

**City of Exeter
Agenda Item Transmittal**

Meeting Date: November 2, 2020

Agenda Item Number: 3

Wording for Agenda: Discussion of COVID-19 status and review the need to continue the state of emergency established by Resolution 2020-12 due to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) for another 60 days.

Submitting Department: Administration
Contact Name: Adam Ennis
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Department Recommendation: Staff recommends that the City Council receive a COVID-19 status update and continue the state of emergency established by Resolution 2020-12 due to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) for another 60 days.

For action by:

City Council

Regular Session:

Consent Calendar

Regular Item

Public Hearing

Review:

**City Administrator
(Initials Required)**



Summary:

On March 24, 2020 the Council adopted Resolution 2020-12 proclaiming the existence of a local emergency due to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) subsequent to emergencies being declared by the United States Department of Public Health and Human Services, the State and County. In the last week Tulare County reports that there have been about 165,000 tests completed, 18,000 confirmed cases and 290 deaths. About 43% of the deaths resulted from skilled nursing home cases. There have been about 360 confirmed cases in Exeter.

In addition to the medical impacts listed above, many local businesses categorized as non-essential by County and State orders were closed or at reduced services for many weeks resulting in loss of income and employee layoffs. In addition, bars and gyms remain closed and restaurants are limited to take out, delivery and outside dining options in an attempt to reduce spread of the virus. This is and will have a significant impact on the local economy and the City revenues. In addition, the effects of this pandemic on the investment markets will have an impact on the economy, City revenues and future CalPERS unfunded liabilities.

The City has developed and distributed a no cost encroachment permit process and conditions for use of the public right-of-way along business frontages to assist in continuing and maximizing business operations as much as possible. Additional options to assist local businesses through this pandemic are currently being discussed with the Chamber of Commerce and local community groups. The City will continue to assist where possible on any potential options that could benefit local businesses. In addition, several programs have been developed through the County and State using CARES ACT funding to financially assist businesses.

Preparing for, responding to, mitigating, and recovering from the spread of COVID-19 has and will continue to require the City to divert resources from normal day-to-day operations and impose extraordinary requirements on and expenses to the City. Since the pandemic began affecting Tulare County and the declaration of a local emergency, the City Administrator took administrative actions to address State, County and local emergency declarations, guidance and orders and ensure continuity of service to the community and staff safety.

The City Police Department lobby was closed during the first few weeks of the Stay-At-Home order but has been opened since then. Staff has prepared City lobbies to meet current orders

and guidance and in late August reopened the City Hall lobby between 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Public Works lobby from 7am to 3pm, both Monday through Friday. Reopening these lobbies required that policies be prepared, modifications made to the facilities and staff trained. So far, the City has spent about \$37,000 on sanitizing, personal protective equipment, technology for virtual meetings and retrofitting City facilities for social distancing measures in order to reopen. In addition, the annual revenues from recreation programs has decreased upwards of \$35,000.

Staff recommends continuing the state of emergency established by Resolution 2020-12 since additional future requirements, needs and costs are likely and the potential for future reimbursement exists that could depend on an emergency declaration being in place. If the declaration is continued it must be reviewed again in 60 days, which would have to occur by January 1, 2021.

Background:

COVID-19 is a respiratory disease which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) considers to be a very serious public health threat with outcomes ranging from mild to severe sickness and death. On March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom declared a state of emergency in the State of California due to the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the state. On March 12, 2020, Tulare County declared an emergency due to the confirmed case of COVID-19 at Sierra View Medical Center in the City of Porterville.

Fiscal Impact: At this point the City has spent about \$37,000 on sanitizing, personal protective equipment, technology for virtual meetings and retrofitting City facilities for social distancing measures in order to reopen. In addition, the annual revenues from recreation programs has decreased upwards of \$35,000.

The potential future financial impacts of this virus are unknown at this time but could vary depending on the level of resources, and associated costs, that are required to be expended by the City and the effect on future revenues due to impacts on the local economy. The total potential for assistance to the City and community from State and Federal resources for these impacts are still unknown at this time and their availability could be dependent on whether a City declaration of emergency is in place or not.

The City has received two of the four total disbursements of CARES ACT funding through the State for costs incurred to meet orders and guidance. The total CARES ACT funding available to the City is about \$136,000 and requires staff to develop and provide documentation to the State justifying the City receiving these disbursements. Staff anticipates submitting the \$37,000 in expenses mentioned above and about \$99,000 for "Preservation of Essential City Services for Residents", which is defined by the CARES ACT primarily as public safety services through the pandemic, for a total of about \$136,000. The State must then review the justifications to confirm the City's eligibility to receive the funding.

Prior Council/Board Actions: On March 24, 2020 the Council adopted Resolution 2020-12 proclaiming the existence of a local emergency due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

On May 19, July 14, 2020 and September 8, 2020 Council approved to continue the state of emergency established by Resolution 2020-12 due to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) for an additional 60 days.

Attachments: RESOLUTION 2020-12 - A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Exeter Proclaiming The Existence Of A Local Emergency

<p>Recommended motion to be made by Council/Board: I move to continue the state of emergency established by Resolution 2020-12 due to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) for another 60 days.</p>
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RESOLUTION 2020-12

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EXETER PROCLAIMING THE EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a respiratory disease which the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) consider to be a very serious public health threat with outcomes ranging from mild to severe sickness and death; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is easily transmissible from person to person and has spread globally to over 118 countries, infected more than 125,000, and killed more than 4,000 as of March 11, 2020 per the World Health Organization (WHO); and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Public Health and Human Services declared a public emergency for COVID-19 beginning on January 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency in the State of California due to the number of confirmed cases of COVID -19 in the State; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, WHO made the assessment that COVID-19 can be characterized as a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, Tulare County declared an emergency due to the confirmed case of COVID-19 at Sierra View Medical Center in the City of Porterville, thus enabling Tulare County to take extraordinary measures, and since that date there have been 2 more confirmed cases at Kaweah Delta Medical Center in the City of Visalia;

WHEREAS, between the dates of March 13, 2020 and March 17, 2020, various State and Federal authorities have recommended that gatherings of more than 250, 50, or even 10 people should be avoided at least until the end of March; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 therefore will continue to cause conditions of peril to the health, safety, and welfare of person and property in the City of Exeter; and

WHEREAS, preparing for, responding to, mitigating, and recovering from the spread of COVID-19 requires the City to divert resources from normal day-to-day operations, and has and will continue to impose extraordinary requirements on and expenses to the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council here finds that the above described conditions related to the COVID-19 outbreak does warrant and necessitate the proclamation of the existence of a local emergency in the City of Exeter;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, DETERMINED AND DECLARED by the City Council of the City of Exeter;

1. A local emergency is hereby proclaimed to exist throughout the City of Exeter.
2. The local emergency shall be deemed to continue to exist until its termination is proclaimed by the City Council of the City of Exeter.
3. As required by law, the City Council shall review the need to continue the state of emergency at least once every sixty (60) days until this Resolution is terminated.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 24th day of March 2020 by the following vote:

AYES: Alves; Sally; Hails; Petty; and Waterman-Philpot

NOS: N/A

ABSTAIN: N/A

ABSENT: N/A


MAYOR

ATTEST:



CITY CLERK