

RESOLUTION NO. 59-2021

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS, FURTHER MODIFYING ITS EXTENSION OF DECLARATION OF DISASTER (COVID-19) ISSUED ON APRIL 8, 2021.

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Mayor of the City of Abilene, by proclamation, issued a Declaration of Local Disaster regarding COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, the City Council issued its Resolution Renewing and Continuing the Mayor's Declaration of Disaster Issued on March 16, 2020, which prohibited the social gathering of more than 10 persons; and

WHEREAS, on March 30, 2020, the City Council issued its Resolution Modifying its Extension of Declaration of Disaster, which created a limited shelter in place through 11:59 p.m., April 14, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on April 13, 2020, the City Council issued its Resolution Further Modifying its Extension of Declaration of Disaster, which continued the limited shelter in place through 11:59 p.m., April 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on April 30, 2020, the City Council issued its Resolution Further Modifying its Extension of Declaration of Disaster, which adopted the regulations and restrictions issued in the Governor's Executive Order GA-18; and

WHEREAS, on May 15, 2020, the City Council issued its Resolution Further Modifying its Extension of Declaration of Disaster, which adopted the regulations and restrictions issued in the Governor's Executive Order GA-21; and

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2020, the City Council issued its Resolution Further Modifying its Extension of Declaration of Disaster, which adopted the regulations and restrictions issued in the Governor's Executive Order GA-23, which was effective until June 25, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on June 25, 2020, the City Council issued its Resolution Further Modifying its Extension of Declaration of Disaster, which adopted the regulations and restrictions issued in the Governor's Executive Order GA-26, which was effective until July 23, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on July 23, 2020, the City Council issued its Resolution Further Modifying its Extension of Declaration of Disaster, which adopted the regulations and restrictions issued in the Governor's Executive Order GA-28, as amended, and Executive Order GA-29, which was effective until August 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on August 27, 2020, the City Council issued its Resolution Further Modifying its Extension of Declaration of Disaster, which continued to adopt the regulations and restrictions issued in the Governor's Executive Order GA-28, as amended, and Executive Order GA-29, which was effective until September 24, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on September 24, 2020, the City Council issued its Resolution Further Modifying its Extension of Declaration of Disaster, which continued the adopt the regulations and restrictions issued in the Governor’s Executive Order GA-29, and Executive Order GA-30, which was effective until October 22, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on October 22, 2020, the City Council issued its Resolution Further Modifying its Extension of Declaration of Disaster, which adopted the regulations and restrictions issued in the Governor’s Executive Order GA-29, and Executive Order GA-32, which was effective until November 19, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on November 19, 2020, the City Council issued its Resolution Further Modifying its Extension of Declaration of Disaster, which adopted the regulations and restrictions issued in the Governor’s Executive Order GA-29, and Executive Order GA-32, which was effective until December 17, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on December 17, 2020, the City Council issued its Resolution Further Modifying its Extension of Declaration of Disaster, which adopted the regulations and restrictions issued in the Governor’s Executive Order GA-29, and Executive Order GA-32, which was effective until January 14, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on January 14, 2021, the City Council issued its Resolution Further Modifying its Extension of Declaration of Disaster, which adopted the regulations and restrictions issued in the Governor’s Executive Order GA-29, and Executive Order GA-32, which was effective until February 11, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on February 11, 2021, the City Council issued its Resolution Further Modifying its Extension of Declaration of Disaster, which adopted the regulations and restrictions issued in the Governor’s Executive Order GA-29, and Executive Order GA-32, which was effective until March 11, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2021, the City Council issued its Resolution Further Modifying its Extension of Declaration of Disaster (COVID-19), which adopted the regulations and restrictions issued in the Governor’s Executive Order GA-34, which was effective until April 8, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on April 8, 2021, the City Council issued its Resolution Further Modifying its Extension of Declaration of Disaster (COVID-19), which adopted the regulations and restrictions issued in the Governor’s Executive Order GA-34, and which was effective until May 13, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on March 2, 2021, the Governor of the State of Texas issued his Executive Order GA-34, effective until it is modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded by the Governor, and which relates to the opening of Texas; and

