
I-7 Proposed Emergency Declaration Resolution (Presented by: Lori Grigg Bluhm, City Attorney)

Suggested Resolution

Resolution #2021-04-

Moved by

Seconded by

WHEREAS, Starting in March 2020, there were National and State and County and City Emergency Declarations, and the implementation of measures designed to help prevent the rapid spread of the COVID-19 virus, a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, based on a validated exponential spread of the virus, which will detrimentally impact our medical community; and,

WHEREAS, The City of Troy initially activated its Emergency Operations Plan in March 2020, and has specifically implemented measures to minimize exposure and transmission of COVID-19, and although Troy's public safety workers (including but not limited to police, fire, and public works) continue to report for in-person work, Troy's remaining full time staff has been technologically equipped to continue to work from home; and,

WHEREAS, Although COVID vaccines are now available to all adults, many members of the public, as well as members of Troy's professional staff have not yet had the opportunity to become fully vaccinated; and,

WHEREAS, There has been a recent surge or spike in the total amount of confirmed COVID cases and deaths, specifically in the State of Michigan and Oakland County and the City of Troy, which may be attributed to the presence of variants of COVID, which may exacerbate the severity of any illness; and,

WHEREAS, As of Thursday, April 8, 2021, COVID hospitalizations are near a record high, and at least one health care provider has postponed elective procedures, in anticipation of an increased need to divert hospital resources to address the anticipated increase in COVID cases and hospitalizations; and,

WHEREAS, An amendment to the Michigan Open Meetings Act (MCL 15.263a) allowed municipal boards and committees to meet virtually for the protection of its members, employees, and members of the public until March 31, 2021; and,

WHEREAS, Section 30.410 of the Michigan Compiled Acts authorizes a local legislative body to declare a local state of emergency when there is a threat of widespread injury or loss of life; and,

WHEREAS, If such a local emergency is declared, then the City's Boards and Commissions would have the ability to meet virtually under a recent amendment to the Open Meetings Act, found in Section 15.263a of the Michigan Compiled Acts, where members of the public would not be required to attend a meeting in person and risk possible exposure, and instead could continue to submit public comment through written submissions, emails, voicemails or phone calls in advance of the meeting;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That Troy City Council hereby **DECLARES** a local state of emergency in the City of Troy, based on the recent spike in COVID-19 cases and the known transmission of COVID-19 within Oakland County and the concern of sickness and potential loss of life, and a desire to protect the members of the public, as well as employees and board and committee members, from continued exposure by continuing the ability to hold virtual meetings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That as a result of this emergency declaration, the City **MAY CONTINUE** to take additional measures to limit further exposure, including but not limited to the continued closure of public facilities, the imposition of mask requirements in public buildings and the minimum six-foot social distancing requirements; the postponement of public meetings and public hearings, the continuation of electronic or virtual meetings where ever possible and the alternative methods for public comment for any such virtual meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Troy City Council **SHALL REVISIT** this emergency declaration at or before its May 10, 2021 City Council meeting, and **SHALL DETERMINE** if the conditions have sufficiently changed to require all board and committee meetings be held in person.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City's webpage and social media **SHALL BE UPDATED** to incorporate this emergency declaration and the impact on public meetings in order to provide notification to the public.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, That this Emergency Declaration **SHALL TERMINATE** through affirmative action of the City of Troy City Council.

Yes:

No: