

## PROCLAMATION

### A PROCLAMATION DECLARING AN EMERGENCY IN THE CITY OF ALTOONA

**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 Mayor of the City of Altoona is authorized to invoke emergency powers in such circumstances by §§ 323.14 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 respond to meet 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**, under the authority of Wis. Stat. § 252.02(3) and at the direction of Governor Tony Evers, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services ordered a statewide moratorium on mass gatherings of 10 people or more to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 effective at 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2020; and

**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 is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on March 18, 2020 to consider a resolution to ratify a Mayoral proclamation related to the declaration of an emergency in the City of Altoona related to the COVID-19 outbreak; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, I DO HEREBY PROCLAIM:** That I, Brendan Pratt, Mayor of the City of Altoona, do hereby declare a state of emergency within the City of Altoona until 12:00 a.m. on the 29th day of April, 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.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brendan Pratt". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Brendan Pratt, Mayor