CITY OF ASHLAND
DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY EXTENSION

TO: Danny Jordan, County Administrator and the Jackson County Office of Emergency Management

FROM: Adam Hanks, Interim City Administrator, City of Ashland, Oregon

The City Administrator of the City of Ashland finds that:

A. Pursuant to the authority granted by Oregon Revised Statutes Chapter 401, the City of Ashland has enacted a local ordinance codified in Ashland Municipal Code Chapter 2.62, Emergency Powers, that provides direction for the City, its officials, and others in the event that an emergency or disaster exists within the City and assigns executive responsibility in times of emergency. City Council has approved a detailed Emergency Management Plan. Ashland Municipal Code Chapter 2.62, specifically delegates authority to declare a state of emergency to the City Administrator, subject to subsequent ratification by City Council.

B. The following conditions have resulted in the need for a City of Ashland Declaration of a State of Emergency:
   a. On March 7, 2020, the Governor of Oregon issued Executive Order 20-03 declaring a statewide state of emergency due to the COVID-19 outbreak in Oregon.
   b. On March 11, 2020, COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization, in recognition that this fast-spreading contagion is part of a group of viruses that can cause respiratory disease, with the potential to cause serious illness or loss of life for individuals with underlying health conditions.
   c. On March12, 2020, the Governor of Oregon issued Executive Order 20-05 canceling all gatherings of more than 250 people and most large gatherings if a distance of 3 feet could not be maintained between individuals, and recommending other limitations including that individuals in high-risk populations (those over 60 years of age, or those with an underlying health condition) avoid gatherings of more than 10 people.
   d. On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared the COVID-19 outbreak a national emergency.
   e. On March 17, 2020, the Governor of Oregon issued Executive Order 20-07 rescinding Executive Order 20-05; prohibiting most gatherings of 25 people or more, including community events or activities if a distance of at least 3 feet between individuals cannot be maintained; prohibiting on-premises consumption of food and drink; and establishing limited exceptions.
   f. On March 17, 2020, pursuant to Ashland Municipal Code Chapter 2.62, Ashland City Council ratified the City Administrator's Declaration of State of Emergency vesting in the City Administrator authority to take such actions and issue such orders as the City Administrator deems necessary to protect the public in property and minimize or mitigate the effect of the emergency. By its terms, this initial Declaration was to be in effect through April 7, 2020 and could be extended thereafter in two-week increments.

g. On March 23, 2020, the Governor of Oregon issued Executive Order 20-12, the stated purpose of which is "to reduce person-to-person interaction." With a few exceptions for food and medical needs, this Order prohibited any non-essential social, recreational, and shopping-related aggregations of individuals unless a distance of at least 6 feet between individuals is maintained.

h. On April 15, 2020, the Governor of Oregon issued Executive Order 20-16 directing that governing bodies of public bodies are to (1) hold their public meetings and hearings through electronic or virtual means whenever possible; (2) make available a method by which the public can listen to or virtually attend such public meetings or hearings at the time they occur, without necessarily providing a space for public attendance; and (3) provide an opportunity for submission of testimony either by timely submission of written testimony or by electronic or virtual means – notwithstanding any requirements by law or policy that testimony during a public meeting or hearing be taken in person.

i. On May 1, 2020, the Governor of Oregon issued Executive Order 20-24 extending the COVID-19 Declaration of Emergency (Executive Order No. 20-03) for an Additional 60 Days, through July 6, 2020.

j. On May 14, 2020, the Governor. of Oregon issued Executive Order 20-25 establishing a phased approach to removing previously-imposed COVID-19-related emergency restrictions.

k. On May 25, 2020, Jackson County was approved for limited Phase 1 reopening.

l. On April 7, April 21, May 5, and May 19 Ashland City Council extended the Declaration of State of Emergency previously-approved through June 2, 2020.

m. A State of Emergency continues to exist in the City of Ashland, and the City has expended or shortly will expend its necessary and available resources for responding to the emergency. COVID-19 has so far required and will continue to require significant City resources to keep the community informed and as safe as possible and has and will continue to have significant negative consequences for Ashland's economy and workforce.

C. The foregoing circumstances affect all of the territory within the corporate limits of the City of Ashland.

D. This extension of the Declaration of a State of Emergency is intended to continue authorization to take special measures to protect citizens' health and safety, to assure that critical public services are maintained and to reduce stress and fear. The City urges citizens to show even greater-than-normal neighborliness, tolerance, and patience in the face of inconveniences and uncertainty during this period.

NOW, THEREFORE, based upon the circumstances set forth above, the following emergency orders have been issued by the City Administrator and ratified by the City Council:

1. A State of Emergency is declared to continue to exist in the City of Ashland, Oregon.

2. The City of Ashland respectfully requests that Jackson County continue to provide assistance, consider the City an "emergency area" as provided for in ORS Chapter 401, and request support from state agencies and/or the federal government.

3. The City shall take all necessary steps authorized by law to coordinate response to and recovery from this emergency, including, but not limited to, requesting assistance and potential reimbursements from the State of Oregon and the appropriate federal agencies for the City, business owners, social service agencies, and citizens in general.

4. In conformance with AMC Chapter 2.62 and the adopted City Emergency Management Plan, during the time this Declaration or any extension of it is in effect, the City Administrator is exclusively responsible for approving City agreements and deploying City resources, and City officials are authorized to continue to take such actions and issue such orders as are determined by the City Administrator to be necessary to protect the public and property and to continue to efficiently conduct activities that minimize or mitigate the effect of the emergency situation.

5. During the time this Declaration or any extension of is in effect, all City commission, committee, and task force meetings are cancelled unless the City Administrator expressly determines a particular meeting is called for.

6. During the time this Declaration or any extension of it is in effect, meetings of the City Council and any City commissions, committees or taskforces shall occur in conformance with the Governor of Oregon's Executive Order 20-16 or any modification thereof.

7. Due to the economic impact COVID-19 will have on its residents and businesses, the City recommends that residential and commercial eviction proceedings based on failure to pay rent be suspended during this State of Emergency or any extension thereof.

8. This extension of the Declaration of State of Emergency has been ratified by the City Council, is effective immediately, shall remain in effect until and including June 16, 2020, and may be extended thereafter in two-week increments.

      Dated and effective at _____ p.m. this _____ day of June, 2020.

_____
Adam Hanks, Interim City Administrator   John Stromberg, Mayor

_____
REVIEWED, David Lohman, City Attorney