

RESOLUTION 2021-08-524
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF WHITE SALMON, WASHINGTON,
MODIFYING RESOLUTION 2020-04-502 MODIFYING RESOLUTION 2020-04-501
RATIFYING PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING TEMPORARY
PROCEDURES TO RESPOND TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, the State of Washington, along with much of the world, is experiencing an outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus, known as COVID -19, and;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and is easily spread from person to person, and;

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020 the United States Department of Public Health and Human Services Secretary declared a public emergency for the 2019 Novel Coronavirus beginning on January 27, 2020, and;

WHEREAS, on February 20, 2020 Governor Inslee proclaimed a state of emergency (Proclamation 20-05) for all counties in Washington State due to the spread of COVID-19 and directed that the plans and procedures of the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan be implemented, and;

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2020 Klickitat County Emergency Operations Center was activated to Level-2 (partial activation) and is working to ensure that local stakeholders have access to all relevant information related to COVID-19 for preparation purposes, and;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020 the President of the United States declared a national emergency related to COVID-19, and;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Mayor Marla Keethler issued Emergency Proclamation 2020-01, declaring the COVID-19 pandemic to be an emergency in the City of White Salmon pursuant to Section 38.52.070 RCW and other relevant provisions of state and federal law; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020 Governor Inslee issued Proclamation 20-25 amending Proclamation 20-05 requiring residents of Washington to “Stay Home – Stay Healthy;” and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2020 Governor Inslee issued Proclamation 20-28 amending Proclamation 20-005 waving certain requirements in RCW 42.56, the Public Records Act, and RCW 42.30, the Open Public Meetings Act, that provides for any activity that necessitates an in-person setting; and

WHEREAS, despite an increase in infections, hospitalizations, and deaths in the latter half of 2020, Washington State has avoided overwhelming the state’s health care systems throughout this pandemic by implementing rigorous safety and prevention measures, such as physical distancing, masking, social and economic prohibitions and, since December of 2020, the

administration of vaccinations to prevent infection of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 symptoms; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and the Washington State Department of Health have determined that the COVID-19 vaccines that have received emergency approval by the US Federal Drug Administration are safe, effective against infection of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 symptoms, have proven to significantly decrease the likelihood of infection; and

WHEREAS, everyone over the age of 12 is currently eligible to receive a vaccination against the coronavirus causing COVID-19 symptoms, and Washington health care providers have successfully administered millions of vaccine doses, but have millions more doses to administer, and it is necessary to achieve the highest rate of vaccination of the United States population as possible; and

WHEREAS, Governor Inslee amended Proclamation 20-05 on May 21, 2021 to further affirm that a State of Emergency continues to exist in all counties of Washington State; that Proclamation 20-05 and all amendments thereto remain in effect and to prohibit employers from taking employment action against workers, and

WHEREAS, after months of improving COVID-19 epidemiological conditions in Washington State, the emergence of highly contagious COVID-19 variants, including the “delta variant” that is at least twice as transmissible as the virus that emerged in late 2019, coupled with the continued significant numbers of unvaccinated people, have caused COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations to rise sharply among unvaccinated populations and have resulted in breakthrough infections in some fully vaccinated individuals; and

WHEREAS, the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic and its persistence in Washington State continue to threaten the life and health of our people as well as the economy of Washington State, and remain a public disaster affecting life, health, property or the public peace; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Department of Health continues to maintain a Public Health Incident Management Team in coordination with the State Emergency Operations Center and other supporting state agencies to manage the public health aspects of the incident; and

WHEREAS, the existing conditions related to COVID-19 warrant the proclamation of the existence of a local emergency and providing for temporary procedures to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITE SALMON AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1 – Ratification and Finding of Fact.

Council hereby ratifies Emergency Proclamation 2020-01 issued by Mayor Marla Keethler for the City of White Salmon on March 13, 2020. Council further finds that an emergency exists pursuant to

Section 39.04.280(2)(b) RCW and authorizes the Mayor to waive any necessary competitive bidding requirements related to the COVID-19 emergency.

SECTION 2 – City’s Response and Operations.

- A. The City is committed to protecting the public and staff by minimizing the spread of COVID-19 and complying with Governor Inslee’s existing orders. The City has and will continue to follow the guidelines provided by the State of Washington and the Klickitat County Health Officer, who continue to prescribe social distancing, the wearing of masks indoors regardless of vaccination status, and minimizing gatherings of people to best combat the spread of COVID-19.
- B. The City has closed, and will continue to maintain closures, of all city offices to the general public beginning Monday, March 16 until further notice. Citizens may pay utility bills, acquire licenses, submit permit applications, contact staff and transact other City business via telephone, email, and online. City staff is working remotely where and when possible. City public works staff is working in shifts and ensuring the city’s critical infrastructure is maintained in good operating condition.
- D. City parks will remain open.
- E. Pursuant to Governor Inslee’s Proclamation 20-23.16, Ratepayer Assistance and Preservation of Essential Services, the City will not issue late fees, penalties, etc., nor shut off water, due to late or unpaid payments through September 30, 2021. City utility billing will continue to be issued. The City will resume its normal billing services, including issuing late fees, penalties, beginning with the October 2021 billing.
- F. All City Council, City Committee and Planning Commission meetings will be held virtually until guidance regarding the prevalence or transmissibility of the highly contagious Delta variant changes.
- G. The Mayor is authorized to adjourn regularly scheduled council meetings (first and third Wednesdays of each month) in lieu of the requirement of a quorum of council to adjourn a meeting as provided in RCW 42.30.090. In the event a regular meeting is adjourned, notices will be posted at the White Salmon Fire Hall, City Hall, and the Post Office
- H. Mayor Marla Keethler issued multiple “Letter to Employees” dated on March 17, 2020, April 10, 2020, and June 1, 2021 providing direction to employees regarding using any form of paid leave during the COVID-19 event. The City Council confirms the decision of the Mayor to not require employees to use any form of paid leave in the event employees are directed to be self-quarantined, quarantined, sent home with symptoms, stay home sick or unable to work due to scheduling or office closures and extends, if necessary, the provisions until further notice.

SECTION 3 – Budget.

During the term of this Resolution, the City Council adopts the following budget restrictions:

- A. The City Council hereby encourages the expenditures of funds for acquiring necessary technology to facilitate employees to work from home where remote work is possible and approved by the Mayor and the appropriate Department Head.
- B. All staff time dedicated to emergency health responses related to COVID-19 pandemic must be tracked to allow for FEMA reimbursement.

SECTION 4 – Communication.

- A. All updates regarding City functions and actions related to the COVID-19 pandemic will be posted on the City’s website to provide the public with the best updated information.
- B. The City will conduct any business meetings virtually until guidance regarding the prevalence or transmissibility of the highly contagious Delta variant changes.

SECTION 5 – Effectiveness.

The provisions of this Resolution shall be retroactive to May 4, 2020 upon adoption and continue to be in effect until modified or cancelled by further council action.

ADOPTED by the Council of the City of White Salmon, Washington. Dated this 18th day of August, 2021.

Marla Keethler, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Kenneth B. Woodrich, City Attorney