice of such closure on the City's website.

- C. Residents are hereby instructed to pay utility bills, acquire licenses, submit permit applications, contact staff, and transact all other routine City business via telephone, email, drop boxes, and online, with such procedures to be posted on the City's website and/or at City facilities.
- D. The Council authorizes the City Manager to temporarily extend administrative deadlines or waive administrative penalties under the Sunnyside Municipal Code upon request due to hardship, including, but not limited to, for non-payment of license fees and permit application fees. Further, in accordance with Governor's Proclamation 20-23.2, the City shall not shut off, refuse to reconnect due to nonpayment, or charge a late fee or reconnection fee for nonpayment of City water or sewer utility services for the duration of the Proclamation or its successor directive.
- E. The City hereby restricts use of sport courts, playground equipment, restrooms, and shelters in City parks and public spaces which remain open to the public in order to minimize exposure to COVID-19.
- F. The City shall cancel any City-permitted community events and discourage any unnecessary gatherings of community members and/or staff for the duration specified in Proclamation 20-25.1 extending the Governor's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" Executive Order or its successor directive.

SECTION 3 - COUNCIL PROCEDURES

During the term of this Resolution, the following amendments to City Council procedures are hereby adopted:

- A. Any rule or procedure adopted by City Council that would prevent or prohibit all City Councilmembers from attending City Council meetings telephonically are temporarily suspended and all City Councilmembers must attend all meetings via telephone or online conferencing application for the duration specified in Governor's Proclamation 20-28 or its successor directive.
- B. All in-person Subcommittee meetings of the City Council are cancelled for the duration specified in Governor's Proclamation 20-28 or its successor directive. Council and subcommittee meetings may be held telephonically or online conferencing application regardless of whether the City has the capability to record meetings.
- C. In-person public attendance at City Council meetings is prohibited for the duration specified in Governor's Proclamation 20-28 or its successor directive. City Council and staff will encourage and accept public comment via email or written comment.
- D. All in-person meetings of City advisory Boards and Commissions are cancelled for the duration specified in Governor's Proclamation 20-28 or its successor directive. Board and Commission meetings may be held telephonically or online conferencing application regardless of whether the City has the capability to record meetings.

E. Any Council rules that are inconsistent with this Resolution are hereby suspended for the term of this Resolution.

SECTION 4 - BUDGET

During the term of this Resolution, Council adopts the following budget restrictions:

- A. A hiring freeze is hereby implemented on all positions funded by any City governmental fund, unless the City Manager determines in writing by notice to City Council that the hire is necessary for the continued provision of essential services to the public.
- B. All unobligated non-essential equipment replacements are hereby suspended, unless the replacement is completely funded by grants or City enterprise utility funds.
- C. Council hereby encourages the expenditure of funds for acquiring any necessary technology to facilitate employees to work from home in situations where such remote work is possible, available, and approved by the City Manager and Department Head overseeing the relevant department. Any such expenditures should either be within current budget allocations or brought to Council for approval.
- D. All staff time and supplies or equipment purchases dedicated to emergency responses related to the COVID-19 pandemic shall be tracked to allow for potential federal or state reimbursement.

SECTION 5 - COMMUNICATION

- A. All updates regarding City functions and actions relating to the COVID-19 epidemic will be posted on the City's website to provide the public with up-to-date information.

SECTION 6 - EFFECTIVENESS

The provisions of this Resolution shall become effective upon adoption and expire on May 31, 2020, unless further extended or modified by formal action of Council.

INTRODUCED, PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUNNYSIDE on this 27th day of April, 2020.

Dated this 27th day of April, 2020.



FRANCISCO GUERRERO, MAYOR

ATTEST:


JACQUELINE RENTERIA, CITY CLERK