



PROCLAMATION OF CIVIL EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Public 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 the plans and procedures for the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan be implemented; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization publicly characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Governor Inslee announced a statewide public and private K-12 school closure effective Tuesday, March 17 through April 24, 2020 in an effort to stop the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on that same day, the Governor also restricted colleges and universities to on-line only courses; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Governor ordered closure of all bars, entertainment, and recreational facilities, limiting restaurants to takeout and delivery service only; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's order also prohibited all gatherings of 50 or more people, and strongly discouraged gatherings of fewer than 50 people unless social distancing measures are implemented; and

WHEREAS, the Governor further requested that all persons practice social distancing and cancel all unnecessary meetings in order to help prevent the spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) released information identifying people over the age of 60 and those with chronic conditions as persons who are more at risk of infection; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and poses a high risk of transmission from person-to-person; and

WHEREAS, while as of the date of this proclamation there are no confirmed COVID-19 cases in Clallam County, Sequim has a large population of elderly people and others who may be more at risk of infection; and

WHEREAS, the economic conditions resulting from COVID-19 closures and restrictions will negatively impact our community, and specifically the City's utility customers; and

WHEREAS, maintaining economic stability during and after an emergency is critical for city businesses, residents, and the organization; and

WHEREAS, the City Council deems it in the public interest to give staff authority to develop and implement economic relief to certain businesses and residents as staff deem fiscally and legally appropriate; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 constitutes an emergency as defined by the City of Sequim Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and necessitates the utilization of emergency powers granted pursuant to Sequim Municipal Code 2.60, RCW 35A.38.010, and RCW 38.52.070(2); and

WHEREAS, the City Council deems it in the public interest to cancel any unnecessary board and / or commission meetings during the time of emergency;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it proclaimed by the City Manager that a civil local emergency exists in relation to the COVID-19 response in the City of Sequim; therefore, City of Sequim departments are authorized to do the following:

- 1) Suspend public works bidding and purchasing requirements and enter into contracts and incur obligations necessary to combat such emergency situations to protect the health and safety of persons and property; and
- 2) Open and close City facilities as may be appropriate to respond to the pandemic; and
- 3) Modify business hours of City facilities as deemed appropriate by the Manager; and
- 4) Take other emergency actions to protect life and property, as appropriate; and
- 5) Use emergency funding, budgeting, and contracting provisions as appropriate; and
- 6) Develop and implement creative solutions to provide relief to those impacted by the economic implications as deemed fiscally and legally appropriate; and
- 7) Call out and use City personnel as needed in accordance with the City's Personnel Policy Manual and Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and employ temporary workers as may be needed; and
- 8) Extend all powers and authorities contained in this proclamation to the Interim City Manager if the emergency declaration remains in place after the current City Manager leaves employment.

It is the City's policy that no guarantees are implied by actions authorized above, and that there is no perfect emergency response system. In any given set of circumstances, the City of Sequim and its assets and systems may be overwhelmed, and the City can only try to make every reasonable effort to respond, based upon the situation, information, and resources available at that time.

Each City of Sequim department is authorized to exercise the powers vested under this proclamation in light of the exigencies of an extreme emergency situation without regard to time-consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law (excepting mandatory constitutional requirements), such as publication of notices, renting equipment, etc.

The emergency declared herein is effective immediately upon the date of adoption and will continue and remain in place until terminated, extended, or amended by further Proclamation of the City Manager and/or City Council action.

This Proclamation was confirmed by the City Council on this 16th day of March, 2020.



Charles P. Bush, City Manager

Attest:



Sara McMillon, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Kristina Nelson-Gross, City Attorney