

Sponsored by: Denmark
Introduction Date: January 18, 2022
Enactment Date: January 18, 2022

CITY OF WHITTIER, ALASKA
EMERGENCY ORDINANCE 2022-001

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITTIER, ALASKA, TEMPORARILY AUTHORIZING THE SUSPENSION AND/OR MODIFICATION OF VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE WHITTIER CITY CODE REGARDING PUBLIC MEETINGS AND PARTICIPATION IN ORDER TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF THE WHITTIER COMMUNITY DURING A STATEWIDE HIGH ALERT AND LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY RESULTING FROM COVID-19

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska on January 11, 2022 reported over 1400 new cases a day and has issued a red high alert for the state Covid 19; and

WHEREAS, the City of Whittier has experienced a sudden and substantial increase in self-reported COVID- 19 positive cases; and

WHEREAS, Whittier city council approved and extended emergency ordinance 2021-004; and

WHEREAS, Emergency Ordinance 2021-004 expired on January 15, 2022; and

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

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**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.

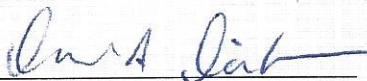
Section 2. Citizens not wishing to participate in person may request via email to the City Clerk to be called for citizen comments by email no later than noon prior to a meeting.

Section 3. Whittier Council recommends facial coverings inside buildings open to the public when six feet of distance from other individuals cannot be maintained in response to the rapid increase in covid- 19 cases within the City of Whittier.

Section 4. This ordinance is an emergency ordinance, is not permanent in nature, and shall not be codified.

Section 5. This ordinance shall take effect on the day it is enacted and shall expire sixty (60) days after its passage on March 15, 2022, in accordance with Whittier City Code 2.08.310.

ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITTIER, ALASKA
this 18th day of January, 2022


Dave Dickason
Mayor

AYES: Blair, McCord, Wagner, Shen, Dickason, Denmark, Pinqouch

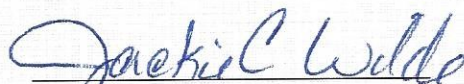
NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

(An Emergency Order requires approval of all present members or ¾ of total membership, whichever is less – WMC 2.08.310)

ATTEST:


Jackie C. Wilde
Assistant City Manager/Acting City Clerk