ORDINANCE NO. 2020 - 18

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING A LOCAL EMERGENCY
DUE TO THE COVID-19 VIRUS & ENACTING VARIOUS EMERGENCY MEASURES

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of COVID-19 to be a public health emergency of international concern and on March 11, 2020 declared it a worldwide pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary declared a public health emergency for the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Illinois issued a disaster proclamation on March 9, 2020, due to the impact of the COVID-19 virus and has activated the State Emergency Operations Center; and

WHEREAS, the State Emergency Management Agency has declared a public health emergency due to the impact of the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a National Emergency concerning the COVID-19 outbreak; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager and staff have been meeting for weeks to begin preparing for the potential impact of the pandemic and has coordinated its response with McLean County and the Town of Normal; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has considered the existence of a public health emergency in acting upon this ordinance and actions required to promote the health, safety and welfare of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, 20 ILCS 3305/10J, of the Emergency Management Agency Act and 65 ILCS 5/8-10-5 of the Illinois Municipal Code and Chapter 12 of the Bloomington City Code provides political subdivisions with certain emergency authority; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS as follows:

SECTION 1. Recitals. The above recitals are incorporated herein by this reference as if specifically stated in full.

SECTION 2. Emergency Authority. In accordance with the authority provided to the City by the Emergency Management Agency Act, the City Code and its home-rule authority, the following actions are authorized by the City Council:

(A) Cancellation of Meetings. The Mayor may cancel meetings of any board or commission to which he appoints members. Any such cancellation shall automatically extend such deadlines for required actions by such board or commission as is specified in the cancellation notice. In lieu of the Mayor
cancelling said meetings, the Chairperson of any board or commission may cancel said meetings and are encouraged to do so absent a priority need.

(B) *Ability to Conduct Electronic Meetings*. Any Council Member or board member of any board or commission, in accordance with Governor Pritzker’s COVID-19 Executive Order No. 5 may attend any regular or special meeting via electronic means, including audio or video conferences. A physical quorum of the Trustees is not required before the remote participation is allowed.

(C) *Ability to Address Contract, Permitting and Licensure Issues*. The City Manager shall have the authority, upon approval of both the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem, to address any contract, permitting and/or licensing issues, including the suspension of any permits or licenses, as the City Manager may deem to be in the best interest of the City. The suspension of any license or permit may be overturned by a majority of the City Council at a subsequent City Council meeting.

(D) *Emergency Purchases*. For any emergency purchases that are necessary, the City Manager shall follow the provisions of Chapter 16 of the Bloomington City Code.

(E) *Personnel Policies & Union Contracts*. The City Manager’s authority is hereby reaffirmed that he may adjust any personnel policies related to leave time, other benefits or terms and conditions of employment as are reasonably related to providing sufficient staffing during the term of the emergency. In addition, he is authorized to enter into such temporary agreements, including memoranda of understanding with the City’s bargaining units in order to promote the provision of City services and the health and safety of the public and employees during the emergency.

(F) *Facility Closures*. The authority of the City Manager is hereby reaffirmed to close City facilities as is reasonably required to protect the health of the public and employees of the City.

(G) *Administrative Court*. The Corporation Counsel is authorized to extend any timeframe for responses related to City ordinance violations in recognition of the emergency and to suspend the City’s Administrative Court and/or continue said cases.

(H) *Moratorium on Interest, Fines and Penalties*. No interest, fines and/or penalties shall accrue or be assessed on amounts owed to the City as of March 1, 2020, for City utility payments, food and beverage taxes (although timely tax return filings are still required), parking tickets and/or ordinance violations, so long as said obligations to the City are paid within 30 days after the conclusion Governor Pritzker’s Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation, including any and all renewals thereof, or until this provision is amended or repealed by the City Council. The City Manager is similarly authorized, by Executive Order, to extend the deadlines for payments related to any other amounts due and owing the City.
(I) **Payment of City Bills.** The City Manager may authorize the issuance of payments to City vendors, contractors and utilities if the City Council is unable to meet on a regularly scheduled meeting date. Any such payments must be reported to the City Council in writing at a future public meeting.

