

RESOLUTION NO. 20-05-R
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HANFORD
DECLARING THE EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY (COVID-19)

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a respiratory disease that may result in serious illness or death and is easily transmittable from person to person; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Public Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public emergency associated with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) beginning on January 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 2, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency in the State of California due to the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the State; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the California Department of Public Health issued guidelines regarding gatherings “to protect public health and slow the rate of transmission of COVID-19”; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-25-20, which mandates that “all residents are to heed any orders and guidance of state and local public health officials, including, but not limited to the imposition of social distancing measures, to control the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, as of 6:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time on March 14, 2020, there were a total of 335 COVID-19 cases and six deaths in California, with 11,700 people in 49 local health jurisdictions who were self-monitoring; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has and will continue to cause conditions of peril to the health, safety, and welfare of persons and property in the City of Hanford; and

WHEREAS, preparing for, responding to, mitigating, and recovering from the spread of COVID-19 requires the City to divert resources from normal day-to-day operations and has and will continue to impose extraordinary requirements on and will result in expenses to the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council hereby finds that the above-described conditions related to the COVID-19 outbreak warrant and necessitate the declaration of a local emergency in the City of Hanford.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Hanford City Council declares the following:

1. A local emergency now exists throughout the City of Hanford.

2. During the existence of the local emergency described herein, the powers, functions, and duties of the emergency organization of the City shall be those prescribed by state laws and by ordinances and resolutions of the City, including, without limitation, Hanford Municipal Code Chapter 2.44.
3. During the existence of the local emergency described herein, the City shall observe all directives, mandates, Executive Orders, and any other emergency-related restrictions issued by the State of California and/or the County of Kings, including, without limitation, any and all social distancing recommendations.
4. The City Manager, as the City's Director of Emergency Services pursuant to Hanford Municipal Code Chapter 2.44, and his designees, are hereby authorized to take all appropriate actions they deem necessary in response to this local emergency during its pendency, including but not limited to:
 - Shifting staff from non-essential duties to essential duties on a volunteer basis and in coordination with bargaining units representing the City's employees;
 - Authorizing telecommuting for all staff when feasible;
 - Adjusting operational hours for City Departments to reduce pedestrian traffic on City property without substantially diminishing the availability of public services;
 - Allowing maximum flexibility in staffing to accommodate health needs and family protection threatened by the emergency, while mitigating the economic impacts on City staff;
 - Allowing additional flexibility and extending periods for Departments to evaluate employees regardless of restrictions and directions in City personnel policies;
 - Implementing reevaluation of employee travel for essential purposes only;
 - Exploring and establishing, with the City Council's approval, tele-meeting functionality for all Council meetings; and
 - Allowing employees to access and use leave balances beyond their traditional classifications and, when appropriate, allowing employees limited accrual of negative leave balances to accommodate needs for extended leave, within reason during the pendency of the emergency.

5. As designated disaster service workers, all City employees shall be expected to report to work if called. If an employee is on leave pursuant to this Resolution, the employee shall report to their Department head at least every 72 hours as directed.
6. Until further notice, all non-essential City-owned and City-controlled buildings made available to the public for social purposes shall not be available for rent, and all non-essential City-sponsored events are canceled or postponed to a future date.
7. The City's purchasing system, which is set forth in Hanford Municipal Code Chapter 2.48, is hereby suspended to the extent that adherence to the purchasing system's requirements and limitations would unreasonably interfere with the City's ability to address the local emergency described herein. The City Manager is hereby authorized to engage independent contractors to complete all necessary work to mitigate the effects of the local emergency. Contracts for such work may be executed without prior Council approval of the plans, specifications, or working details and without giving notice for bids to let contracts. The City shall, however, adhere to Hanford Municipal Code Chapter 2.48 with respect to purchases that are unassociated the City's efforts to address the local emergency described herein.
8. The City will, to the extent that personnel is available, provide inspection services for construction projects if the City Manager reasonably determines that such work: (i) may occur in a manner consistent with applicable social distancing guidelines; and (ii) will not endanger the safety of the City's inspection personnel. The City will endeavor to provide essential inspection services for building improvements that are necessary to protect the immediate health and safety needs of residents.
9. As a result of the local emergency, the City hereby suspends: (a) the discontinuation of water and refuse collection services for residents and businesses for non-payment of bills for City-provided utility services; and (b) the imposition of late payment penalties and fees for delinquent City utility bills.

///

///

///

///

///


Passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Hanford, duly called and held on March 17, 2020, by the following vote:

AYES: Draxler, Ramirez, Devine, Brieno, Sorensen

NOES: Ø

ABSTAIN: Ø

ABSENT: Ø


JOHN DRAXLER
MAYOR of the City of Hanford

Attest:


SARAH MARTINEZ
CITY CLERK

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF KINGS) ss
CITY OF HANFORD)

I, Sarah Martinez, City Clerk of the City of Hanford, do hereby certify the foregoing Resolution was duly passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Hanford held on the 17th day of March, 2020.

Date: 03/17/2020


City Clerk