

RESOLUTION 2020 - # 10

WHEREAS, the City of Wabasha is aware that an infectious virus known as COVID-19 or coronavirus originated in Wuhan Province, in China in December 2019 and has since spread rapidly to many other jurisdictions around the world; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Wabasha has been closely monitoring developments related to COVID-19 since the outbreak began and has now noted that several dozen cases of COVID-19 have occurred within the State of Minnesota and,

WHEREAS, the City is aware that the President of the United States has now declared a National Emergency and on March 13, 2020, the Governor of the State of Minnesota declared a peacetime emergency arising from the coronavirus outbreak pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 12.31; and,

WHEREAS, the City believes it is advisable from a public health perspective for the Wabasha City Council to approve a public health emergency declaration within the City of Wabasha pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 12.29 without further delay so that measures can be implemented without delay to slow the potential spread of COVID-19 in the City while permitting normal activities to occur to the extent possible, consistent with executive orders that have been issued by the Governor; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

1. **Declaration of City of Wabasha Public Health Emergency** - The Wabasha City Council does hereby declare a local public health emergency as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak effective immediately pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 12.29.

2. **Duration of City of Wabasha Public Health Emergency** - The local public health emergency declaration shall last until the Wabasha Mayor and City Administrator,

in consultation with the Wabasha County Director of Public Health and other local, state and federal health officials, have determined that the emergency is no longer needed to protect the public health of the people of the City of Wabasha. While the local public health emergency remains in effect, the following requirements shall apply effective immediately.

3. **City Administrator Exercise of Expedited Powers During Emergency**

The City Administrator may exercise their expedited powers to provide emergency aid pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 12.37. This includes:

a. entering into contracts and incurring obligations necessary to combat the COVID-19 public health emergency by protecting the health and safety of persons and property and by providing emergency assistance to the victims of the outbreak; and

b. exercise these powers in the light of the exigencies of the COVID-19 public health emergency without compliance with time-consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law pertaining to:

- (i) the performance of public work;
- (ii) entering into contracts;
- (iii) incurring of obligations;
- (iv) employment of temporary workers;
- (v) rental of equipment;
- (vi) purchase of supplies and materials;
- (vii) limitations upon tax levies; and
- (viii) the appropriation and expenditure of public funds, for

example, but not limited to, publication of ordinances and resolutions, publication of calls

for bids, provisions of civil service laws and rules, provisions relating to low bids, and requirements for budgets related to the response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

4. **Mayor and City Administrator Ability to Limit Staffing and Public Interaction** –

a. All city departments that provide face to face services directly to the public will ensure limited public interaction effective March 23, 2020 at 8:44 a.m. and shall remain in this state in accordance with declaration from the State of Minnesota.

b. City Departments shall take steps to deliver essential services in other ways which do not necessitate face to face contact while the closure remains in effect. This may include encouraging the public to interact with city staff when possible via telephone, e-mail and other electronic measures, providing required paper documents via a physical dropbox, etc. when these steps can be accomplished consistent with state and federal data privacy laws.

c. Mayor and City Administrator will consult with each specific department on these standards.

5. **Meetings of Wabasha City Council and Commissions/Boards by Telephone or Electronic Means** -

a. Meetings of the Wabasha City Council and other volunteer boards and commissions of the City may be conducted by telephone or other electronic means such as Zoom pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.021 while this emergency remains in effect.

b. The Wabasha City Council finds that conducting an in-person meeting or a meeting conducted under Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.02 is not practical or prudent because of the health pandemic caused by the COVID-19 outbreak.

c. City staff shall make arrangements so that all members of the group participating in the public meeting, wherever their physical location, will be able to hear one another and can hear all discussion and testimony.

d. City staff shall make arrangements so that members of the public present at the regular meeting location of the public meeting can hear all discussion and testimony and all votes of the members of the Wabasha City Council, unless attendance at the regular meeting location is not feasible due to the health pandemic or emergency declaration;

e. At least one member of the City Council or the City Attorney or the City Administrator will be physically present at the regular meeting location for each meeting, unless unfeasible due to the health pandemic or emergency declaration; and

f. All votes will be conducted by roll call, so each member's vote on each issue can be identified and recorded.

g. Each member of the Wabasha City Council participating in a meeting by telephone or other electronic means will be considered present at the meeting for purposes of determining a quorum and participating in all proceedings.

h. If telephone or another electronic means is used to conduct a meeting, to the extent practical, the Wabasha City Council shall allow a person to monitor the meeting electronically from a remote location.

i. If telephone or another electronic means is used to conduct a regular, special, or emergency meeting, the Wabasha City Council will provide notice of the regular meeting location, of the fact that some members may participate by telephone or other electronic means. The timing and method of providing notice will be governed by Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.04 of the Minnesota Open Meeting Law.

6. **City Administrator to Seek and to Provide Assistance to Other Local Governments** - The City Administrator shall be authorized to request the assistance of another political subdivision of the State of Minnesota, and to respond to requests for assistance by another political subdivision of the State of Minnesota during the public health emergency pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 12.331.

7. **City Administrator to Exercise All Other Emergency Powers For Duration of Emergency** - The City shall be authorized to exercise any other power which a Minnesota local government may carry out once an emergency declaration has been issued pursuant to Chapter 12 of the Minnesota Statutes. All actions taken with regard to this Resolution will be reported timely to the Mayor of the City of Wabasha.

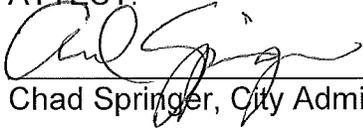
8. **Support from City Staff During Public Health Emergency** - The Mayor and the City Administrator are authorized to sign any documents deemed necessary in support of this public health emergency. The City Administrator is authorized to issue such payments by the City as are necessary to ensure the City's continuity of operations while the public health emergency remains in effect.

WABASHA CITY COUNCIL

Dated: March 23, 2020

By: 
Emily Durand, Mayor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chad Springer", written over a horizontal line.

Chad Springer, City Administrator