

## RESOLUTION NO. 20-004

A RESOLUTION confirming the adoption of the ‘Support Local and Save’ program.

WHEREAS, Governor Jay Inslee in Amending Proclamation 20-23.1, strongly encouraged all utilities to take reasonable actions to mitigate the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on their utility customers caused by this crisis, including but not limited to: acting to prevent disconnection of services due to non-payment during the term of the state-wide emergency declaration; waiving late payments and fees; and using payment plans to fulfill customer outstanding balances. Governor further “strongly encourage municipal and public utility boards and commissions to delegate authority to senior utility executives to take any and all actions necessary or appropriate to mitigate the economic impacts to their utility customers to address the COVID-19 crisis”; and

WHEREAS, the Attorney General of Washington on March 17, 2020 provided guidance on “Analyzing Issues Related to Gifts of Public Funds During the COVID-19 Pandemic”. In this analysis, the Attorney General noted “protecting public health is without question a fundamental purpose of government” as well as the “promotion of the public welfare” provides a “strong basis for state and local governments to make expenditures for the primary purpose of protecting and promoting public health which may have an incidental benefit on private citizens and entities.”

WHEREAS, RCW 35.92.020(5) authorizes cities to provide assistance to aid low-income persons in connection with services provided under RCW 35.92 and RCW 35.67.020(5) and Article 8 Section 7 of the state constitution permits “gifts” of public funds in support of “poor or infirm”; and

WHEREAS, disruptions to workers and small businesses are serious, as small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and provide the foundation of employment, services for the community, and revenue in order for cities and other public agencies to continue to provide essential services for the public welfare and benefit; and

WHEREAS, citizens are required to practice social distancing, which is a benefit to public health, but could present a detriment to ongoing business operations with the decrease in customer numbers; and

WHEREAS, state agencies and partners are working to swiftly respond to the economic impact that the COVID-19 pandemic is having on Washington State; and

WHEREAS, small business plays a vital role in the overall health and welfare of Camas’ citizens; and

WHEREAS, resources are necessary to help small businesses survive and certain small businesses reasonably require public aid in order to survive; and

WHEREAS, incentives to Camas residents to support local small businesses will generate higher sales tax receipts to the City; and

WHEREAS, the Camas City Council recognizes that one of its essential functions is to promote public health by mitigating the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on their utility customers and the City Council has the authority to designate General Fund resources including sales tax toward such functions; and

WHEREAS, on April 10, 2020 the Mayor announced the adoption by the City Finance Department of a program known as ‘Support Local and Save’ relating to certain utility billing reductions as incentives for Camas residents to frequent local business;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CAMAS AS FOLLOWS:

I

The Camas City Council hereby confirms the adoption of the “Support Local and Save” program which encourages residents to shop and dine in local small businesses in the City pursuant to the terms as set forth within the attached Exhibit A.

II

The City Council shall at a future date within this fiscal year appropriate an increase in sales tax to fund utility billing discounts occasioned by the ‘Support Local and Save’ program

III

The ‘Support Local and Save’ program as adopted shall be in effect through the term of the Emergency Proclamation issued by the Mayor dated March 18, 2020.

ADOPTED at a regular Council meeting this 20th day of April, 2020.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

APPROVED as to form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney