

**RESOLUTION NO. 5-2018**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF CHEHALIS, WASHINGTON,  
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY RELATING TO COVID-19.**

**WHEREAS**, on February 29, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee proclaimed that a State of Emergency related to the coronavirus, which causes the illness known as COVID-19, exists in all counties in Washington State; and

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

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a National Emergency related to COVID-19, and Governor Inslee ordered all schools in the State of Washington to temporarily close; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lewis County Board of Commissioners at their regular meeting of March 16, 2020 declared a state of emergency in Lewis County; and

**WHEREAS**, health authorities on the world, federal, state, and local levels are calling for drastic action to implement social distancing and slow the transmission rate of the virus; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chehalis City Council wishes to do its part to follow health department recommendations and protect City employees and the public; and

**WHEREAS**, to be most effective, social distancing measures must be implemented immediately on an emergency basis; and

**WHEREAS**, under RCW 42.30.030, Open Public Meetings Act notice requirements may be suspended temporarily to allow emergency action by the City Council.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHEHALIS, WASHINGTON, DO RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** Declaration of Emergency. The COVID-19 outbreak constitutes an emergency and necessitates the utilization of emergency powers granted pursuant to Chap. 38.52 RCW, and the use of all powers granted to the City of Chehalis as an Optional Municipal Code City under Title 35A RCW and the Chehalis Municipal Code.

**Section 2.** City staff are authorized and directed to take necessary measures to follow all orders of state, local, and federal governments, and to implement health authority recommendations to control transmission of the virus. Such measures may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Authorize, encourage, or direct City employees not to report to work or to work remotely.
- Temporarily suspend non-essential City services or departments.
- Develop and implement necessary policies regarding essential staffing, employee leaves and benefits.
- Close or limit hours of public access to City facilities.
- Delay all non-essential discussion, business, and action items on Council agendas.
- Cancel public meetings.
- Temporarily refrain from terminating utility services for nonpayment of bills.
- Extend grace periods for business licenses.
- Purchase goods and services related to the emergency, and enter into contracts related to the emergency, without advance Council approval.

**Section 3.** The City Manager is authorized, in accordance with the terms and conditions of RCW 38.52.070(2), to exercise the powers vested under Section 2 of this resolution in the light of the exigencies of an emergency situation without regard to time-consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law, (excepting mandatory constitutional requirements), including but not limited to:

- budget law limitations
- requirements of competitive bidding and publication of notices
- provisions pertaining to the performance of public work
- entering into contracts
- the incurring of obligations
- the employment of temporary workers subject to union and city regulations
- the rental of equipment
- the purchase of supplies and materials
- the appropriation and expenditures of public funds

**Section 4.** The City Manager may undertake contracting authority subject to the terms and conditions and provisions of this resolution.

**Section 5.** Notwithstanding the authorizations set forth in Section 3 of this resolution, the City Manager shall endeavor to secure the most competitive price available for goods and services, subject to the terms, conditions, and provisions of this resolution.

**Section 6.** The City Manager shall advise the City Council as soon as practicable with respect to all actions taken under authority of this Resolution. If competitive bidding requirements are waived for any public works construction contracts or for purchase of supplies, the City Council shall be asked to make a written finding of emergency in accordance with RCW 39.04.280.

SIGNED this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

Dennis L. Dawes  
Dennis L. Dawes, Mayor

Attest:

Caryn Foley  
Caryn Foley, City Clerk