

Sponsored by: Hunt  
Public Hearing Date:  
Enactment Date:

**CITY OF WHITTIER, ALASKA  
EMERGENCY ORDINANCE 2021-01**

**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE RENEWING AND EXTENDING THE CITY  
MANAGER'S PROCLAMATION OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY**

**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, 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 as the number of COVID-19 cases continues to rise; 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 continues to pose 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

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**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 renews and extends the City Manager's 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 10 business days after implementation. Council may repeal any modification or waiver made by the City Manager under this Ordinance by resolution.

**Section 2.** The City Council hereby renews and extends its ratification of the proclamation of emergency and, to the extent there is or has been any lapse in Council's declaration of emergency, Council hereby proclaims the existence of a continued and uninterrupted state of local emergency following the City's initial emergency declaration and continuing through the effective dates of this Ordinance.

**Section 3.** This ordinance is an emergency ordinance, is not permanent in nature, and shall not be codified.

**Section 4.** 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 26<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021.

**THE CITY OF WHITTIER, ALASKA**

  
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Dave Dickason, Mayor

AYES: 7

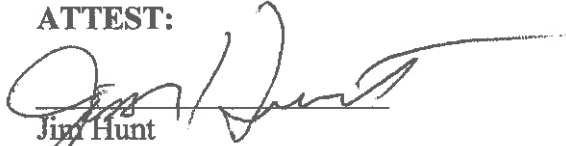
NOES: 0

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:

  
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Jim Hunt  
City Manager

(City Seal)