

Declaring an Emergency to
Address Issues with the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Whereas, a national, state and county emergency has been declared in response to the growing infection rate of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19);

Whereas, a declaration of emergency permits a government to utilize the powers granted to it under national and state law (e.g., RCW Chapters 35.33, RCW 38.52);

Whereas, a declaration of emergency also permits the City to obtain financial and support services from state and federal agencies in meeting the needs of the community, its citizens, and its visitors;

Whereas, as of the writing of this resolution, there has been no confirmed case of the virus within the City of Forks, but testing supplies are limited and prioritized not allowing for a true assessment of the virus' impacts;

Whereas, the City must be able to address issues that arise and utilize the emergency powers within state and federal law to address a dynamic, multi-faceted international emergency;

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council, in order to utilize such authorities and flexibilities, DO HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

1. The City of Forks, Washington, hereby declares an emergency has resulted, or will result, from the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) within the City of Forks;
2. The Mayor of the City and his designees are hereby authorized to undertake any and all actions necessary to respond to the emergency including but not limited to direct actions and/or participating in and responding to the Clallam County emergency command and the greater Forks and West End area command structures as permitted by the situations that present themselves until such time as the nation, state, or county has declared the emergency to be concluded.
3. The Mayor and/or the department heads are authorized to enter into contracts and incur obligations necessary to combat such emergency to protect the health and safety of persons and property, and provide emergency assistance to the victims of such disaster including but not limited to possible water and sewer billing forbearance during this state of emergency. Further, the Mayor and the department heads are empowered to utilize government services, property and employees within reason and in appropriate response to the emergency as it presents itself in the West End, as well as any additional powers found within RCW Chapters 35.33, RCW 38.52.

4. The City staff will, to the best of their collective abilities, ensure that:
 - a. There is continuity of operations of essential functions;
 - b. There is an effort to record and track expenditures associated with addressing the emergency and pursue state or federal reimbursement for those costs if and when possible;
 - c. Take within the purview of federal and state law those actions deemed necessary and responsive to the emergency presented by the virus;
 - d. Report to the Council in a manner that is reasonable and when possible timely, the status of the response and challenges that may be arising.
5. Office hours, work assignments, public access to city facilities and personnel may be limited or suspended by the Mayor.
6. Meetings of the City Council may be suspended by the Mayor when public meetings are ordered cancelled by the Governor or county health officers. However, if remote participation can be arranged and is permitted, the City will attempt to make reasonable efforts to do so.
7. Mayor and staff will take advantage of financial and service assistance as the need arises, as public or private assistance is offered, and as acceptance is warranted.
8. Mayor and staff shall aggressively seek federal and state reimbursement for emergency related expenditures and shall be empowered to take all necessary actions to obtain such reimbursements.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Forks at its regularly scheduled and advertised meeting of 23 March 2020.



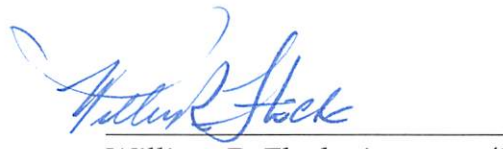
Tim Fletcher, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Audrey Grafstrom, Clerk/Treasurer



William R. Fleck, Attorney/Planner