RESOLUTION NO. 2082

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ANACORTES RATIFYING PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING TEMPORARY PROCEDURES TO RESPOND TO THE COVID-19 EPIDEMIC.

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Public Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public emergency for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) beginning on January 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee signed a Proclamation declaring a State of Emergency exists in all counties in the State of Washington due to the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the state and directed that the plans and procedures of the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan be implemented; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the Skagit County Board of Commissioners declared a public health emergency to allow Skagit County to take immediate steps necessary to prepare and respond appropriately to the outbreak; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020 Governor Jay Inslee issued an additional Emergency Proclamation ordering that all events that takes place in King, Snohomish, and Pierce counties with more than 250 people are prohibited by the state. The order applies to gatherings for social, spiritual and recreational activities. These include but are not limited to: community, civic, public, leisure, faith-based, or sporting events; parades; concerts; festivals; conventions; fundraisers and similar activities; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, Washington State Governor Jay Inslee announced that all K-12 public and private schools in Washington State must close for six weeks, from March 17, 2020 until at least April 24, 2020.

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, Mayor Laurie Gere issued a Proclamation of Emergency, declaring the COVID-19 pandemic to be an emergency in the City of Anacortes pursuant to Section 38.52.010 RCW and other relevant provisions of state and federal law;

WHEREAS, the health, safety and welfare of City residents, businesses, visitors and staff is of utmost importance to the City and additional future measures may be needed to protect the community.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Anacortes, Washington, that:
SECTION 1 – RATIFICATION AND FINDING OF FACT

Council hereby ratifies the Proclamation of Emergency issued by Mayor Laurie Gere for the City of Anacortes on March 16, 2020. Council further finds that an emergency exists pursuant to Section 39.04.280(2)(b) RCW and authorizes the Mayor to waive any necessary competitive bidding requirements related to the COVID-19 emergency.

SECTION 2 – CITY’S RESPONSE

A. The City is committed to protecting the public and staff by minimizing the spread of COVID-19. The City has and will continue to follow the guidelines provided by the State of Washington and the Skagit County Health Officer, who prescribe social distancing and minimizing gatherings of people to best combat the spread of COVID-19.

B. The City will close City Hall to the general public beginning Tuesday, March 17 and until further notice. Citizens may pay utility bills, acquire licenses, submit permit applications, contact staff, and transact other City business via telephone, email, and online. The City will create procedures to allow for curbside pickup and drop-off for certain City processes, with such procedures to be posted on the City’s website.

C. The City will close the Anacortes Public Library to the general public beginning Tuesday, March 17, 2020, and will provide updates to the City’s website on remaining library services available during the term of this Resolution.

D. The City will increase efforts to sanitize parks and public spaces which remain open to the public to minimize exposure to COVID-19.

SECTION 3 – COUNCIL PROCEDURES

During the term of this Resolution, the following amendments to City Council procedures are hereby adopted:

A. Any rule or procedure adopted by City Council that would prevent or prohibit all City Councilmembers from attending City Council meetings telephonically are temporarily suspended and all City Councilmembers are encouraged to attend all meetings via telephone.

B. All in-person Committee meetings of the City Council are cancelled. Council and committee meetings may be held telephonically during the term of this Resolution regardless of whether the City has the capability of recording meetings on video.

C. Council directs that the public comment portion of Council meetings and any scheduled public hearings be temporarily suspended to discourage public in-person attendance of City Council meetings. City Council and staff will encourage and accept public comment via email or written comment.

D. Any Council rules that are inconsistent with this Resolution are hereby waived and suspended during the term of this Resolution.
SECTION 4 – BUDGET

During the term of this Resolution, Council adopts the following budget restrictions:

A. A hiring freeze is hereby implemented on all positions funded by any City governmental fund, unless the Mayor determines in writing by notice to City Council that the hire is necessary for the continued provision of essential services to the public.

B. All non-essential equipment replacements are hereby suspended, unless the replacement is completely funded by grants or City enterprise utility funds.

C. Council hereby encourages the expenditure of funds for acquiring any necessary technology to facilitate employees to work from home in situations where such remote work is possible, available, and approved by the Mayor and Department Head overseeing the relevant department. Any such expenditures should either be within current budget allocations or brought to Council for approval.

D. All staff time dedicated to emergency health responses related to the COVID-19 epidemic must be tracked to allow for FEMA reimbursement.

SECTION 5 – PLASTIC BAG BAN

The City’s ban on plastic bags, which is currently scheduled to go into effect on April 4, 2020, is hereby suspended indefinitely.

SECTION 6 – COMMUNICATION

A. All updates regarding City functions and actions relating to the COVID-19 epidemic will be posted on the City’s website to provide the public with the best updated information.

B. The City will cancel and discourage any unnecessary gatherings of community members and/or staff during the Term of this Resolution.

SECTION 7 – EFFECTIVENESS

The provisions of this Resolution shall become effective upon adoption and expire on April 28, 2020 unless further extended by formal action of Council.

INTRODUCED, PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ANACORTES on this 16th day of March 2020.

[Signature]
LAURIE M. GERE, MAYOR
Approved as to form and legality:

Darcy Swetnam, WSBA #40530
City Attorney

ATTEST:

Steve D. Hoglund, City Clerk Treasurer