



REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL ACTION

Meeting Date: April 21, 2020

AGENDA ITEM	ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT:	PRESENTED BY:
NO. 5.a.	Administration	Drew Nelson

ITEM:

Declaration of Extension of State of Local Emergency – COVID-19 Action Plan Implementation

BACKGROUND:

As we are all quite aware, the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic has created an environment where federal, state and local governments Article XVII, Section 2-17-10 of the Salida Municipal Code states that when it appears to the Mayor that the general health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the City are threatened, he or she may declare a state of emergency by proclamation. After conferring with the Chaffee County Health Department, on Friday, March 13th, 2020, such an emergency declaration was approved by Mayor Wood to approve the City of Salida COVID-19 Action Plan. The City Council ratified the emergency declaration on March 17th, 2020, extending until April 25th, 2020. This Action Plan provides for a tiered response to local conditions and will be evaluated on a constant basis going forward. The Action Plan is attached for your review.

Section 2-17-30 establishes a term of no more than ten (10) days of for any emergency declaration. It also provides that the City Council may extend any proclamation issued by the Mayor for a period not to exceed forty (40) days by a two-thirds (2/3) vote. As the spread of COVID-19 continues, it is imperative that the City continues to follow the protocols established in the Action Plan. As the first declaration comes to an end, it is important to extend the Local State of Emergency until at least the next regular City Council meeting, currently scheduled for May 5th.

FISCAL NOTE:

No direct costs immediately; however, costs may be incurred as this ever-evolving situation goes forward.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval by the City Council of a Declaration of Extension of Local State of Emergency to implement the City of Salida's COVID-19 Action Plan, as currently established, until at least May 6th, which is one day after the next regular City Council meeting.

SUGGESTED MOTIONS:

A City Councilmember should make a motion to approve a Declaration of extension of Local State of Emergency to implement the City of Salida's COVID-19 Action Plan, extending until May 6, 2020, followed by a second and a roll call vote.

**CITY OF SALIDA, COLORADO
EXTENDING A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY
REGARDING COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019)**

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a highly contagious virus that has spread to numerous countries throughout the world, including the United States; and

WHEREAS, the virus may cause serious illness or death in certain cases, particularly for elderly and persons with underlying health conditions; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (“WHO”) declared the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 a “global pandemic”, pushing the threat beyond the “global health emergency” it had announced in January; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the Governor of the State of Colorado declared a state of emergency due to the presence of COVID-19 in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners of Chaffee County declared a Local Disaster Emergency as authorized under C.R.S. § 24-33.5-703(3) to assist local governments in responding to and recovering from emergency events, including emergency epidemics and pandemics; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the Salida City Council unanimously approved an initial Local State of Emergency regarding COVID-19, extending until April 25th, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Chaffee County Public Health Department anticipates that, due to the contagiousness of the illness and the fact that numerous travelers from around the world visit the County, Chaffee County will see cases of the virus and its transmission within the community; and

WHEREAS, Article XVII, Section 2-17-10 of the Salida Municipal Code authorizes the Mayor to declare a State of Emergency via proclamation when it appears that the general health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the City are threatened by general public unrest or riot, or by attack upon the State; and

WHEREAS, Article XVII, Section 2-17-30 allows for the City Council to extend any proclamation issued by the Mayor under Section 2-17-10 to be extended for a period not to exceed forty (40) days by a two-thirds (2/3) vote; and

WHEREAS, the initial State of Local Emergency proclamation will expire on April 25th, which does not coincide with the Governor of the State of Colorado’s stay-at-home order, which currently is extended until April 26th; and

WHEREAS, the cost and magnitude of responding to and recovering from the impact of the COVID-19 virus on local emergency services providers and medical services is anticipated to be far in excess of the community’s available resources; and

WHEREAS, in response to the outbreak of COVID-19 in Chaffee County and the Salida community, and in light of the ongoing risk to public health and safety, at this time it is necessary to extend the existing Local State of Emergency.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DECLARED BY THE SALIDA CITY COUNCIL:

Section 1. The confirmed presence of COVID-19 in Chaffee County constitutes a Local State of Emergency, as defined in Article XVII, Section 2-17-10 of the Salida Municipal Code, not to exceed a term of forty (40) days.

Section 2. The effect of this declaration of Local State of Emergency shall continue the City's COVID-19 Action Plan, attached hereto as Exhibit A, authorizing a tiered approach to proactively respond to changes in the COVID-19 situation as well as reflect the recommendations of our Federal, State, and Local Health Departments.

Section 3. This declaration shall be made effective immediately on April 21, 2020, and shall be in effect until May 6th, 2020.

APPROVED, DECLARED AND ADOPTED on this 21st day of April, 2020.

CITY OF SALIDA, COLORADO

[SEAL]

ATTEST:

P.T. Wood, Mayor
City of Salida, Colorado

City Clerk



CITY OF SALIDA – COVID-19 ACTION PLAN

Purpose: To provide a comprehensive and tiered Action Plan to City of Salida officials in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This Action Plan is intended to slowly escalate to proactively respond to changes in the situation as well as reflect the recommendations of our State and local Public Health Departments. This Action Plan is effective March 13, 2020, until further notice.

