

Sponsored by: Hunt
Public Hearing Date:
Enactment Date:

**CITY OF WHITTIER, ALASKA
EMERGENCY ORDINANCE 2020-01**

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE RATIFYING THE CITY MANAGER'S PROCLAMATION OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE STATE-DECLARED EMERGENCY RESULTING FROM THE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 IN ALASKA; ACTIVATING THE CITY'S EMERGENCY DISASTER PLANS AND LAWS; AND TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING AND/OR MODIFYING VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE WHITTIER MUNICIPAL CODE AND CITY OF WHITTIER PROCEDURES REGARDING PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE AND SCHEDULING, PERSONNEL, PROCUREMENT, AND CODE ENFORCEMENT IN ORDER TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF THE WHITTIER COMMUNITY DURING A STATE AND LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY RESULTING FROM COVID-19

WHEREAS, the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified COVID-19 as a significant public risk; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, Governor Dunleavy issued a declaration of public health disaster emergency in response to the anticipated outbreak of COVID-19 within Alaska's communities; and

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

WHEREAS, various organizations, agencies, and local governments throughout the State of Alaska and within the City of Whittier are cancelling or restricting public gatherings, temporarily closing schools and childcare facilities as well as restricting non-essential travel in efforts to contain the virus; and

WHEREAS, the recommendations of global, federal, state, and local organizations and government entities are changing almost daily in response to new information regarding COVID-19, which requires the City to be able to act swiftly to comply with these recommendations in its operations; and

WHEREAS, in order to protect public health, welfare, and safety, the City needs flexibility in its meeting and notice protocols as well as in its procurement process for collecting and purchasing emergency supplies; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, the City Manager declared a local emergency as a result of COVID-19 and acknowledged the State of Alaska's declaration of state-wide emergency issued on March 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Council recognizes the public health emergency created by the COVID-19 outbreak and the imminent harm it poses to the City of Whittier and all members of the Whittier community; and

WHEREAS, Council also acknowledges that the City will need aid and assistance from both the federal and state government in responding to and rebuilding after the COVID-19 emergency; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager has authority to implement temporary rules and procedures regarding City government organization and operations during an emergency under WMC 2.64.140; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager needs authority to modify and amend meeting, procurement, and other procedures immediately and not after introduction and a public hearing required for non-emergency ordinances to properly respond to the COVID-19 emergency and protect the community from this outbreak,

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF WHITTIER CITY COUNCIL ORDAINS:

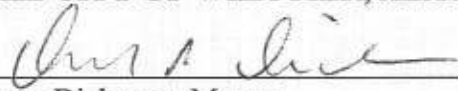
Section 1. The Whittier City Council hereby grants the City Manager authority to temporarily waive or modify provisions pertaining to scheduling, publication, notice, cancellation, teleconferencing, video conferencing, and other related meeting procedures for all City commission, committee, and Council meetings so long as: 1) the City Manager's actions comply with State law and the grant of authority vested in the City Manager under WMC 2.64 and 2) the City Manager posts notice of all modifications or waivers and the reasons for such modifications or waivers on the City's website no more than ten business days after implementation. Council may repeal any modification or waiver made by the City Manager under this Ordinance by resolution.

Section 2. This ordinance is an emergency ordinance, is not permanent in nature, and shall not be codified.

Section 3. This ordinance shall take effect on the day it is enacted and shall expire sixty (60) days after its passage in accordance with WMC 2.08.310.

ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITTIER, ALASKA this 25th day of March, 2020.

THE CITY OF WHITTIER, ALASKA




Dave Dickason, Mayor

AYES: 7
NOES: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

(An Emergency Order requires approval of all present members or 3/4 of total membership, whichever is less – WMC 2.08.310)

ATTEST:



Naelene Matsumiya
City Clerk

(City Seal)