WHEREAS, on April 5, 2021, the Governor of the State of Texas renewed his disaster proclamation for all counties in Texas due to COVID-19 continuing a state of disaster; and

WHEREAS, because of the continuing risk of the rapid spread of the COVID-19 virus, the need to protect the most vulnerable members of the community, the intent to ensure that the maximum number of people self-isolate in their places of residence to the maximum extent feasible, while enabling essential services and commerce to continue, and the desire to slow the spread of COVID-19 to maximum extent possible, this Order is required; and

WHEREAS, this Order is issued based on evidence of the continuing occurrence of COVID-19 within the City of Abilene and Taylor County, scientific evidence and best practices regarding the most effective approaches to slow the transmission of communicable diseases generally and COVID-19 specifically; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that extraordinary and immediate measures must continue to be taken to respond quickly to prevent and slow down community spread of COVID-19 in the City of Abilene; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that it is in the public interest to authorize additional authority as described herein pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, as amended, Texas Government Code, and provide rules to protect the health of persons in the City of Abilene, pursuant to the Texas Government Code and Texas Health and Safety Code.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED AND DECLARED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS:

1. The foregoing recitals as incorporated herein and made findings of fact.
2. That the City Council, effective immediately, hereby renews and continues the local state of disaster for the City of Abilene, Texas, pursuant to Section 418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code.
3. Pursuant to Section 418.108(c) of the Government Code, this renewal and continuation of the declaration of a local state of disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the City Secretary.
4. Pursuant to Section 418.108(d) of the Government Code, this renewal and continuation of the declaration of a local state of disaster continues activation of the emergency management plan for the City of Abilene. The furnishing of aid and assistance under the declaration is hereby authorized. The appropriate preparedness and response aspects of the plan are continued.
5. The use of all available resources of the City of Abilene that are reasonably necessary to cope with this disaster are hereby authorized.
6. To the extent permitted by law, any local ordinance or administrative rule prescribing the procedures for conduct of City business or any local ordinance or administrative rule that

would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with this disaster, including any local ordinance or administrative rule regarding contracting or procurement with would impede the City's emergency response necessary to cope with this declared disaster, are hereby suspended, but only for the duration of this declared local disaster and only for that limited purpose.

7. Pursuant to Section 418.108(g) of the Government Code, the City of Abilene may control ingress to and egress from a disaster area within the incorporated limits of the City of Abilene and control the movement of persons and the occupancy of premises in that area.
8. Pursuant to Section 122.006 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, the City of Abilene may adopt rules to protect the health of persons in the municipality, including quarantine rules to protect the residents against communicable disease.
9. The intent of this Order is to protect the physical health and well-being of City of Abilene residents, to protect the financial health and well-being of City of Abilene residents and businesses, and to slow the spread of COVID-19 to the maximum extent possible while safeguarding the Constitutional liberties of City of Abilene residents by utilizing the least restrictive means possible and encouraging the highest level of personal responsibility.

All persons should follow the CDC recommended guidelines to protect themselves from exposure and to protect the public from further community spread.

10. The City of Abilene hereby adopts and incorporates herein Governor Greg Abbott's Executive Order GA-34, the same as if it were copied and set-forth at length herein. The City of Abilene will follow and enforce the conditions and restrictions as set forth in GA-34, and adopts and incorporates any further Proclamations modifying, amending or superseding GA-34 during the term of Abilene's declaration of local disaster.

The City Manager is authorized without further Council action to enforce these provisions to the fullest extent allowed by law.

11. In the event the Governor of the State of Texas amends or modifies his Executive Order GA-34, this Declaration and Order is automatically amended or modified without further Council action to reflect said amendments or modifications to the Governor's Executive Order. It being the express intent of the City Council and this Declaration and Order to follow the Governor's Executive Order.
12. All public, private and commercial laboratories operating within the City of Abilene and performing COVID-19 testing shall report by 5:00 p.m. each day for the prior 24-hour period to the Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District the following information:

- (a) The number of COVID-19 tests performed;

(b) The number of positive COVID-19 tests; and

(c) The patient names and demographic information of positive COVID-19 tests.