Authority: Per Sections 2-17-10 and 2-17-20 of the Salida Municipal Code, when it appears to the Mayor that the general health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the City are threatened, he or she may declare a state of emergency proclamation. The proclamation may impose a curfew within the City, may prohibit public or private assemblies, may impose restrictions on movement within the City and may contain other regulations necessary and proper to the maintenance of public peace, order and safety.

Tier I

Heightened Awareness. The CDC and local health authorities have indicated that COVID-19 is in the U.S. and are encouraging citizens to be aware and to focus on sanitization and hygiene.

- Encourage employees to stay home if sick or to go home if exhibiting symptoms while at work. Employees will continue to use sick leave.
 - Identify work spaces where employees can temporarily isolate if they are awaiting transportation to their home or medical care.
 - Wash hands often, also use hand sanitizer often.
 - Cover mouth with arm/elbow if coughing.
 - Heightened amount of environmental sanitation – Lysol, wipes, environmental germicide sprays, etc.
 - Employees should refrain from traveling to conferences and/or meetings in other parts of the Country where cases of COVID-19 are expanding.
 - Acquire/Inspect/Issue Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to selected City Staff (gloves, masks, etc.).
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Tier II

Statewide Concern. The Colorado Department of Health and Environment (CDPHE) have indicated multiple cases of COVID-19 within the State of Colorado. When directed by the Mayor, City Administrator, or their delegate, the City will move its response to Tier II which, in addition to Phase I steps, include:

- Trial Teleworking and staggered shifts authorized. Departments should, on a very limited basis, begin to set up telework sites for a limited number of employees to lessen the impact on Tech Services.
 - Employees should refrain of physical contact with each other and with members of the public (i.e. handshakes, hugging, etc.). CDC recommends a 6' distance of separation.
 - Employees should limit or eliminate any outside agency meeting attendance, unless able to be done remotely.
 - City Departments should begin to limit internal meetings.
 - Employees who self-identify as high risk (having compromised immune systems, for example) should work from home. If sick, no sick leave required – will treat as regular time. This provision would temporarily suspend Section 3.5.E. of the City of Salida Personnel Manual requiring medical certification of illness. This includes any part-time employees currently ineligible for sick leave.
 - The City will take direction from State and Local Health authorities.
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Tier III

Chaffee County Concern. Chaffee County Health has indicated multiple cases of COVID-19 within the Region. When directed by the Mayor, City Administrator, or their delegate, the City will move its response to Tier III which, in addition to Phase II steps, include:

- Employees will be directed to stay home (or go home) if they or any family member they live with is exhibiting any symptoms, or if they are high risk. Employees staying home will not be required to use sick leave, but will treat it as regular pay. This provision would temporarily suspend Section 3.5.E. of the City of Salida Personnel Manual requiring medical certification of illness. This includes any part-time employees currently ineligible for sick leave.
- Elimination of any City meetings or events (unless able to be done remotely). Recreation programs shut down, including closure of Salida Hot Springs Aquatic Center, the SteamPlant Event Center, and the Rotary Scout Hut. Specific closure dates shall be established by Department Heads and announced via press release.
- Teleworking and staggered shifts authorized. Departments will continue to roll out additional measures or plans to allow employees to work remotely, when feasible.
- Departments must take additional steps they have identified to limit exposure between employees and between employees and members of the public.

- City buildings reduced staffing authorized. Departments will take steps to ensure City Buildings are minimally staffed, but public spaces are very limited.
 - Heightened level of sanitization of spaces including additional germicide spraying.
 - Selected City Staff have PPE on hand and begin utilization, as appropriate.
 - Public events (other than official meetings of City boards) scheduled to take place in City-owned facilities are suspended until further notice. The Salida community is strongly encouraged to engage in social distancing and to postpone or cancel any gatherings where people will congregate in large numbers and/or in close contact with one another.
 - Other steps as directed by State and Local Health authorities.
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Tier IV

Full implementation of Response Plan. Tier IV may occur at such time as Chaffee County Public Health recommends regionwide social spacing, or schools are shut down, or at such other time as Salida deems it to be in the best interest of the organization and/or community. When directed by the Mayor, City Administrator, or their delegate, the City will move its response to Tier IV which, in addition to Phase III steps, include:

- City Buildings minimally staffed, no public access. Public will be directed to conduct business online, if feasible, or by phone. Non-essential services (City Hall Administration, City Hall Finance, Fire Station Administration, Police Station Administration, Public Works Administration) are closed to the public. Public is encouraged to use digital and telephone communication, website access, online payments, and other ways of communication to conduct business with the City.
 - Departments will fully enact Departmental plans. Teleworking options and staggered shift work maximized. Only essential services ongoing, unless able to be provided through employees working remotely.
 - Incident Command may be set up locally or in coordination with County Authorities.
 - Selected City Staff mandatory use of PPE.
 - Other steps as directed by State and Local Health authorities, including support of their efforts.
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Mayor P.T. Wood is encouraging the greater Salida and Chaffee County community to work together during this time. “It is imperative that we understand the impact of this pandemic on our community, and we know that collective action on preventative hygiene and minimizing social gatherings will significantly reduce the long-term impacts on Salida,” he said. “These short-term measures will build upon our resiliency and strength. We have one goal in mind – to mitigate the possible spread of the disease and avoid a longer-term risk to our community. The City of Salida is asking your cooperation in proactively implementing these measures.”
