

CITY OF CHARLESTOWN, INDIANA COMMON COUNCIL

RESOLUTION 2020-R-03

**RESOLUTION FOR THE PROVISION OF RELIEF FOR THE
PRESENT PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, the novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (hereinafter “COVID-19”) is a severe respiratory illness; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a rapidly spreading virus that is transmitted from human-to-human contact and results in a range of symptoms, including the possibility of fever, cough, acute respiratory distress, pneumonia, and death; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, United States Health and Human Services Secretary, Alex M. Azar II, declared a public health emergency for the United States; and

WHEREAS, on March 6, 2020, Indiana Governor Eric J. Holcomb adopted an executive order declaring that a public health disaster emergency exists in the State of Indiana attributable to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, Indiana Governor Eric J. Holcomb adopted Executive Order 20-04 providing further order and directives in response to the COVID-19 epidemic, Section 5 of which specifically allows governing bodies of public agencies to participate in necessary public meetings electronically and advises such entities to allow the public to participate in such meetings electronically; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of this Resolution by the Common Council of the City of Charlestown, Indiana empowers public officials and employees of the City of Charlestown to take those steps necessary to minimize the threat of transmission of COVID-19.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Common Council of the City of Charlestown, Indiana as follows:

SECTION 1. The foregoing Recitals are incorporated herein by this reference.

SECTION 2. The Common Council of the City of Charlestown, Indiana hereby declares a state of public health emergency in the City of Charlestown for the duration of the COVID-19 outbreak.

SECTION 3. Access to municipal buildings of the City of Charlestown may be restricted to designated City employees and other persons deemed essential by the Office of the Mayor, the Chief of Police, the Mayor’s designee, and/or the Clerk/Treasurer. In the event that such access is limited, procedures for conducting regular business shall be posted in a location visible from the exterior of such municipal building(s) and shall be posted on the City’s official webpage.

SECTION 4. City services shall continue during the emergency period, but some services may be restricted or delayed. Services deemed essential, such as public safety, wastewater management, and sanitation shall continue to operate, and adjustments may be made to such services to ensure their continuation.

SECTION 5. City employees who have the ability to work remotely shall do so under the guidance of their direct supervisors, and it shall be within the discretion of each employee's direct supervisor to determine whether such employee is able to work remotely. Any City employees working remotely shall report to their supervisor as frequently as directed, and no less than daily, either by telephone or electronic mail. Employees working remotely shall continue to receive all regular pay and benefits associated with their employment.

SECTION 6. City employees who cannot work remotely shall not be penalized in the event that they are required to miss work due either to a governmental closure or personal illness during this period of public health emergency. Employees, regardless of whether their pay is calculated hourly or on a salaried basis, shall continue to receive their regular pay and benefits in the event that they are unable to work as the result of a closure or illness during this emergency period, and such time shall not be deducted from the employee's accumulated sick leave or vacation time. For an affected employee whose pay is calculated hourly for part-time employment, their "regular pay" shall mean the weekly average amount of their pay for those weeks in which the employee worked in the present calendar year.

SECTION 7. All public meetings of the governing bodies of the City of Charlestown and its various public agencies (e.g. the Common Council, the Board of Public Works, the Redevelopment Commission, the Advisory Plan Commission, etc.) which are required for the continued operation of regular City business should include only those members and persons that are necessary to conduct such meetings. These public meetings will continue to be broadcast live via the City's page on the social media platform Facebook, and all interested individuals are encouraged to attend the meetings remotely, rather than in person, in order to minimize the physical interaction of attendees and participants in such meetings, and thus minimize the possibility of transmission of COVID-19 at such meetings.

Those individuals who wish to make public comment or wish to participate in a public hearing during this emergency period, but wish to attend electronically, may submit their comment or testimony through properly addressed United States Mail directed to the Office of the Mayor, 304 Main Cross Street, Charlestown, Indiana 47111 or electronic mail directed to Mayor@CityofCharlestown.com. All comments and/or testimony received an hour before the commencement of the meeting or hearing in question shall be read into the record of such meeting or hearing by the presiding officer.

SECTION 8. The City of Charlestown Police Department, as directed by the Chief of Police, is hereby authorized to enforce this Resolution and to take any lawful steps necessary to ensure public safety during this emergency period.

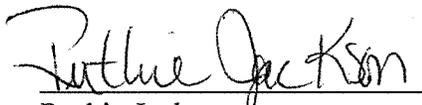
This Resolution is hereby ADOPTED by the City of Charlestown, Indiana Common Council this 10th day of March, 2020.


Brian Hester

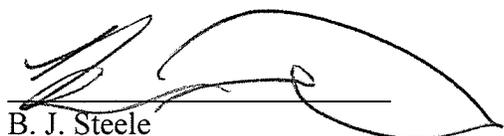
In Favor Opposed Abstained
✓ _____ _____


Bo Bertram

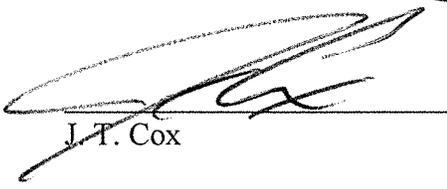
In Favor Opposed Abstained
✓ _____ _____


Ruthie Jackson

In Favor Opposed Abstained
✓ _____ _____

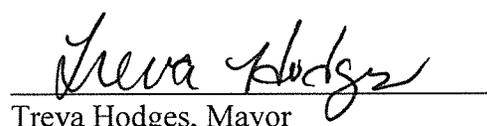

B. J. Steele

In Favor Opposed Abstained
✓ _____ _____


J. T. Cox

In Favor Opposed Abstained
✓ _____ _____

THIS RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED upon this date: 3-18-2020


Treva Hodges, Mayor

ATTEST:

3-18-2023
Date


Donna Coomer
City Clerk-Treasurer