

RESOLUTION NO. 1087

CITY OF LACEY

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LACEY PROVIDING TEMPORARY PROCEDURES IN RESPONSE TO THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19).

**WHEREAS**, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Public Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public emergency for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) beginning on January 27, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 29, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee signed a Proclamation declaring a State of Emergency exists in all counties in the State of Washington due to the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention identifies the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 as high, and has advised that person-to-person spread of COVID-19 will continue to occur and the best way to prevent a calamitous explosion of cases is to prevent infected people from coming in close contact with healthy ones; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 16, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee imposed restrictions prohibiting gatherings of fifty (50) people or more and implementing measures to contain the spread of the virus; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 17, 2020, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention issued recommendations limiting gatherings to ten (10) persons or fewer.

**WHEREAS**, on March 19, 2020, the Lacey City Council passed Resolution No. 1085 finding the COVID-19 outbreak to constitute an emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 23, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee imposed a “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order requiring every Washingtonian to stay home unless they are engaged in an essential activity and banning all gatherings for social, spiritual and recreational purposes and ordering all businesses to close unless they are designated as an essential business; and

**WHEREAS**, while these restrictions are critical in mitigating the rate of spread of the COVID-19 virus, they are having significant negative economic effects on the citizens of Lacey; and

**WHEREAS**, these restrictions also require changes to the process in which the city normally conducts business; and

**WHEREAS**, these restrictions have created a need for business owners to inform the public via signage of the shift in business operations to meet the community needs for food and services; and

**WHEREAS**, certain retail establishments are not allowing the use of personal reusable bags to be brought into their establishment to be used for transporting food or merchandise out of the establishment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lacey City Council recognizes the health, safety and welfare of City residents, businesses, visitors and staff is of utmost importance to the City and additional measures are needed to protect and assist the community.

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Lacey City Council resolves as follows:

Section 1. Council Procedures. During the term of this Resolution, the following amendments to City Council procedures are hereby adopted:

- A. Any rule or procedure adopted by City Council that would prevent or prohibit all City Councilmembers from attending City Council meetings telephonically are temporarily suspended and all City Councilmembers are encouraged to attend all meetings via telephone.
- B. Council directs that the following items be suspended from Council meeting agendas during the term of this Resolution to discourage public in-person attendance of City Council meetings:
  - a. Public Recognitions and Presentations.
  - b. Public comment. City Council and staff will encourage and accept public comment via email or written comment.
  - c. Proclamations.
  - d. Boards, Commissions, and Committee reports.
- C. The requirements of Lacey Municipal Code Section 2.04.010 are amended as follows:
  - a. Council Meetings shall be held on the second and fourth Thursdays at 4:00pm.
  - b. Council Worksessions are cancelled.
- D. Any Council rules that are inconsistent with this Resolution are hereby waived and suspended during the term of this Resolution.

Section 2. Utility Billing. To assist distressed citizens during this emergency:

- A. Any section of Title 13 of the Lacey Municipal Code which requires or allows the charging of interest and/or a late fee to delinquent bill balances is hereby suspended. No new interest charges or late fees shall be added to utility bills issued during the effective date of this Resolution.
- B. Any section of the Lacey Municipal Code which requires or allows enforcement action to be taken against delinquent accounts is hereby suspended during the effective date of this Resolution.

Section 3. Business and Occupation Taxes. To help distressed businesses manage the use of scarce cash resources, the Finance Department is directed and ordered to take administrative action to allow businesses to defer first quarter Business and Occupation (B&O) tax payments until July 31<sup>st</sup>.

Section 4. Carryout Bags. In recognition that retail establishments are disallowing the use of personal reusable bags, the requirements of Chapter 8.06 of the Lacey Municipal Code are hereby suspended.

Section 5. Sign Regulations. To help business owners inform the public via signage of shifts in business operations, the following regulations are temporarily adopted:

- A. Professionally made banners and posters may be located flush mounted on the exterior building of a business;
- B. One sandwich board ("A" board) type sign or feather type sign shall be allowed along the business property frontage or upon the business property exceeding the maximum 12 foot distance from the entrance of the business;
  - a. sandwich board sign shall be limited in size to a maximum of 9 sq. ft. per side and a maximum of 3' wide;
  - b. signs shall be placed so as not to impede pedestrian movement or cause a vision hazard to vehicles;
  - c. such signs shall be in place only during open business hours.
- C. The Community & Economic Development Director is authorized to take any administrative action the Director finds necessary, in the Director's sole discretion, to allow businesses additional flexibility in the application of temporary signage
- D. Any Council rules or provisions of the Lacey Municipal Code that are inconsistent with this Resolution are hereby waived and suspended during the term of this Resolution.

Section 6. The provisions of this Resolution shall become effective upon adoption and shall continue until termination of the emergency declared by the City Council on March 19, 2020.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LACEY, WASHINGTON, this 26th day of March, 2020.

LACEY CITY COUNCIL

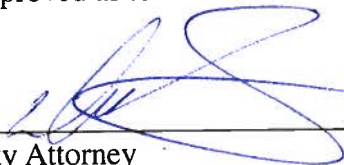
By 

Mayor

Attest:

  
City Clerk

Approved as to form:

  
City Attorney