

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-08

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELECTRIC CITY RATIFYING RESOLUTION OF EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING TEMPORARY PROCEDURES TO RESPOND TO THE COVID-19 EPIDEMIC.

Recitals:

1. On March 5, 2020, the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) confirmed the first case of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Grant County, Washington, and the Grant County Health District and the Washington State Department of Health have since worked to identify, contact, monitor and test others in Grant County potentially exposed to COVID-19 in coordination with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and

2. COVID-19, a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person to person; and

3. The CDC identifies the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 both globally and in the United States as "very high," and has advised that person-to-person spread of COVID-19 will continue to occur globally, including within the United States and Grant County; and

4. The DOH currently indicates there are over 301,372 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Washington State and 4,388 fatalities, and the DOH confirmed localized person-to-person spread of COVID-19 in Washington State, significantly increasing the risk of exposure and infection to Washington State's general public creating an extreme public health risk that may spread quickly; and

5. 5,313 confirmed cases exist in Grant County, COVID-19 already caused the death of 60 Grant County resident, and the effects of its extreme risk of person-to-person transmission throughout Grant County may significantly impact the life and health of our people, as well as our economy, and is a public health disaster that affects life, health, property, or the public peace; and

6. On January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public health emergency for COVID-19, beginning January 27, 2020; and

7. On February 29, 2020, Washington State Governor Jay Inslee proclaimed a public health emergency for COVID-19, beginning February 29, 2020; and

8. On March 2, 2020, the Grant County Health District activated its District Operations Center to manage their response to the COVID-19 cases; and

9. On March 12th, 2020, the Grant County Health Officer proclaimed a countywide public health emergency (Per RCW 70.05.070) for COVID-19; and

10. On March 13, 2020, the Grant County Board of Commissioners declared a State of Emergency in Grant County, beginning March 13, 2020; and

11. There is an emergency present which necessitates activation of the Grant County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and utilization of emergency powers granted pursuant to chapter 38.52 RCW and Grant County Code (GCC) 2.32; and

12. On March 19, 2020, Mayor Kohout issued a Proclamation of Emergency, declaring COVID-19 pandemic to be an emergency in the City of Electric City pursuant to Section 38.52.010 RCW and other relevant provisions of state, local, and federal law.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Electric City, Washington, that:

Section 1. Ratification and Findings of Fact.

Council ratified the Proclamation of Emergency issued by Mayor Kohout for the City of Electric City on March 19, 2020. Council further found that an emergency exists pursuant to Section 39.04.280(2)(b)RCW and authorized the Mayor to waive any necessary competitive bidding requirements related to the COVID-19 emergency.

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 guidelines provided by the State of Washington and the Grant County Health Officer, who prescribe social distancing and minimizing gatherings of people to best combat the spread of COVID-19.

B. The City closed City Hall to the public on Friday, March 20, 2020 and City Hall will remain closed to the public until further notice. Citizens may pay utility bills, acquire licenses, submit permit applications, contact staff, and transact other City business via telephone, email, and online. The City has created procedures to allow curbside pickup and drop-off for certain City processes, with such procedures posted on the City's website.

C. The City will increase its efforts to sanitize public spaces which remain open to the public to minimize exposure to COVID-19.

Section 3. Council Procedures.

During the terms 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 Council members from attending City Council meetings telephonically are temporarily suspended and all City Council members are encouraged to attend all meetings via telephone.

B. All in-person Committee meetings of the City Council are cancelled. Council and Committee meetings may be held telephonically during the term of this Resolution regardless of whether the City has the capability of recordings meetings on video.

C. Council directs that the public comments and reports portion of Council meetings and any scheduled public hearings be temporarily suspended to discourage public in-person attendance of City Council meetings. City Council and staff will encourage and accept public comment and reports via email or written comment.

D. Any Council rules that are inconsistent with this Resolution are hereby waived and suspended during 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 Mayor 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 non-essential equipment replacements are hereby suspended, unless the replacement is completely funded by grants or City enterprise 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 Mayor 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 dedicated to emergency health responses related to the COVID-19 pandemic must be tracked to allow for FEMA reimbursement.

Section 5. Effectiveness.

The provisions of this Resolution shall become effective upon adoption and will extend until the termination of the state of emergency pursuant to RCW 43.06.210, or until rescinded by gubernatorial or legislative action, whichever occurs first, unless further extended by formal action of Council.

INTRODUCED, PASSED, AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELECTRIC CITY on this 9th day of February 2021.



Diane Kohout, Mayor

ATTEST:



Peggy Nevsimal, City Clerk/Treasurer