

**R-20-06**

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING A PUBLIC HEALTH STATE OF  
EMERGENCY IN THE CITY OF DECATUR**

**WHEREAS**, the Charter of the City of Decatur, in Section 2.10(c), provides that the City Commission may adopt and enforce any and all ordinances, resolutions, bylaws, rules, regulations and restrictions, consistent with state law, that it may consider advisable and necessary for the health, sanitation, cleanliness, prosperity, comfort, safety, security, good order, welfare and proper government of the City and the inhabitants thereof; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 30-35 of the City Code of Ordinances provides that in the event of a manmade or natural disaster, actual enemy attack upon the United States, or any other emergency which may affect the lives and property of citizens of the City, the Mayor of the City may determine that an emergency or disaster exists and thereafter shall have and may exercise for such period as such emergency or disaster exists or continues, certain enumerated powers; and

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization has declared the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19 as a global pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a national emergency in response to the outbreak of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 14, 2020, Governor Brian Kemp declared that a public health emergency exists in the State of Georgia due to the spread of COVID-19 within Georgia; and

**WHEREAS**, as of the afternoon of March 16, 2020, ten cases of COVID-19 have been officially reported in DeKalb County, representing over 8% of the reported cases in Georgia; and

**WHEREAS**, as a densely populated, thriving intown community that serves as a center of commercial, civic, government, social, entertainment, academic, and religious activities, the City of Decatur has heightened risk of “community spread” as that term is defined by the Centers for Disease Control; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Decatur has taken multiple measures to reduce the risk of community transmission, including cancellation of public meetings, cancellation of after-school programs and Recreation Department activities, and closing of public access to City buildings; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Schools of Decatur have been closed indefinitely, public access to DeKalb County government buildings in the City has been closed, churches in the City have voluntarily suspended services, and many businesses and organizations have voluntarily taken steps to reduce congregating of patrons, including temporarily closing, reducing hours, and/or otherwise modifying their business practices; and

**WHEREAS**, additional measures will likely be required in the coming days and weeks to address the fluid situation and such measures will likely need to be executed quickly and free of the usual formalities and procedures required for City action.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, and it is hereby resolved, by the City Commission of the City of Decatur, Georgia, as follows:

1.

There is hereby determined to be a public health emergency within the City of Decatur due to the rapid spread of COVID-19 in the United States, the State of Georgia and DeKalb County.

2.

The City Manager and Mayor shall continue to communicate and coordinate closely with national, state, regional, county and other local government officials to monitor the situation and combat the spread of the disease.

3.

The City Manager shall continue to run the day to day operations of the City pursuant to her Charter-defined role as chief executive officer and chief administrative officer of the City, including matters affecting City operations and City staff as a result of the current emergency situation.

4.

The City Manager shall continue to fulfill her responsibility under the Charter to recommend to the Mayor and City Commission the adoption of such measures as may be deemed necessary or expedient for the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the City.

5.

The Mayor may exercise any and all powers enumerated in City Code Section 30-35 that she deems necessary and expedient in light of the emergency circumstances present, keeping the City Commission apprised of any and all actions taken.

Notwithstanding the foregoing authority of the Mayor to take such actions unilaterally, the Mayor intends to seek approval of the Commission at a public meeting for significant actions, unless exigencies require otherwise.

6.

The competitive bid requirements in the City Code Section 6.17 and in Section VII.B. of the City's Financial Policies are suspended during the period this Resolution is in effect.

7.

The threshold for contracts awarded by the City Manager in City Code Section 6.17 is raised to \$25,000 during the period this Resolution is in effect.

8.

The countersignature requirements of City Code Section 6.11 are hereby suspended during the period this Resolution is in effect.

**FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED**, and it is hereby resolved, this resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption and shall expire at 11:59 p.m. on April 16, 2020, unless extended by further action of the City Commission.

**RESOLVED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of March, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk