AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FALSE PASS ISSUING A DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

WHEREAS, the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention has identified the COVID-19 virus as a new strain of coronavirus not previously identified in humans, causing respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and which poses a significant public health risk; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared a pandemic related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, Governor Mike Dunleavy declared a Public Health Disaster Emergency in the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a National Emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, the Aleutians East Borough declared a Disaster Emergency; and

WHEREAS, positive cases of COVID-19 have been identified in the State of Alaska; and,

WHEREAS, social distancing has been recommended to minimize the spread of the virus; and,

WHEREAS, the State has put mandates in place restricting public use of state institutes, public and residential schools, libraries, archives and museums, restaurants and bars, as well as other restrictions; and,

WHEREAS, the full extent and effect of COVID-19 cannot yet be known, it remains vital for the City to be prepared and take all needed precautions throughout the entire timeframe of the emergency related to COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, a proactive approach taken by individuals and communities to slow the rate of infection will reduce the negative impact on our health care system; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that a public health emergency exists and deems it necessary to declare a local emergency to protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents of False Pass; and,

WHEREAS, Alaska Statutes Title 29 Sec 29.25.030 authorizes emergency ordinances, reading:

(a) To meet a public emergency the governing body may adopt an emergency ordinance effective on adoption. Each emergency ordinance shall contain a finding by the governing body that an emergency exists and a statement of the facts upon which the finding is based. An emergency ordinance may be adopted, amended and adopted, or rejected at the meeting at which it is introduced. The affirmative vote of all members present, or the affirmative vote of three-fourths of the total membership, whichever is less, is required for adoption of an emergency ordinance. The governing body shall print and make available copies of adopted emergency ordinances.

(b) An emergency ordinance may not be used to levy taxes, to grant, renew, or extend a franchise, or to regulate the rate charged by a public utility for its services.
(c) An emergency ordinance is effective for 60 days.

WHEREAS, the City wishes to authorize the Mayor to request State assistance from the Governor of Alaska for costs associated with the City’s response to the virus to meet the public safety and welfare needs arising from or incidental to COVID-19 and to recover from damage caused; and,

WHEREAS, the City wishes to authorize the Mayor to request assistance from Federal agencies pursuant to the Stafford Act of 1988 and Other Federal Law; and,

WHEREAS, a declaration of disaster emergency will alert the public to the seriousness of the risk and provide direction.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the False Pass City Council as follows:

1. The City Council of the City of False Pass hereby declares a local disaster emergency in response to COVID-19.
2. The City Council authorizes the Mayor to request State and Federal Assistance to meet the ongoing emergency created by COVID-19.
3. There are no ordinances or rules requiring in-person attendance of meetings, so a quorum can be established without gathering people at a central location.
4. Alternate means of listening in and providing public comment at City Council meetings, as would normally be afforded under Municipal Code 02.07.010 and 02.07.070, shall be provided for.
5. All residents and visitors to the City facilities and property are encouraged to maintain social distancing throughout the entire period of this emergency.
6. All incoming people into the community are requested to self-isolate for a minimum of 14 days.
7. This emergency ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption and remain in effect for 60 days pursuant to AS Sec 29.25.030.
8. This emergency ordinance may be reauthorized by telephonic quorum prior to its expiration.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE FALSE PASS CITY COUNCIL on this 25th day of March, 2020.

Date Introduced & Adopted: March 25, 2020

Nikki Hoblet, Mayor

ATTEST:

Carleen Hoblet, Deputy Clerk