

**CITY OF ORTING
WASHINGTON
RESOLUTION NO. 2020-13**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
ORTING, WASHINGTON, STATING POSITION PERTAINING TO
COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND REQUESTING MAYOR TO PURSUE
ACTION CONSISTENT THEREWITH**

WHEREAS, the City Council received the Mayor's "Memo: Request for Council Direction and Statement Regarding COVID19", dated May 3, 2020, and, in response, the Council resolves as follows; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 2020-1060, Pertaining to Enforcement of Emergency Orders, now codified at OMC 1-8 states, "[t]he authority granted to the Mayor in this chapter is in addition to and not in limitation of other policies allowing the Mayor to declare an emergency and take action necessary to deal with such emergency, including but not limited to those powers set forth in Chapter 38.52 RCW"; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes that all businesses are essential to the Orting community, and support equal implementation of directives to all businesses in the City of Orting; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes the Governor's specification of which businesses fall into which category or phase in his phased re-opening plan is sufficiently vague so as to cause us to expend substantial staff effort to interpret and enforce the plan; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes that making a mistake on which phase a business would fall into would cause potentially irreparable harm to that business and the livelihood of its proprietors; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes that public health and business health are not mutually exclusive ideas, nor the differences between physical and mental health vulnerabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Unemployment Security Department finds that the current Unemployment Rate in Washington State is 15%, and is 4.8% in Pierce County; and

WHEREAS, the Institute for Disease Modeling's (IDM) best estimate for Covid-19's effective reproduction rate in Western Washington has decreased from 3.0 to 1.0 near the critical threshold for the infection to slow and die out; and

WHEREAS, according to the University of Washington, the number of COVID-19 cases peaked sometime in late March 2020, and daily positives have been declining since; and

WHEREAS citizens were told that the predicate for the initial stay at home order was the need to flatten the curve of infections in order to ensure that our healthcare system was not overwhelmed, but not to wait until the number of cases and deaths are zero or to have a cure in place; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes that the businesses of Orting are equipped to meet and exceed the safety steps needed to protect the health and economic security of the City of Orting and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes that Orting residents that can shop local are less likely to engage in “non-essential” travel as defined by the Governor through his proclamations; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes that Orting businesses, churches, and clubs are capable of rising to the measures defined by the public health experts of the State of Washington, including but not limited to:

- Maintaining at least 6-foot separation between patrons;
- Maintaining abundant PPE for the protection of employees;
- Maintaining robust hand washing capacity;
- Creating physical barriers between patrons and employees where practical and effective;
- Taking reservations by appointment when possible to reduce queuing;
- Allowing no more than 5 patrons to queue outside of the business at any time;
- Limiting the size of non-family groups on the premise of their business;
- Closing to the public if any employees contract the virus leading to COVID19 until such time as the best available practices from the state say that opening is safe again;
- Spacing tables or fixtures at sufficient distance to maximize the spacing in accordance to the best practices of the state;
- Posting on the business door front the steps the business, club, or church is using to comply with the best available public health directives for minimizing transmission of the virus leading to COVID19; and
- Responding to lawful requests of Orting Police Department and Orting staff when violations of these best practices are witnessed and communicated to the proprietor or staff.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ORTING, WASHINGTON, DOES RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Council requests the Mayor pursue the policy directives herein in accordance with these beliefs and facts for the remainder of the COVID19 emergency.


Section 2. The City Council further instructs the Mayor to prepare and send to the Governor a letter consistent with other letters from neighboring cities to request variances to allow Orting to begin to open up.

Section 3. Effective Date. This Resolution shall be effective upon passage.

Section 4. Corrections Authorized. The City Clerk is authorized to make necessary corrections to this Resolution, including but not limited to correction of clerical errors.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AT A REGULAR MEETING THEREOF ON THE 27th, DAY OF MAY, 2020.

CITY OF ORTING



Joshua Penner, Mayor

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:

Jane Montgomery

Jane Montgomery, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Charlotte A. Archer

Charlotte A. Archer
Inslee Best, City Attorney