



**CITY ORDINANCE #552
EXTENDING DECLARATION OF DISASTER
FOR PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, the Mayor issued a proclamation declaring a state of disaster for the imminent threat posed by the disease COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus now designated SARS-CoV-2 which causes the disease COVID-19, has spread through the world and has now been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization; and

WHEREAS, President Donald Trump has proclaimed the COVID-19 outbreak a national emergency in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Governor Abbott has declared a state of disaster for all counties in Texas; and Grayson County; and Commissioners Court has declared a state of disaster for Grayson County; and

WHEREAS, costs incurred to prepare for and respond to COVID-19 are beginning to mount at the county and municipal levels; and

WHEREAS, the City of Whitewright has already taken significant measures to prepare for and prevent the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to take additional steps to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health and welfare of the citizens of the City of Whitewright; and

WHEREAS, declaring a state of disaster in the City of Whitewright will facilitate and expedite the procurement, use, and deployment of resources to enhance preparedness and response; and

WHEREAS, the imminent conditions necessitating the declaration of disaster for a public health emergency exist; and

WHEREAS, §418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code, provides that a local state of disaster may not be continued for a period of excess of seven days without the consent of the governing body of the political subdivision;

WHEREAS, by Ordinance #551, the City Council previously extended the Mayor's Declaration of Disaster.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED by the City Council of Whitewright:

1. That the state of disaster for public health emergency proclaimed for the threat posed by COVID-19 shall continue until May 24, 2020;
2. Pursuant to §418.108(a)-(b) of the Texas Government Code, the local state of disaster proclaimed for the City of Whitewright by the Mayor on the 20th day of March 2020 ("Declaration") shall continue until terminated by order of the City Council.

3. Consistent with guidance from Grayson County and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, this declaration hereby limits the size of gatherings to not more than 10 people, and no such gatherings shall be held in any area subject to regulation by the City of Whitewright until further notice. A "gathering" refers generally to a scheduled event or common endeavor where more than 10 persons are present in a confined space or area.
4. The Mayor may take additional appropriate and legal actions and/or delegate to City Officers authority to take appropriate and legal actions to protect the public health and safety in response to the COVID-19 virus pandemic including but not limited to:
 - a. closing or restricting access to city facilities;
 - b. revising occupant load numbers for city public facilities;
 - c. revising, suspending or deferring fees;
 - d. amending the personnel policies and procedures with regard to leave provisions for quarantined/diagnosed staff, and other personnel matters;
 - e. rescheduling or reducing City Council and other public meetings; and
 - f. suspending or modifying any City-adopted rules or regulations.
5. The Governor of the State of Texas has issued executive orders including the following, which are incorporated herein by reference as mandatory provisions:
 - a. Order No. 1: In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, every person in Texas shall avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people.
 - b. Order No. 2: In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visiting gyms or massage parlors; provided, however, that the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of this executive order.
 - c. Order No. 3: In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall not visit nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.
 - d. Order No. 4: In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, schools shall temporarily close.
6. This ordinance is passed as an emergency measure provided, however, that if the declaration of disaster of the Governor of the State of Texas regarding the COVID-19 outbreak expires before May 24, 2020 at midnight then this ordinance and declaration shall expire simultaneously with the Governor's declaration

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 24th day of April, 2020.

Mayor Jamie Lawrence

Interim City Secretary, Gwyn Jordan