

## **RESOLUTION 4B-20**

### **A RESOLUTION EXTENDING AN EMERGENCY DECLARATION IN THE CITY OF ALTOONA RELATED TO THE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19**

**WHEREAS**, conditions exist within the State of Wisconsin related to the outbreak of COVID-19 that threaten the health, safety, and welfare of state residents, and the strong potential exists for these conditions to spread to the City of Altoona and the surrounding vicinity, which such conditions require preparedness for a flexible and timely response as conditions change and additional data becomes available; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Altoona is authorized to invoke emergency powers in such circumstances by §§ 323.11, 323.14 and 62.11, Wis. Stats., among other statutory, constitutional, and other authority provided by law, to respond in this time of emergency to protect as best able the life, liberty, and property of its citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, under Wisconsin Statute 252.03, the Eau Claire City-County Health Department is the lead agency for controlling and responding to communicable disease threats and has opened Incident Command to plan for and to respond to the needs of our residents; and

**WHEREAS**, Wisconsin Governor, Tony Evers, issued Executive Order No. 72 proclaiming a public health emergency, as defined in Wis. Stat. § 323.02(16), exists for the State of Wisconsin which expressly authorized and directed certain actions be taken to address the public health emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, Wisconsin Governor, Tony Evers, directed Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) Secretary-designee, Andrea Palm, to issue Emergency Order No. 12, the “Safer at Home Order,” to put procedures and restrictions in place to inhibit the spread of COVID-19, which such order was scheduled to expire on April 24<sup>th</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, Wisconsin Governor, Tony Evers, on April 16, 2020, directed Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) Secretary-designee, Andrea Palm, to issue Emergency Order No. 28, extending the “Safer at Home Order,” until May 26, 2020, which such order relaxed some of the conditions included in Emergency Order No. 12; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the model created by DHS, Wisconsin was projected to have between 440 and 1,500 deaths from COVID-19 by April 8<sup>th</sup>. These numbers were based on projected significant exponential growth in positive cases; however, since the Safer at Home Order, there has been a decrease in exponential growth in the number of cases, and, by April 8<sup>th</sup>, Wisconsin had only 99 deaths.

**WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin Attorney General released guidance on March 16, 2020, providing that governmental bodies can meet their open meetings obligations, while practicing social distancing to help protect public health in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, including conducting meetings via video or telephone conference call or other remote means if the public is provided with an effective way to monitor such meetings; and

**WHEREAS**, A meeting of the Common Council of the City of Altoona on March 18, 2020 ratified a Mayoral proclamation related to the declaration of an emergency in the City of Altoona related to the COVID-19 outbreak; and

**WHEREAS**, the declaration of an emergency in the City of Altoona related to the COVID-19 outbreak is scheduled to expire on April 29, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, circumstances still persist that may require the City to take extraordinary action in response to the COVID-19 crisis to assure a flexible and effective response; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Altoona: That the City Council hereby extends the state of emergency within the City of Altoona until 12:00 a.m. on the 26th day of May, 2020, as subject to extension or rescission by future action of the City Council.

**FURTHER**, the City may change meeting practices to conduct City business consistent with Wisconsin Governor, Tony Evers' and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services' direction on social distancing, and the guidance of the Wisconsin Attorney General that remote and electronic attendance of city council meetings is hereby authorized for the duration of this declaration, and all non-essential board and committee meetings during the duration of this declaration may as conditions warrant be cancelled or conducted by remote attendance if the public is provided with an effective way to monitor such meetings.

**FURTHER**, the City Administrator and any designees or successors to that office are acknowledged as the head of emergency government for the City of Altoona with the full authority as stated under §§ 323.11, 323.14, Wis. Stats., to take action necessary and expedient for the health, safety, welfare, and good order of the City during the duration of this declared emergency, unless any of said authority is removed sooner by lawful action of the City Council. While said emergency authority exists, it shall include, but not be limited to, the following expressly granted powers: Emergency procurement under Wis. Stat. §62.15(1b) permitting the letting of public works contracts without notice or competitive bidding; cooperate with other local units of government under §66.0301 to furnish emergency services; employ volunteer, personnel, facilities and other resources; temporarily modify or suspend local ordinances, regulations and standards not contrary to state, federal, or constitutional laws and principles, and such other action necessary and expedient for the health, safety, protection and welfare of persons and property within the City of Altoona.

**Dated this 21<sup>st</sup> Day of April, 2020**

**CITY OF ALTOONA, WI**

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**Mayor Brendan Pratt**

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Cindy Bauer, City Clerk**

