

Proclamation No. 2020-01

**EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS)
PANDEMIC**

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared COVID-19 (Coronavirus) to be a global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States and the governor of the State of Oklahoma have declared an infectious disease national emergency declaration to combat COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, there have been confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the State of Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, public health officials state that estimates of mortality rates for COVID-19 exceed typical seasonal viruses; and

WHEREAS, health professionals and researchers have determined that COVID-19 is spread by human contact and interaction; and

WHEREAS, avoidance of human contact through methods such as social distancing is believed to stop the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the spread of COVID-19 is a disaster affecting life, health, and safety of Heavener residents and non-residents alike; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of The Heavener City Code and state law permit the City Manager, Mayor, and or City Council of the City of Heavener to proclaim that a state of emergency exists within any area of the City:

NOW, THEREFORE, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY GRANTED BY CITY CHARTER, CITY ORDINANCE AND STATE LAW THE MAYOR OF THE OF THE CITY OF HEAVENER, OKLAHOMA RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION ONE: A state of emergency exists within the city limits of the City of Heavener, LeFlore County, Oklahoma.

SECTION TWO: This Proclamation shall become effective immediately upon signature by the Mayor.

- a) **Emergency Purchases:** The city manager and/or designee(s) shall be authorized to make emergency purchases of goods and services and enter into contracts as deemed necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public and to protect public or private property from further harm or damage. Emergency purchases of goods and services shall not be subject to competitive bidding or other purchasing requirements established by this code. Contracts pursuant to this section

may be entered into by the city manager and/or designee(s) without the prior approval of the City Council.

- b) **Summary Abatelements:** The City of Heavener, its agents, employees, contractors and assigns are hereby empowered to enter onto public and private property to summarily remove conditions that are deemed an imminent threat to the life, safety, health, and welfare of the city, its residents, or the general public. The City of Heavener, its agents, employees, contractors and assigns shall suffer neither liability nor be responsible for any damages caused to private or public property during the abatement of existing and imminent threats to the safety, health and welfare of the city, its residents or the general public.

- c) **Marshaling of Resources:** The Emergency Management Director, after due authorization from the Mayor or City Manager, shall have the power and authority to enforce all rules and regulations relating to civil defense and emergency management and, if necessary, take control of transportation, communications, stocks of fuel, food, clothing, medicine, and public utilities for the purpose of protecting the civilian population. Said director shall cooperate in every way with the activities of the governmental agencies or civil defense organizations; and if required by the mayor or city manager shall have control over any and all funds allocated from any source for the purpose of alleviating distress conditions in the city.

SECTION THREE: The City of Heavener will remain open for business with limited access, however all public and private gatherings, meetings and events are hereby postponed and/or cancelled and no permits for gatherings, meetings and events at said locations shall be issued until the expiration of this emergency declaration. The public will be encouraged to conduct business by phone or electronically to the extent possible.

SECTION FOUR: The City Manager and Department Heads are hereby authorized to make necessary operational changes to protect employees and the public from exposure to the COVID-19 virus, including, but not limited to the following:

- a) Requiring certain employees to telecommute;
- b) Implementing Best Practices for handwashing, the cleaning of surfaces and social distancing for all departments;
- c) Ordering self-quarantine of employees as recommended protocols dictate;
- d) Implementing protocols to limit the exposure of First Responders to COVID-19;
- e) Cancelling/rescheduling of job-related training or conferences (not including online training);

- f) Discouraging off duty employees from travel or attendance at crowded venues of all kinds and encouraging off duty social distancing and sanitary precautions;
- g) Encouraging all employees to follow recommended protocols if exhibiting certain symptoms indicative of COVID-19, including dry cough, fever and shortness of breath and low oxygenation of the blood;
- h) Discontinuance of service cut offs due to non-payment and waiver of late fees for utility payments;

SECTION FIVE: The City Manager shall revoke any pending permit and not issue any new permit for any public or private event on any City street, sidewalk, facility, park, or property until the expiration of this emergency declaration.

SECTION SIX: Meetings of all City of Heavener boards, commissions and committees are hereby postponed and/or cancelled until the expiration of this emergency declaration. That Meetings of Heavener City Council and Heavener Utilities Authority are exempt from this cancellation requirement, however only one (1) meeting per month will be scheduled. These meetings will remain open to the public, but steps will be taken to ensure no close contact between attendees along with other sanitization measures.

SECTION SEVEN: Heavener Municipal Court dockets are cancelled, and no arraignments shall be scheduled until April 28th, 2020 or until further notice. Currently scheduled arraignments, hearings, and trials will be rescheduled. The Municipal Judge shall issue an order rescheduling cases and the Municipal Court Clerk shall issue written notification of new court dates.

SECTION EIGHT: All in-person gatherings for social, spiritual and recreational purposes, including, but not limited to community, civic, public, leisure, faith-based, or sporting events; parades, concerts, festivals, conventions, fundraisers and similar activities are strongly discouraged until the expiration of this emergency declaration.

SECTION NINE: Restaurants, bars and other privately owned gathering places are highly encouraged to limit the number of patrons such that at least six (6) feet of space is available to each patron. Such facilities are further encouraged to transition to "take-out" or "delivery" options.

SECTION TEN: This state of emergency shall continue until 12:01 AM April 6th, 2020 unless terminated earlier by Mayoral Proclamation.

Adopted and approved This 18th day of March, 2020, at Heavener, Oklahoma.

ATTEST:


MAYOR


CITY CLERK

