PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY 2020-01

A PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO WAIVE CERTAIN CONTRACTING REQUIREMENTS AND TO IMPLEMENT EMERGENCY PURCHASING REQUIREMENTS, AND TO TAKE OTHER STEPS NECESSARY IN RESPONSE TO THE EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, COVID-19, is a respiratory disease that is caused by a virus that has been determined by the Center for Disease Control ("CDC") to be highly contagious and that can result in serious illness or death; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa Department of Public Health has confirmed community spread of COVID-19 in Iowa, significantly increasing the risk of exposure and infection to Iowa citizens and creating an extreme public health risk to the residents of Johnston; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, Governor Kim Reynolds proclaimed Iowa to be in a State of Public Health Disaster Emergency, and ordered the closure of all restaurants, bars, fitness facilities and movie theaters, and prohibited the gathering of more than 10 people at all locations or venues to combat the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the Governor’s Proclamation directed state agencies and departments to use all available resources, supplies, equipment and materials and to take any actions reasonably necessary to assist affected political subdivisions in an effort to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 outbreak; and

WHEREAS, Section 15.02(2) of the Johnston City Code of Ordinances and Section 372.14(2) of the Code of Iowa (2019) grant the Mayor powers to declare an emergency or public danger exists in Johnston and to govern through Proclamation to protect the health and safety of Johnston residents.

NOW THEREFORE I, Paula S. Dierenfeld, Mayor of the City of Johnston, do hereby proclaim:

Section 1. A state of emergency or public danger exists within the City of Johnston due to the threat of the spread of COVID-19.

Section 2. The emergency powers granted to the Mayor of Johnston pursuant to Section 15.02(2) of the Johnston City Code of Ordinances and Section 372.14(2) of the Code of Iowa (2019) to take action to protect the health and safety of Johnston citizens and to provide emergency assistance to those affected by the emergency are hereby invoked.

Section 3. Department directors shall have the authority to solicit quotes and estimates for contracts necessary to combat the present emergency. Department directors may enter into contracts in an amount not to exceed twenty-five thousand dollars ($25,000). Contracts entered into pursuant to this authority shall be signed by the Mayor prior to execution.

Section 4. Department directors or their designees shall have the authority to implement emergency purchasing procedures to acquire services, supplies, materials, and equipment necessary to combat the emergency.

Section 5. The Human Resources Director, in consultation with the City Administrator, shall recommend and implement, as authorized by the Mayor, human resource policies and practices for City employees, such as telecommuting and flexible work hours, that are consistent with public health recommendations and existing workplace laws. These policies and practices shall address the physical and financial well-being of employees, while recognizing this pandemic may have a long term impact on employee morale, recruitment, and retention.

Section 6. As soon as practicable, the City Council shall be notified with respect to all actions taken under the authority of this Proclamation. Any contract entered into pursuant to this Proclamation shall be presented to the City Council at the earliest practical time for review and appropriate action.

Section 7. The actions authorized by this Proclamation are necessary to avoid imminent threat to public health or safety, to prevent imminent danger to public or private property, and to respond to the emergency in an appropriate and timely manner.

Section 8. Any violation of this Proclamation or Section 3 of the Governor’s Proclamation issued March 17, 2020, shall be a violation of Section 15.02(2) of the Johnston City Code of Ordinances and shall be enforceable by the Johnston Police Department.

Section 9. This Proclamation shall take effect immediately and remain in effect until rescinded, modified or superseded by a subsequent proclamation, as future events warrant.

Approved this 18th day of March, 2020.

Paula S. Dierenfeld, Mayor

Cyndee Rhames, City Clerk