

CITY OF UNALASKA
UNALASKA, ALASKA

RESOLUTION 2020-71

A RESOLUTION OF THE UNALASKA CITY COUNCIL EXTENDING THE DECLARATION OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO TAKE NECESSARY ACTIONS TO REDUCE THE IMPACT AND SPREAD OF THE CORONAVIRUS KNOWN AS COVID-19 THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF UNALASKA

WHEREAS, the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention has identified the COVID-19 virus as a new strain of coronavirus not previously identified in humans, causing respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and which poses a significant public health risk; and

WHEREAS, a proactive approach taken by individuals and communities to slow the rate of infection will reduce the negative impact on our health care system; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared a pandemic related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, Governor Mike Dunleavy declared a Public Health Disaster Emergency in the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, City of Unalaska stood up the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to provide a framework for coordinated communications, preparedness and response; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a National Emergency; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has generated a public health emergency that threatens to overwhelm the City of Unalaska health system and the economy of our community, endangering the lives and wellbeing of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, Mayor Vincent M. Tutiakoff, Sr. declared a Local Emergency in the City of Unalaska, authorizing the City Manager to take necessary actions to reduce the impact and spread of the coronavirus known as COVID-19 through the City of Unalaska; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, the Unalaska City Council passed Resolution 2020-16 and declared a Local Emergency to remain in effect for so long as the declaration of a Public Health Disaster in the State of Alaska remains in effect; and

WHEREAS the declaration of a Public Health Disaster in the State of Alaska is set to expire on November 15, 2020, resulting in the expiration of the City of Unalaska's Local Emergency on the same date; and

WHEREAS, new COVID-19 infections in the State of Alaska have been in excess of 200 per day for the last month, which is considerably higher than when the national, state and local emergencies were declared in March; and

WHEREAS, local emergency regulations have proven effective in that there is currently no community spread in Unalaska, despite the recent surge in cases statewide.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE UNALASKA CITY COUNCIL that the spread of coronavirus known as COVID-19, and its threat to our health system, remain a local public health crisis and extends the local emergency declaration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is authorized to take necessary actions, in accordance with Chapter 2.96 of the Unalaska Municipal Code, to prepare and position our resources in order to reduce the impact and spread of the coronavirus throughout the City of Unalaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this declaration a local emergency shall be effective on November 11, 2020 and expire on June 30, 2021. City Council may extend or amend this declaration as necessary.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Unalaska City Council on November 10, 2020.



Vincent M. Tutiakoff, Sr.
Mayor

ATTEST:



Marjie Veeder, CMC
City Clerk



MEMORANDUM TO COUNCIL

To: Mayor and City Council Members
From: Erin Reinders, City Manager
Date: November 10, 2020
Re: Resolution 2020-71, Public Health Emergency Declaration Extension

SUMMARY: Resolution 2020-16, City Council's declaration of a public health emergency will expire if the State of Alaska's emergency declaration is allowed to expire. The State's declaration is set to expire on November 15, 2020. Resolution 2020-71 extends the local emergency declaration through June 30, 2020. Staff recommends approval.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION: On March 15, 2020, Mayor Vincent M. Tutiakoff, Sr. declared a local emergency in the City of Unalaska and authorized the City Manager to take necessary actions to reduce the impact and spread of the coronavirus known as COVID-19 through the City of Unalaska.

Shortly thereafter, on March 18, 2020, the Unalaska City Council passed Resolution 2020-16, declaring a local emergency to remain in effect for so long as the declaration of a Public Health Disaster in the State of Alaska Remains in effect.

Since March 24, 2020, the Unalaska City Council has consistently passed resolutions addressing local public health protective measures for the community.

BACKGROUND: On March 11, 2020, Governor Mike Dunleavy declared a Public Health Disaster Emergency in the State of Alaska, set to expire on November 15, 2020. Because Unalaska's local declaration is effective so long as the State's declaration remains in effect, our local emergency declaration will also expire on November 15, 2020 if no action is taken.

DISCUSSION: A continued declaration of emergency allows for the City of Unalaska to continue in our coordinated efforts of communication, preparedness and response we have undertaken since March. New COVID-19 infections in the State of Alaska have been in excess of 200 per day for the last month, which is considerably higher than when the national, state and local emergencies were declared in March. Recently, state officials have started sharing their concern of rising pressures for hospital beds and ICU resources.

On March 12, 2020, the City of Unalaska stood up the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and established a Unified Command structure. Numerous staff members participate with other workgroups in the community and beyond to address various needs and mitigate potential risks. In partnership with representatives from the IFHS Clinic, School District, Tribe, industry, and many others, we continue to work together to during this emergency.

Since March 24, 2020, the Unalaska City Council has consistently passed resolutions addressing local public health protective measures for the community. The City Manager has issued Emergency Orders allowing for telephonic participation in City Council meetings and addressing personnel policies. These actions are in accordance with Unalaska Code § 2.96 and the local emergency declaration.

With uncertainty surrounding the next step the State of Alaska might take regarding the extension of the emergency declaration, this resolution is drafted to expire on June 30, 2020. It is not tied to any action at the State level. Council could decide to amend this date now or in the future, as necessary.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: The finance department continues to track the costs associated with the city's response. The CARES Act has been the primary funding source for these expenses. This declaration may assist in allowing for us to request funding support or reimbursement in the future.

LEGAL: Staff has continually consulted with the City Attorney in regards the local declaration of emergency and related protective measures.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval.

PROPOSED MOTION: I move to approve Resolution 2020-71.

ATTACHMENTS: Resolution 2020-16

CITY OF UNALASKA
UNALASKA, ALASKA

RESOLUTION 2020-16

A RESOLUTION OF THE UNALASKA CITY COUNCIL DECLARING A LOCAL EMERGENCY AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO TAKE NECESSARY ACTIONS TO REDUCE THE IMPACT AND SPREAD OF THE CORONAVIRUS KNOWN AS COVID-19 THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF UNALASKA

WHEREAS, the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention has identified the COVID-19 virus as a new strain of coronavirus not previously identified in humans, causing respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and which poses a significant public health risk; and

WHEREAS, a proactive approach taken by individuals and communities to slow the rate of infection will reduce the negative impact on our health care system; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared a pandemic related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, Governor Mike Dunleavy declared a Public Health Disaster Emergency in the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, City of Unalaska stood up the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to provide a framework for coordinated communications, preparedness and response; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a National Emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, by Mayoral Decree, the Honorable Vincent M. Tutiakoff, Sr. declared a local emergency as a result of these circumstances.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE UNALASKA CITY COUNCIL that the coronavirus known as COVID-19 has created a local public health emergency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is authorized to take necessary actions, in accordance with Chapter 2.96 of the Unalaska Municipal Code, to prepare and position our resources in order to reduce the impact and spread of the coronavirus throughout the City of Unalaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this declaration supersedes the earlier-issued mayoral Declaration of Emergency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this declaration a local emergency shall remain in effect for so long as the declaration of a Public Health Disaster Emergency in the State of Alaska remains in effect.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Unalaska City Council on March 18, 2020.


Vincent M. Tutiakoff, Sr.
Mayor

ATTEST:


Marjie Veeder, CMC
City Clerk