This information will be used solely for public health purposes to monitor the testing conducted in the City of Abilene, and mitigate and contain the spread of COVID-19.

13. That any City ordinance or regulation imposing a time requirement for payment, filing or appealing a decision, may be extended by the Mayor without further confirmation by the City Council.

14. That the Mayor may suspend or modify any other ordinance or regulation of the City of Abilene for a period of not more than seven days from the date of this resolution unless continued or renewed by the City Council.

15. That the City Manager or designee of the City Manager is authorized, without further approval of the City Council, to:

(a) Make application for local, state and federal assistance as necessary and/or applicable;

(b) Accept on behalf of the City services, gifts, grants, equipment, supplies, and/or materials whether from private, nonprofit, or governmental sources;

(c) Enter into Interlocal cooperation agreements or memorandums of understanding with other cities, counties, or jurisdictions to provide for law enforcement assistance or other shared services to assist in this Resolution or the COVID-19 pandemic;

(d) Contract for expenditures for budgeted items and emergency expenditures in an amount not to exceed \$250,000; and

(e) Defer any fines or fees imposed by the City.

After cessation of this emergency and state of disaster, the City Manager shall provide the City Council a list of all actions taken under this paragraph.

16. That although not required by law and out of an abundance of caution, the City Manager is authorized to (and any prior acts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic are ratified):

(a) Close, including closure to the public, of any City offices, facilities, or properties, including parks, playgrounds, or playground equipment; and

(b) Provide city services by means other than in-person delivery, such as accepting permit applications online or by mail only, and/or to cease any city service that are not required by state or federal law.

17. That any ordinances, rules, or regulations of the City of Abilene, Texas, that conflict with this Resolution are hereby suspended, such suspension to remain in effect until the state of disaster is terminated or until there is a subsequent Resolution of this Council, whichever occurs first.
18. That pursuant to Section 418.020(d) of the Texas Government Code, the City of Abilene is authorized to:
 - (a) Temporarily or permanently acquire by lease, purchase, or other means sites required for installation of temporary housing units or emergency shelters for disaster victims; and
 - (b) Enter into arrangements necessary to prepare or equip the site to use the housing units or shelters, including arrangements for the purchase of temporary housing units or shelters and the payment of transportation charges.
19. That failure to comply with any of the provisions of this Order constitutes an imminent threat to public health.
20. Pursuant to Section 418.173, Government Code, failure to comply with this Order is an offense punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, except as otherwise provided in the Governor's Executive Order GA-34.
21. That any violation of this Resolution, Declaration and Order can be enjoined by the City of Abilene by a suit filed in a court of competent jurisdiction, and this remedy shall be in addition to any penal provision in this Resolution, Declaration and Order or in the Code of Ordinances, City of Abilene, Texas.
22. That nothing in this Resolution, Declaration and Order shall be construed to affect any suit or proceeding pending in any court, or any rights acquired, or liability incurred, or any cause or causes of action acquired or existing, under any act or prior ordinance; nor shall any legal right or remedy of any character be lost, impaired, or affected by this Resolution.
23. All provisions of this Resolution, Declaration and Order should be interpreted to effectuate its intent.
24. That this Declaration and Order is effective immediately and continues until 11:59 p.m. June 10, 2021 unless otherwise modified, terminated or extended.

25. That the terms and provisions of this Resolution, Declaration and Order shall be deemed to be severable and that if any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or word herein shall be declared to be invalid or unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or word herein, and the remainder of this Resolution, Declaration and Order shall continue in full force and effect the same as if such invalid or unconstitutional provision had never been a part hereof.

ADOPTED this 13th day of May, 2021.

ATTEST:



Shawna Atkinson, City Secretary



Anthony Williams, Mayor

APPROVED:



Stanley Smith, City Attorney

