

CITY OF COMFREY, MN
CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 004-20

RESOLUTION DECLARING A LOCAL EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019, commonly known as “COVID-19,” which is a respiratory disease that can result in serious injury or death, is spreading globally and has been identified by the World Health Organization (“WHO”) as a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a National Emergency; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has been confirmed to exist and be spreading within the State of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Governor Tim Walz declared a Peacetime State of Emergency to authorize any and all necessary resources to be used in support of the COVID-19 response; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, Governor Tim Walz issued an executive order - Providing for Temporary Closure of Bars, Restaurants, and Other Places of Public Accommodation; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 12.29 authorizes the Mayor of the City of Comfrey to declare a local emergency, and further provides that the state of local emergency may not be continued for a period in excess of three days except by or with the consent of the City Council of the City of Comfrey; and

WHEREAS, the United States Center for Disease Control (“CDC”) and Minnesota Department of Health (“MDH”) have advised that aggressive community mitigation strategies are necessary to slow the transmission of COVID-19, reduce illness and deaths, and limit the economic impacts of the outbreak; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic is an unforeseen, present, sudden, and unexpected situation, which requires immediate action to be taken to prevent damage to the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the City of Comfrey; and

WHEREAS, implementation of basic precautions of infection control and prevention, including staying home when ill and practicing respiratory and hand hygiene are necessary to slow or prevent the spread of COVID-19 and

WHEREAS, the City Council called for and held an emergency council meeting on March 19, 2020 at the Comfrey Community Center to discuss the response to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Comfrey City Council and personnel find that this situation threatens the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the community and will cause a significant impact on the

ability of public safety personnel to address any immediate dangers to the public as a result of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that traditional sources of financial aid, assistance and relief will not be able to compensate for the potential impact of COVID-19, and have determined that the necessary resources to respond to and recover from this pandemic will exceed those resources available within the City of Comfrey, and additional resources will be needed from Brown & Cottonwood County and state and federal sources.

WHEREAS, the necessary resources to respond to and recover from this pandemic will likely exceed those resources available within the City, and additional resources may be needed from other cities, counties, the state and federal sources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Comfrey, Minnesota, that:

1. By signing this Resolution, Mayor Gary Richter declares that the COVID-19 pandemic constitutes a local emergency within the City of Comfrey, effective March 19, 2020, with all the powers and responsibilities attending thereto as provided in Minn. Stat. Ch. 12, and as otherwise provided for in the City of Comfrey, City Code and Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).
2. The City Council, by adopting this Resolution, agrees with the Mayor's declaration of a local emergency within the City of Comfrey and hereby extends such state of local emergency until such time as this resolution is rescinded by the City Council.
3. The Mayor and City Council hereby support City staff in their ongoing review of City ordinances, regulatory requirements, operations, practices, events, and resources to determine whether the foregoing should be adjusted or suspended, and to make recommendations regarding additional emergency regulations to support the employees and residents of the City of Comfrey.
4. The Mayor and City Council hereby support City staff in their ongoing operations and support the response to this incident, under the direction and coordination of the Clerk/Treasurer and Public Works Superintendent, including implementing new employee protocols, strategies, and processes to ensure that public services are maintained while best protecting the health, safety and welfare of the public and the City's employees.
5. The Mayor and City Council hereby support the City's Clerk/Treasurer and other appropriate City staff to request and coordinate appropriate aid and resources from surrounding jurisdictions, cities, counties, the State of Minnesota, and the Federal government, as needed.
6. The Mayor and City Council hereby declares, under Minn. Stat. § 13D.021, that in-person meetings of the City Council and its subcommittees, and other advisory boards and commissions of the City of Comfrey may not be practical or prudent due to the COVID-19

health pandemic and the peacetime emergency declared by Governor Walz pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 12, and hereby directs that meetings of the City Council and its subcommittees and other advisory boards and commissions of the City may be conducted by telephone or other electronic means, and hereby authorizes the Clerk/Treasurer to take such action as may be necessary to enable such meetings to occur via telephone or other electronic means pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.021, until such time as it is no longer impractical or imprudent for the City Council and other advisory board or commission to resume in-person meetings. In person meetings for the period specified herein shall be limited to meetings that are required by state law, or City Code or are otherwise determined necessary and prudent by the Clerk/Treasurer in consultation with the Mayor.

7. The Mayor and City Council hereby orders that this declaration be given prompt and general publicity and that it be filed promptly by the Clerk/Treasurer.

This Motion for Resolution to extend the emergency declaration made by Councilperson Kastner was seconded by Councilperson Arnsdorf, and upon a vote being taken, the following voted in favor:

Mayor Richter, Darlene Arnsdorf, Susan Evers, Rick Kastner, and Wayne Redman.

The following voted against the same:

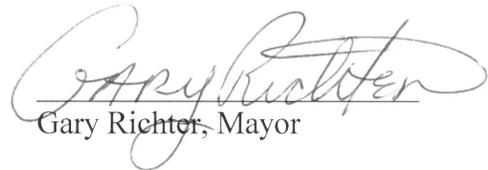
The following abstained:

The following were absent:

Adopted by the Council this 19th day of March, 2020.

ATTEST


Tammy Kelly, Clerk/Treasurer


Gary Richter, Mayor