(J) **Water Shut Offs.** All City utility shut offs for nonpayment shall be suspended while this ordinance is in effect.

(K) **Acceptance of Applications.** The City is authorized to accept applications for all City licenses and permits electronically, and may accept all other documentation required related to said applications electronically.

(L) **Written Public Comment.** The City Manager shall implement procedures encouraging the electronic submission of written comments for public meetings beyond those set forth in Chapter 2, Section 85(I). These procedures shall remain in effect so long as Governor Pritzker’s Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation remains in effect, including any and all renewals thereof.

(M) **Community Development Approvals.** The City Manager and Director of Community Development, or City Planner in the absence of the Director of Community Development, shall have the authority to approve grant applications, the awarding of historic preservation grants, cite plans not involving special uses, certificates of appropriateness, and to postpone any meetings regarding the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals. Any applications requiring a public hearing may also be postponed by the City Manager.

(N) **Liquor Commissioner Authority to Allow Deliveries.** The Liquor Commissioner shall be granted the authority to allow all restaurant liquor license holders (Class RA and Class RB), as well as all taverns (Class TA and Class TB) to provide the delivery, carryout and curbside pickup of alcoholic liquor, so long as the license holder complies with the requirements of Chapter 6, Section 32(C) for curbside pickup and Chapter 6, 32(D) for deliveries, as well as any other requirements that may be imposed by Executive Order of the Mayor. No packaged liquor license component shall be required. This authority of the Liquor Commissioner shall remain in effect so long as Governor Pritzker’s Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation remains in effect, including any and all renewals thereof, or until this authority is repealed by the City Council.

(O) **Intergovernmental Agreements.** The City Manager is authorized to execute intergovernmental agreements that address the response and needs associated with this local disaster declaration that he deems to be in the best interests of the City.

**SECTION 3. Other Emergency Powers Disallowed.** The Emergency Powers in Chapter 12, Section 11 are not necessary to address the COVID-19 crisis. Accordingly, no such powers may be exercised by the Mayor, City Manager or their successors.
SECTION 4. Succession Planning. In the absence or incapacity of the Mayor, the Mayor Pro Tem shall serve as the Mayor of the City of Bloomington and shall have all authority and power of the Mayor, including the emergency powers set forth in this Ordinance. If the Mayor Pro Tem is incapacity or otherwise serving as Mayor, the City Council shall appoint a new Mayor Pro Tem. In the absence or incapacity of the City Manager, the Deputy City Manager shall serve as the City Manager of the City of Bloomington and shall have all authority and power of the City Manager, including the emergency powers set forth in this Ordinance. In the absence or incapacity of both the City Manager and the Deputy City Manager, the Corporation Counsel shall serve as the City Manager of the City of Bloomington and shall have all authority and power of the City Manager, including the emergency powers set forth in this Ordinance.

SECTION 5. Declaration of a Local Disaster. This Ordinance shall be construed as a declaration of a local disaster as provided for under Section 11 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305/11.

SECTION 6. Amendment of City Code. Except as provided herein, the Bloomington City Code, 1960, as amended shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 7. Severability. In the event that any section, clause, provision, or part of this Ordinance shall be found and determined to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, all valid parts that are severable from the invalid parts shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 8. Publication. The City Clerk is hereby authorized to publish this ordinance in pamphlet form as provided by law.

SECTION 9. Home Rule Authority. This ordinance is passed and approved pursuant to the home rule authority granted Article VII, Section 6 of the 1970 Illinois Constitution.

SECTION 10. Effectiveness & Duration. This ordinance takes effect immediately upon its passage due to the urgency of implementing appropriate responses to the COVID-19 virus, which is causing or anticipated to cause widespread impacts on the health of members of this community. The recitals are incorporated into this Section. This ordinance shall be effective for 28 days from the date of passage unless repealed or amended sooner by the City Council. The ordinance shall continue for 28-day periods thereafter unless repealed or amended by the City Council.

PASSED this 26th day of March 2020.

APPROVED this 27th day of March 2020.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

Tari Renner, Mayor

ATTEST

Leslie Smith-Yocom, City Clerk