

RESOLUTION NO. R-2021-07

A RESOLUTION TO EXTEND THE STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC; ESTABLISHING PUBLIC MEETING PRACTICES FOR CITY COUNCIL, AUTHORITIES, TRUSTS, COMMISSIONS, ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES OF THE CITY OF DURANT; DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO ISSUE PERMITS FOR EVENTS WITH CERTAIN LIMITATIONS; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ADJUST OPERATIONS AND SERVICES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 AS NECESSARY; AND FOLLOW THE STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-20 AS PERIODICALLY AMENDED.

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the coronavirus COVID-19 disease to be a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a National Emergency due to the COVID-19 virus pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, the Governor of the State of Oklahoma has declared an emergency caused by the impending threat of COVID-19 to the people of this State and the public's peace, health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has advised American cities and counties to limit public gatherings of people; and

WHEREAS, health professionals and researchers have determined that COVID-19 is spread by human contact and interaction, and that avoidance of human contact through methods such as social distancing is believed to stop or slow the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the spread of COVID-19 is a disaster threatening or resulting in the death or injury of persons in the City of Durant to such an extent that extraordinary measures must be taken to protect the public health, safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, Title 11 of the Oklahoma State Statutes, Section 22-120 provides for Public Health, Hospitals, and Quarantine; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020 the Mayor issued a Proclamation declaring the existence of a civil emergency in the City of Durant to protect the public health, safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2020 the City Council of Durant adopted Ordinance 1900 establishing the Durant Emergency Task Force; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Oklahoma has amended the emergency declaration of March 15, 2020 caused by the threat of COVID-19 to the people of this State and the public's peace, health and safety which remains in effect; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Oklahoma began implementing the "Open Up and Recover Safely" (OURS) a three-phase approach to open Oklahoma's economy starting April 24, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Oklahoma revised the "Open Up and Recover Safely" (OURS) a three-phase approach to open Oklahoma's economy on May 28, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Oklahoma amended Executive Order 2020-20 on September 24, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the temporary amendment to the Open Meeting Act that allowed members of public bodies to attend Open Public Meetings via video or telephone was reinstated and is now set to expire on February 15, 2022; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Durant City Council as follows:

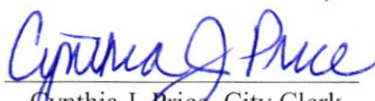
1. A state of emergency continues to exist within the City of Durant.
2. This state of emergency shall remain in effect within the City of Durant until 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 14th, 2021, when the pandemic emergency will be reassessed.
3. All social events or social gatherings in or on a City-owned or City operated facilities or property, are required to follow social distancing guidelines until the expiration of this state of emergency; and
4. The City Manager shall neither issue special event permits nor other permits that do not allow for social distancing for any public or private event until the expiration of this state of emergency. Other adjustments may be made by the City Manager to the administrative operations of city facilities and services.
5. Meetings of all City of Durant authorities, commissions, and trusts shall be held in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. Meetings will remain open to the public but steps will be taken to ensure social distancing of attendees. Open public body meetings will continue to be broadcast live. All Advisory Board and committee meetings will be held and must practice social distancing.
6. Durant Municipal Court dockets shall continue. Steps will continue to be taken to ensure social distancing of attendees.
7. All in-person social gatherings shall follow the social distancing procedures and protocols.
8. The City of Durant will continue to follow the State of Oklahoma Executive Order 2020-20 as issued and as amended by the State of Oklahoma.
9. The City Council encourages everyone, for whom it is medically possible, within the City of Durant to wear a face covering when going to public places and to social distance.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 9th day of March, 2021 by the Durant City Council.

Approved: _____


Oden Grube, Mayor

Attest: _____


Cynthia J. Price, City Clerk

