

RESOLUTION 2021 - 19

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, COVID-19 is a highly infectious disease that can result in serious illness and death, and more than 31,700 COVID-19 cases and 425 deaths have now been confirmed in Yakima County, 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, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary, Alex Azar, declared a public emergency for 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 COVID-19 and directed that plans and procedures of the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan be implemented; 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, Governor Jay Inslee issued Proclamations 20-25, et seq., which initially prohibited all people in Washington State from leaving their homes except under certain circumstances and then gradually relaxed those limitations according to metrics provided by the Secretary of Health; and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee signed Proclamation 20-28 temporarily suspending portions of the Open Public Meetings Act and restricting state and local government entities from holding in-person public meetings, and which was subsequently extended by the State Legislature until the end of the declared pandemic emergency; and

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

WHEREAS, the Washington State Department of Health subsequently implemented a "Roadmap to Recovery" plan and in May 2021 announced plans to ease restrictions related to occupancy and physical distancing effective June 30, 2021, while retaining requirements for facemasks for persons who are not fully vaccinated in certain settings; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, April 27, May 26, July 27, September 28, and December 14, 2020, February 22, 2021, and April 26, 2021 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 June 30, 2021, 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 under the Roadmap to Recovery plan or its successor orders and the Yakima County Health Officer to best combat the spread of COVID-19.
- B. The Council authorizes the City Manager to restore regular hours of service and public access to City Hall and other City facilities effective July 1, 2021. In the event the State or County subsequently re-impose stricter capacity restrictions, the City Manager shall take appropriate actions to comply with applicable public health orders and post notice of such restrictions on the City's website.

- C. Residents are hereby encouraged 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. In accordance with Governor's Proclamation 20-23, 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. The City Manager may temporarily extend administrative deadlines for payment of utility bills or offer payment plans due to economic hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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. City Councilmembers may attend Council meetings or Council Subcommittee meetings in person or via telephone or online conferencing application in compliance with the state's "Miscellaneous Venues" guidance for business meetings for the duration specified in Governor's Proclamation 20-28 and the Roadmap to Recovery plan or their successors.
- B. The public may attend City Council meetings in person or via telephone or online conferencing application in compliance with the state's "Miscellaneous Venues" guidance for business meetings for the duration specified in Governor's Proclamation 20-28 and the Roadmap to Recovery plan or their successors. City Council and staff will encourage and accept public comment via email, written comment, or via online conferencing application.
- C. City advisory Board and Commission members and the public may attend Board and Commission meetings in person or via telephone or online conferencing application in compliance with the state's "Miscellaneous Venues" guidance for business meetings for the duration specified in Governor's Proclamation 20-28 and the Roadmap to Recovery plan or their successors
- D. Council, Council Subcommittee, Board, and Commission meetings may be held telephonically or via 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. All funds received through Federal, State, or County COVID-19 relief programs shall be administered and tracked in accordance with applicable Federal, State, or County law and/or regulations to assure transparency and accountability.

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 August 31, 2021, 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 28th day of June, 2021.



FRANCISCO GUERRERO, MAYOR

ATTEST:



JACQUELINE RENTERIA, CITY CLERK