

City of Little Falls

RESOLUTION 2020-25

MAYORAL DECLARATION AND RESOLUTION DECLARATION OF 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 the Temporary Closures of Bars, Restaurants and Other Places of Public Accommodation; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 12.29 authorizes the Mayor of the City of Little Falls to “Declare a Local Emergency”, and further provides that the State of Local Emergency may not continue for a period in excess of three days except by or with the consent of the City Council of the City of Little Falls; and

WHEREAS, the United States Center for Disease Control (“CDC”) and the 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 Little Falls; and

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 Morrison County, and state and federal sources.

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

1. By signing this Resolution, Mayor Gregory J. Zylka declares that the COVID-19 pandemic constitutes a local emergency with the City of Little Falls, effective March 25, 2020, with all the powers and responsibilities attending thereto as provided in Minnesota Statute Chapter 12, and as otherwise provided for in the City of Little Falls 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 until such time as this Resolution is rescinded by the City Council.
3. The Mayor and City Council hereby direct 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 Little Falls in accordance with guidance from the CDC, MDH or as otherwise appropriate in response to local conditions.
4. The Mayor and City Council hereby direct City staff in their ongoing operations and support the response to this incident, under the direction and coordination of the City Administrator, 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 in accordance with guidance from the CDC, MDH or as otherwise appropriate in response to local conditions.
5. The Mayor and City Council hereby direct the City Administrator and other appropriate City staff to request and coordinate appropriate aid and resources from surrounding jurisdictions, Morrison County, State of Minnesota and Federal Government, as needed.
6. The Mayor and City Council hereby declares, under Minnesota Statute 13D.021, that in-person meetings of the City Council and its subcommittees, Planning Commission and other advisory boards and commissions of the City of Little Falls may not be practical or prudent due to the COVID-19 health pandemic and the peacetime emergency declared by Governor Tim Walz pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 12, and hereby directs that meetings of the City Council and its subcommittees, Planning Commission, and other advisory boards and commissions of the City may be conducted by telephone or other electronic means, and hereby authorizes the City Administrator to take such action as may be necessary to enable such meetings to occur via telephone or other electronic means pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 13D.021, until such time as it is no longer impractical or imprudent for the City Council, Planning Commission, 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, Charter, or City Code or are otherwise determined necessary and prudent by the City Administrator in consultation with the Mayor.
7. The Mayor and City Council hereby orders that the City Administrator and Finance Officer are authorized to pay financial obligations of the City, as needed, prior to the next regular City Council meeting, during this Local Emergency until such time as this Resolution is rescinded by the City Council.
8. The Mayor and City Council hereby orders that this declaration be given prompt and general publicity and that it be filed promptly by the City Clerk.

Passed this 25th day of March, 2020.



Brad Hircock, Council President

ATTEST:



Jon Radermacher, City Administrator

Approved this 25th day of March, 2020.



Gregory J. Zyka, Mayor

(SEAL)