



City of Hoonah

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**RESOLUTION NO. 20-03-02**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HOONAH DECLARING A LOCAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO COVID-19 AND A REQUEST FOR STATE AND FEDERAL ASSISTANCE**

**WHEREAS:** COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and is caused by the SARS-Cov-2 virus ("virus"), a new strain of the coronavirus that has not been previously identified in humans and is easily transmittable person to person; and

**WHEREAS:** on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization ("WHO") declared the virus a pandemic; and

**WHEREAS:** on March 11, 2020, the State of Alaska declared a public health emergency in response to the anticipated outbreak of the virus in Alaska, and since the declaration was announced, the State received confirmation of a positive case of the virus on March 12, 2020; and

**WHEREAS:** on March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump declared a national emergency in response to the virus pandemic; and

**WHEREAS:** on March 13, 2020, the State of Alaska Legislature announced initial actions to limit the spread of COVID-19, including limiting access to the State Capitol; and

**WHEREAS:** on the afternoon of March 13, 2020, Governor Dunleavy closed all schools in Alaska for two weeks;

**WHEREAS:** a substantial number of the workforce in the City of Hoonah have children in the Hoonah School District and are now desperately searching for childcare solutions;

**WHEREAS:** the economy generated from cruise ship travelers during the short summer months supports the year-round businesses, citizens, and governments in the City of Hoonah; and

**WHEREAS:** the City of Hoonah is a community of approximately 800 people that was forecasted to receive approximately 460,000 cruise ship travelers in 2020; and

**WHEREAS:** the cruise ships that normally come to the City of Hoonah originate from Seattle, Washington, and Vancouver, Canada; and

**WHEREAS:** during the week of March 9, 2020, the local economy supported by cruise ship travelers suffered catastrophic news: the State Department and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended travel restrictions on cruise ships, the Port of Seattle described it was closing its cruise ship terminals in two week increments; at least two cruise lines voluntarily halted all cruise travel for 60 days; and the Prime Minister of Canada closed all cruise ports in Canada until July; and

**WHEREAS:** COVID-19 poses an imminent threat to human health, safety and welfare to the residents of the City of Hoonah (“COH”); and

**WHEREAS:** due to the highly contagious nature of the virus, the available COH infrastructure and resources, including the Hoonah Fire Department, Hoonah Police Department, the Hoonah Airport, the Hoonah School District, among others, will be likely inadequate to handle the consequences of a COVID-19 outbreak unless the COH implements emergency powers; and

**WHEREAS:** it is essential to implement local emergency powers given the potential ability of the virus to cause death or injury to people, necessitating measures to protect the public health, safety, and welfare; and

**WHEREAS:** in order to contain any potential harm that may be caused by the virus, State and Federal assistance is needed to supplement local efforts to respond to this public health emergency; and

**WHEREAS:** the COH is currently in the process of amending its department of disaster emergency services to reflect modern emergency management operations, including threats to public health; however, pursuant to the powers of the COH Council under the City Code and AS 26.23.140, the COH Council may declare the existence of an emergency; and

**WHEREAS:** the Council deems it necessary to declare a local emergency to protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the City of Hoonah; and

**WHEREAS:** the COH requests the Governor of Alaska to provide State assistance to the City of Hoonah in its response to the virus, including assistance for fire protection, law enforcement, and the provision of other funds, services, functions, supplies, or materials determined by the City Administrator Dennis Gray, Jr. and Mayor Byers, in consultation with the City Attorney James Sheehan and local emergency agencies, to be necessary to meet the public safety and welfare needs arising from or incidental to COVID-19 and to recover from the damages caused; and

**WHEREAS:** the COH Council further authorizes the City Administrator in conjunction with the City Mayor, to implement any orders necessary to prevent the transmission of infectious disease and to take measures to ensure that all cases of contagious disease are subject to proper control and treatment; and

**WHEREAS:** the City Administrator in conjunction with the City Mayor, should seek Council approval prior to issuing any orders (1) related to private property, (2) related to mass quarantine or isolation, or (3) related to rationing of goods or supplies; and

**WHEREAS:** a public health related order, if any, shall be consistent with federal or state public health official recommendations; and

**WHEREAS:** the provisions of COH Code may be suspended, providing for the purchase of supplies, services, and items during, and for the purpose of alleviating, a class 2 emergency; and

**WHEREAS:** all resources of the municipal government, including COH personnel, are hereby available as necessary to deal with the emergency, and municipal departments, agencies, and/or personnel may be transferred or altered in function for the purpose of performing or facilitating performance services responsive to this emergency; and

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

**WHEREAS:** because of the ongoing nature of the emergency, this declaration of local emergency shall remain in effect until November 24, 2020, or until the virus is no longer declared a federal or state emergency, whichever occurs first.

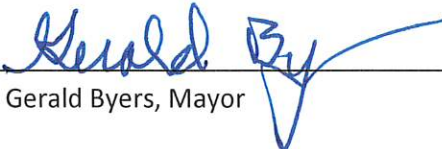
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOONAH, ALASKA:**

**Section 1.** The Council of the City of Hoonah hereby declares a local emergency to exist within the City of Hoonah. A copy of this Resolution shall be filed promptly with the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

**Section 2.** The City of Hoonah requests that the Governor of Alaska provide such State assistance as may be available to meet the ongoing emergency created by COVID-19 and to request additional assistance from Federal agencies where State capability is not adequate.

**Section 3. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall be effective immediately after its adoption.

**PASSED AND APPROVED BY A DULY CONSITITUTED QUORUM OF THE HOONAH CITY COUNCIL THIS 18<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF March, 2020.**

  
Gerald Byers, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Jennifer Bidman, City Clerk

VOTING:

|                  |   |                              |
|------------------|---|------------------------------|
| John Murray      | Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Nay <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Amelia Wilson    | Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Nay <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Miguel Contreras | Yea <input type="checkbox"/>            | Nay <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Stan Savland     | Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Nay <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Shawn McConnell  | Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Nay <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Bill Miller      | Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Nay <input type="checkbox"/> |