

CITY OF UNALASKA
UNALASKA, ALASKA

RESOLUTION 2020-47

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

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

WHEREAS, on November 10, 2020, the Unalaska City Council passed Resolution 2020-71, extending the local emergency declaration through June 30, 2021, to allow the City to continue to take necessary actions to reduce the impact and spread of the coronavirus known as COVID-19 in the City of Unalaska; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of the State of Alaska, Department of Health and Social Services, Adam Crum, pursuant to and in accordance with the authority granted by the Alaska State Legislature in House Bill 76, Chapter No. 2, SLA 2021, declared a Public Health Emergency effective at 12:02 a.m. on May 1, 2021, which shall remain in effect until rescinded or until the federal public health emergency issued under Section 319 of the Public Health Services Act expires, whichever is sooner; and

WHEREAS, B-Season is underway in Unalaska with an influx of workers from all over the globe living and working in close quarters and supporting our primary economic driver; and

WHEREAS, Unalaska has been proven successful in limiting community transmission of the virus through a variety response and mitigation efforts, and will continue to monitor local, state and national trends and events related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 vaccine continues to serve as a vital tool in our efforts to slow the spread of the virus, keep our schools and businesses open, and industry running; and

WHEREAS, the Isolation Site remains a key operational effort and resource in Unalaska's response to COVID-19 and its health and economic impacts to the community; and

WHEREAS, commercial fishing and processing industry members have incorporated the Isolation Site in their mitigation measures for B-season and need this to site remain available throughout B-season to ensure the health and safety of their vital workforce.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that COVID-19 continues to pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the City of Unalaska and the Unalaska City Council hereby 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 July 1, 2021 and expire on December 31, 2021. The City Council may extend or amend this declaration as necessary.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Unalaska City Council on June 22, 2021.


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: June 22, 2021
Re: Resolution 2021-47, Public Health Emergency Declaration Extension

SUMMARY: Resolution 2020-71, City Council's declaration of a local public health emergency will expire on June 30, 2020. This resolution extends the local state of emergency through December 31, 2021. 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 remained in effect.

On November 10, 2020, the Unalaska City Council passed Resolution 2020-71, extending the local emergency through June 30, 2021.

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

BACKGROUND: On March 12, 2020, the City of Unalaska stood up the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and established a Unified Command structure with the City and IFHS as leads. 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 during this emergency.

Since March 24, 2020, the Unalaska City Council has consistently passed resolutions addressing 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.

The current local state of emergency will expire on June 30, 2021. With current case counts and regional alert levels as they are, Unalaska is currently at a "Low" local risk level and the City Council is recommending, but not requiring, community wide protective measures.

Regardless of whether or not we are in a state of emergency, the City will issue Nixel Alerts or news releases when necessary and we will continue with wastewater surveillance. The Department of Public Safety and Fire/EMS will respond to calls for assistance. Local clinics will continue caring for patients, testing and providing vaccines.

However, the Isolation Site is a key operational effort and resource in Unalaska's response to COVID-19 and its health and economic impacts to the community. Unalaska Unified Command (IFHS and the City), have met with fishing and processing industry members to discuss this site and their mitigation plans. This Isolation Site is necessary to ensure the health and safety of their workforce and our economy as industry continues to roll out vaccines and work in close quarters. Therefore, Unalaska Unified Command will be continuing the Isolation Site operations and the City's management of the site itself until December 31, 2021 for B-Season.

DISCUSSION: The impact of the pandemic and the risk to our community has changed much since the last emergency declaration, but we are not out of the woods yet. The State of Alaska continues to monitor daily case rates. As of June 16, 2021, the current statewide alert level, based on the average daily case rate over 14 days per 100,000, is low at 3.31 cases per 100,000. One region of Alaska is in high alert status with widespread community transmission; four regions are at intermediate alert status with moderate transmission; and six regions are at low alert with minimal transmission.

Locally, Unalaska has B-Season ahead of us with an influx of workers from all over the globe living and working in close quarters and supporting our primary economic driver. The resolution before you tonight continues the local state of emergency through December 31, 2021. This coincides with the end of B-Season and the City's involvement with managing the Isolation Site. A continued declaration of emergency allows for the City of Unalaska to continue in our coordinated efforts of communication and timely response through B-Season.

If COVID-19 case counts remain as they have been and there is limited risk to overwhelming the healthcare system, the City will continue to recommend voluntary compliance with protective measures. As always these recommendations will be developed in consultation with local health care professionals and with consideration to CDC and state guidance and how it best applies to our local context. However, having the continued declaration provides the flexibility for Council to impose stricter requirements quickly and effectively, if necessary, based on increasing risk levels. Another benefit is the availability of the immunities in UCO § 2.96.120. Additionally, the declaration of emergency enables staffing and resources to be allocated more efficiently.

As noted in the background section, Unalaska Unified Command will continue the Isolation Site operations and the City's management of the site itself. Because this effort is outside the typical scope of City duties, and is an ongoing operational initiative in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a continued local emergency declaration is appropriate.

