

SPONSOR: Woolam

RESOLUTION NO 2020-19

**A RESOLUTION BY THE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF WELLSTON DECLARING A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Ohio Department of Health, and local Health Officials consider the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) to be a very serious public health threat with outcomes ranging from mild sickness to severe illness and death; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Wellston, Ohio continues to be immediately threatened by the widespread pandemic of COVID-19, a novel strain of the Corona virus; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Public Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public emergency for COVID-19 beginning on January 27, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 9, 2020, 2020, Ohio Governor Mike Dewine declared a public emergency for COVID-19, by executive order; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization made the assessment that COVID-19 can be characterized as a pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, United States President, Donald Trump, declared a State of Emergency for COVID-19, invoking the Stafford Act; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 31, 2020, the County of Jackson, Ohio, by its governing Commission, declared a public emergency for COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the City's responsibilities to deliver services to its residents and the general public, including formal open public meetings of the City's legislative body, quasi-judicial boards and commissions and other public bodies as well as the delivery of services directly to the public in a face-to-face manner including safety services, utility services, and inspectional services, measures must be implemented in a way that preserves to the greatest possible extent the City's ability to deliver essential services, in compliance with Ohio law and the City Ordinances.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Wellston, Ohio, that:

**Section One:** This Council finds and determines that the COVID-19 pandemic constitutes an emergency in the City of Wellston, and that additional efforts to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the public are required. In making the determinations and findings

in this Resolution, it is Council's intention to exercise and avail itself, on behalf of the City of Wellston, of the fullest extent of its power and authority under Article XVIII, Section 3 of the Ohio Constitution as well as the laws of the State of Ohio and the Ordinances of the City of Wellston.

**Section Two:** This Council finds and determines that the efforts needed to prepare for, respond to and mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have and will place extraordinary requirements upon the City in its mission to deliver services to residents and advance the public health, safety and welfare.

**Section Three:** This Council finds and determines that the City's ability to effectively respond to and manage the COVID-19 pandemic locally will require disruptions to normal meeting schedules and may impact staffing levels, work schedules, and performance of non-essential functions; that ensuring the City's ability to discharge its essential functions is of critical importance; and that the use of technology and digital communications including virtual and telephonic meetings, remote meeting and work technologies and other advanced communications technologies, including streaming technologies, is encouraged at this time.


**Section Four:** This Council finds and determines that in order to meet the challenges and objectives described herein, it will be necessary to provide for the maximum regulatory and operational flexibility permitted by Ohio law and the City's ordinances, and that it is necessary to empower and authorize the City Mayor to identify the best means and methods to ensure the City's ability to discharge its duties, in consultation with key staff, and to take all appropriate actions to discharge such duties within the foregoing parameters, and he is hereby so authorized. The flexibility and authority provided under this Resolution shall continue until Council determines that the current state of emergency has sufficiently abated that such additional measures are no longer necessary.

**Section Five:** This Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health or safety of the City of Wellston. Therefore, this Ordinance shall go into effect upon passage and approval by the Mayor, as provided in the Ohio Revised Code Section 731.30.


**Section Six:** In the event this Ordinance receives a majority vote for passage but fails to receive the required number of votes to pass as an emergency, this Ordinance shall be deemed to have passed but with no emergency clause, and shall take effect at the earliest time permitted by law.

**Section Seven:** It is hereby found and determined that all formal acts of this council concerning and relating to adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this council and the deliberations of the council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public and in compliance with all legal requirements including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

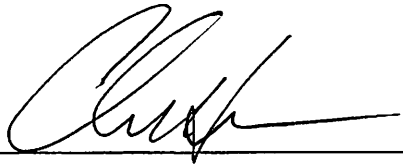
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the legislative authority of the City of Wellston this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2020.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Council President

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of Council

Approved this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2020.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Posted \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_ at The Store, Wellston City Hall, Wellston Senior Citizens' Center, the Wellston Public Library and the Post Office.

Prepared by: Randy H. Dupree, Law Director, City of Wellston