

**CITY OF STEVENSON
RESOLUTION NO. 2020-360**

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

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 of the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan be implemented; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020 Governor Jay Inslee issued an additional Emergency Proclamation ordering that all events that takes place in King, Snohomish, and Pierce counties with more than 250 people are prohibited by the state. The order applies to gatherings for social, spiritual and recreational activities. These include but are not limited to: community, civic, public, leisure, faith-based, or sporting events; parades; concerts; festivals; conventions; fundraisers and similar activities; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, Washington State Governor Jay Inslee announced that all K-12 public and private schools in Washington State must close for six weeks, from March 17, 2020 until at least April 24, 2020 and extended the ban on gatherings with more than 250 people to the entire state; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, Washington State Governor Jay Inslee announced that all restaurants, bars, and entertainment and recreational facilities in Washington State must close and all gatherings of 50 people or more are prohibited for two weeks weeks, from March 17, 2020 until at least March 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the Skamania County Board of Commissioners declared a public health emergency to allow Skamania County to take immediate steps necessary to prepare and respond appropriately to the outbreak; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, Mayor Scott Anderson issued an Emergency Proclamation, declaring the COVID-19 pandemic to be an emergency in the City of Stevenson pursuant to Section 38.52.010 RCW and other relevant provisions of state and federal law; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has severely impacted the local economy, resulting in many employees working from home, the cancellation of numerous public events, significant reductions in tourism and demand at restaurants, coffee shops and other local businesses, increased employee lay-offs, and reduction in work-hours; and

WHEREAS, the social distancing and self-isolation mitigation measures needed to slow the spread of COVID-19 will likely result in continued reductions in employment and household income, thereby leaving large numbers of residential tenants unable to pay bills such as

utilities and rent, increasing the risk of eviction and utility shut-off; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety and welfare of City residents, businesses, visitors and staff is of utmost importance to the City and additional future measures may be needed to protect the community.

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

SECTION 1- RATIFICATION AND FINDING OF FACT

Council hereby ratifies the Emergency Proclamation issued by Mayor Scott Anderson for the City of Stevenson on March 17, 2020. Council further finds that an emergency exists pursuant to Section 39.04.280(2)(b) RCW and authorizes 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 Skamania County Health Officer, who prescribe social distancing and minimizing gatherings of people to best combat the spread of COVID-19.
- B. The City will close City Hall to the general public beginning Friday, March 20, 2020 and 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 will allow for curbside pickup and drop-off. Appointments can also be made by contacting City Hall.
- C. The City will increase efforts to sanitize parks and public spaces which remain open to the public to minimize exposure to COVID-19.

SECTION 3 - COUNCIL PROCEDURES

During the term 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 Councilmembers from attending City Council meetings remotely are temporarily suspended and all City Councilmembers are encouraged to attend all meetings remotely.
- B. All in-person Committee meetings of the City Council are cancelled. Council and committee meetings may be held remotely during the term of this Resolution.
- C. Council directs that the public comment 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 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 – PAYMENT COLLECTION

- A. All collection processes for non-payment of utility or other accounts owing are hereby suspended. Customers will have six months from the expiration of this resolution to become current on their account without added fees or enforcement action, up to and including water shut-off or property liens.

SECTION 5 - COMMUNICATION

- A. All updates regarding City functions and actions relating to the COVID-19 epidemic will be posted on the City's website to provide the public with the best updated information.
- B. The City will cancel and discourage any unnecessary gatherings of community members and/or staff during the Term of this Resolution.

SECTION 6 - EFFECTIVENESS

The provisions of this Resolution shall become effective upon adoption and expire on April 28, 2020 unless further extended by formal action of Council.

PASSED by the Council of the City of Stevenson this 19th day of March, 2020.

Scott Anderson, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Leana Kinley, City Clerk

Kenneth B Woodrich, PC
City Attorney