So long as there are Council resolutions in place identifying and encouraging protective measures, like the one before you tonight, staff will continue to greet arriving air-travel passengers to inform them of these measures and collect contact tracing information. These community wide protective measures will not be scheduled for consideration at City Council meetings as frequently as they have this past year. We will reduce regularly scheduled news releases as well. In both cases, we will adapt when necessary.

ALTERNATIVES: Council may adopt this resolution, or not.

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. ARPA funds, once available, will help to support our response moving forward. In terms of the Isolation Site, beginning July 1, 2021 the users will be charged a "per person per night" rate to

help recoup some of the associated costs. 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 regard to the local declaration of emergency and related protective measures.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval.

PROPOSED MOTION: I move to adopt Resolution 2021-47.

ATTACHMENTS: [Resolution 2020-16](#) and [Resolution 2020-71](#).

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

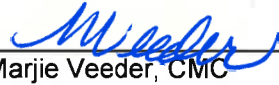
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this declaration supersedes the earlier-issued mayoral Declaration of Emergency; and

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



MEMORANDUM TO COUNCIL

To: Mayor and City Council Members
From: Erin Reinders, City Manager
Date: March 18, 2020
Re: Resolution 2020-16 – Public Health Emergency Declaration

SUMMARY: Mayor Tutiakoff declared a public health emergency on March 15, 2020. This declaration is required to be ratified and extended by the City Council within seven days. This declaration of a local public health emergency is a proactive step in keeping with those actions. Staff recommends approval.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION: Council has previously declared a state of emergency, most recently after the airplane crash. Council has taken no formal action related to this current public health crisis.

BACKGROUND: The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has identified the COVID-19 virus as a new strain of coronavirus, causing respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death. This poses a significant public health risk. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared a pandemic related to COVID-19 and Governor Mike Dunleavy declared a Public Health Disaster Emergency in the State of Alaska. On March 13, 2020, the President declared a National Emergency.

DISCUSSION: On March 15, 2020, in accordance with Unalaska Municipal Code, Section 2.96.030, the Mayor declared the coronavirus threat and impact a public health emergency. Council action is now required to ratify and extend this declaration. This declaration of emergency allows for the potential to request for funding support in the future and allows response actions to be taken quickly and more effectively.

Even before the Mayor's declaration, staff has been proactive in addressing this situation. On March 12, 2020, City of Unalaska stood up the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to provide a framework for coordinated communications, preparedness and response. Our EOC meetings include representatives from the Clinic and School District. Numerous staff members have joined with other workgroups in the community and beyond to address various needs and mitigate potential risks. Our EOC is currently expanding to better ensure a continued coordinated response as this situation unfolds.

Although not an exhaustive list, the following actions have been taken :

1. Fisheries Infectious Disease Working Group, which includes representatives of the fishing and seafood processing industries here in Unalaska as well as City and Clinic representatives, have successfully set up screening for industry at the Anchorage airport.

2. Developed and implemented a communication plan to provide for accurate and timely information to members of the public. All press releases are approved by the Clinic Executive Director and City Manager before being finalized. City has created a city webpage dedicated to the coronavirus and issues press releases daily with coordinated messaging.
3. Developed and implemented a guidance document on risk thresholds for social distancing. This has been shared with the public and with numerous organizations directly, including the Senior Center.
4. Unisea has proposed a quarantine site for industry and community use, and the Clinic has approved it. Preparation details are being worked out now.
5. City has closed the PCR, Aquatics Center and Library (following the Governor mandate and UCSD's School closures). Other public gathering locations have done the same.
6. Local shippers and stores have been contacted to education and ensure a continuity of service.
7. Efforts are underway to develop a method to deliver groceries and supplies to patients in home quarantine upon referral from the clinic.
8. Senior Center has been closed to meals for the public. Meals are still being delivered to program participants.
9. Accounting system set up to track City costs associated with this emergency.
10. City has stepped up cleaning and wiping actions in public facilities, with the assistance of our staff and cleaning crews.
11. During this public health emergency, and in support of our staff and community members, the City has told employees that:
 - a. City employees may be asked to work in flexible working schedules, work from a different location, or be reassigned duties depending on the circumstances and the level of need.
 - b. City employees will be paid their regular wage and not be required to use leave if they are directed not to report to work due to city facility closures.
 - c. City employees will be paid their regular wage and not be required to use leave if they if they need to miss work because they are sick, need care for a sick family member, or need to provide child care for their child due to school closings.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: There are many moving part to this evolving situation. The associated financial implications are currently unknown. The finance department is developing an accounting system so that we may track the costs associated with the city's response. This declaration may assist in allowing for us to request funding support or reimbursement in the future.

LEGAL: Staff consulted with the City Attorney in regards to the original declaration of emergency.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval.

PROPOSED MOTION: "I move to approve Resolution 2020-16."

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