

Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_

Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WARRENSBURG RATIFYING THE DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY OF THE CITY MANAGER DATED MARCH 17, 2020, RATIFYING REGULATIONS ADOPTED THEREUNDER, AND EXTENDING THE DURATION OF THE EMERGENCY DECLARATION PENDING FURTHER ACTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL.**

WHEREAS, Chapter 7, Section 7.2, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Warrensburg, Missouri grants the City Manager the authority to declare an emergency whenever a disaster is imminent or actually occurs with the city, and the safety and welfare of the inhabitants is jeopardized; and,

WHEREAS, in December 2019, a novel coronavirus, now designated COVID-19, was detected in Wuhan, China; and,

WHEREAS, symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath, and can range from mild to severe illness, and presents significant risk of death to persons with depressed immune systems, certain pre-existing conditions, and the elderly; and,

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) Director General declared the outbreak of COVID-19, as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, advising countries to prepare for the containment, detection, isolation and case management, contact tracing and prevention of onward spread of the disease; and,

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2020, the WHO Director General urged aggressive preparedness and activation of emergency plans to aggressively change the trajectory of this epidemic; and,

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the WHO declared COVID-19 a global pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, the Center of Disease Control (CDC) is closely monitoring the growing number of COVID-19 cases that have spread into the United States, and,

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Governor Michael L. Parson declared a State of Emergency for the State of Missouri; and,

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Johnson County Commissioners declared a State of Emergency for Johnson County, Missouri; and,

WHEREAS the continued spread of COVID-19 constitutes a natural calamity and presents an imminent threat of widespread illness which could overwhelm local health care resources, increasing the risk of death in the community, which requires emergency action; and,

WHEREAS, the proclamation of a state of emergency provides the City the ability to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to disease, control the risk, and promote the health and safety of Warrensburg residents; and,

WHEREAS, the City wishes to employ all means available under the law to protect life, health, safety, and property to limit the development, contraction and spread of COVID-19 creating this emergency; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 77.530 RSMo, the Council is empowered to take measures designed to prevent and abate the spread of contagious disease within the City, and the Council finds and declares the provisions of this Ordinance to be essential to the carrying out of that power,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WARRENSBURG, MISSOURI AS FOLLOWS:**

Section One. The Declaration of Emergency of the City Manager dated March 17, 2020, and attached hereto, is ratified and adopted by the City Council of the City of Warrensburg.

Section Two. The regulations adopted by the March 17, 2020 declaration of emergency are hereby ratified and extended for the term that this ordinance is in force as follows:

1. That public interactions and public meetings place the community at risk of further spread of illness and to alleviate this, all time limits imposed by City Code or applicable law, either actions required to be taken by the City or filed with the City, are tolled pending the lifting of the emergency and resumption of normal operations. This does not apply to State law deadlines.
2. Applications for zoning, plats, and variances, which trigger the need for public meetings, will not be accepted by the City until the emergency is lifted, and meetings of subunits of the City, other than the City Council and Park Board, are suspended.
3. Fingerprinting services provided by the Police Department are suspended until the emergency is lifted.
4. Interactions between the general public and City Staff will be limited to phone or email contact where possible for the protection of both the public and the staff.
5. Purchases of emergency supplies and materials will be done in accordance with emergency purchase procedures.

Section Three. The State of Emergency declared by the City Manager and the regulations adopted thereunder are hereby extended until lifted by further action of the City Council.

Section Four. This ordinance and the regulations adopted hereunder shall be in immediate force and effect from and after passage of this ordinance.

Read two times and passed by title in open session this \_\_\_\_ day of March, 2020.

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Casey Lund, Mayor

Attest:

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Cindy Gabel, City Clerk