

CITY OF NORTHFIELD, MN  
CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2020-039

**RESOLUTION DECLARING A LOCAL EMERGENCY**

**WHEREAS**, Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019, commonly known as “COVID-19,” which is a respiratory disease that can result in serious injury or death, is spreading globally and has been identified by the World Health Organization (“WHO”) as a pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a National Emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 has been confirmed to exist and be spreading within the State of Minnesota; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, Governor Tim Walz declared a Peacetime State of Emergency to authorize any and all necessary resources to be used in support of the COVID-19 response; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 16, 2020, Governor Tim Walz issued an executive order - Providing for Temporary Closure of Bars, Restaurants, and Other Places of Public Accommodation; and

**WHEREAS**, Minn. Stat. § 12.29 authorizes the Mayor of the City of Northfield to declare a local emergency, and further provides that the state of local emergency may not be continued for a period in excess of three days except by or with the consent of the City Council of the City of Northfield; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Center for Disease Control (“CDC”) and Minnesota Department of Health (“MDH”) have advised that aggressive community mitigation strategies are necessary to slow the transmission of COVID-19, reduce illness and deaths, and limit the economic impacts of the outbreak; and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic is an unforeseen, present, sudden, and unexpected situation, which requires immediate action to be taken to prevent damage to the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the City of Northfield; and

**WHEREAS**, the necessary resources to respond to and recover from this pandemic will likely exceed those resources available within the City, and additional resources may be needed from Rice County, Dakota County, and state and federal sources.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Northfield, Minnesota, that:

1. By signing this Resolution, Mayor Rhonda Pownell declares that the COVID-19 pandemic constitutes a local emergency within the City of Northfield, effective March 17, 2020, with

all the powers and responsibilities attending thereto as provided in Minn. Stat. Ch. 12, and as otherwise provided for in the City of Northfield's Charter, City Code and Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).


2. Pursuant to Northfield City Charter, Section 3.8, and "[s]ubject to state law concerning emergency management and any local emergency management program consistent therewith, the mayor shall oversee and direct the City's response to any declared emergency."
3. Pursuant to Northfield City Code, Section 18-29 (i), "[t]he mayor shall have direct responsibility for the overall responsibility during the declared emergency. If the mayor is absent, the president pro tem shall have direct responsibility. The mayor shall carry out all orders, rules and regulations issued by the governor pertaining to the state-called emergency. The director of emergency management service shall be responsible for all the EMS emergency personnel who have not been assigned to other city departments."
4. The City Council, by adopting this Resolution, agrees with the Mayor's declaration of a local emergency within the City of Northfield and hereby extends such state of local emergency until such time as this resolution is rescinded by the City Council.
5. The Mayor and City Council hereby direct City staff in their ongoing review of City ordinances, regulatory requirements, operations, practices, events, and resources to determine whether the foregoing should be adjusted or suspended, and to make recommendations regarding additional emergency regulations to support the employees and residents of the City of Northfield.
6. The Mayor and City Council hereby direct City staff in their ongoing operations and support the response to this incident, under the direction and coordination of the City Administrator, including implementing new employee protocols, strategies, and processes to ensure that public services are maintained while best protecting the health, safety and welfare of the public and the City's employees.
7. The Mayor and City Council hereby direct the City's City Administrator and other appropriate City staff to request and coordinate appropriate aid and resources from surrounding jurisdictions, Rice County, Dakota County the State of Minnesota, and the Federal government, as needed.
8. The Mayor and City Council hereby declares, under Minn. Stat. § 13D.021, that in-person meetings of the City Council and its subcommittees, Planning Commission, and other advisory boards and commissions of the City of Northfield may not be practical or prudent due to the COVID-19 health pandemic and the peacetime emergency declared by Governor Walz pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 12, and hereby directs that meetings of the City Council and its subcommittees, Planning Commission, and other advisory boards and commissions of the City may be conducted by telephone or other electronic means, and hereby authorizes the City Administrator to take such action as may be necessary to enable

such meetings to occur via telephone or other electronic means pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.021, until such time as it is no longer impractical or imprudent for the City Council, Planning Commission, and other advisory board or commission to resume in-person meetings. In person meetings for the period specified herein shall be limited to meetings that are required by state law, Charter, or City Code or are otherwise determined necessary and prudent by the City Administrator in consultation with the Mayor.

9. The Mayor and City Council hereby orders that this declaration be given prompt and general publicity and that it be filed promptly by the City Clerk.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Northfield on this 17th day of March, 2020.

ATTEST

  
City Clerk

  
Mayor

VOTE: Y POWNELL Y DELONG Y GRABAU Y NAKASIAN  
Y NESS A PETERSON WHITE A ZWEIFEL