

**CITY OF ASHLAND  
DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY**

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

**FROM: Kelly A. Madding, 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. Ashland Municipal Code Chapter 2.62, specifically delegates authority to declare a state of emergency to the City Administrator.
- B. As of 11:00 a.m. on March 15, 2020, the following conditions existed and have resulted in the need for a City of Ashland Declaration of a State of Emergency:
  - a. COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization on March 11, 2020.
  - b. Coronavirus 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. COVID-19 will require significant resources at the local level to keep the community informed and as safe as possible.
  - d. On March 8, 2020, Governor Kate Brown declared a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 outbreak in Oregon (Executive Order 20-03), finding that COVID-19 has created a threat to public health and safety, and constitutes a statewide emergency under ORS 401.025(1).
- C. The foregoing circumstances affect all of the territory within the corporate limits of the City of Ashland.
- D. This Declaration of a State of Emergency is intended to make clear that appropriate steps are being taken to assure 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.
- E. Due to the Governor's COVID-19 Executive Order prohibiting assemblies of greater than 250 persons and subsequent closure of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival on March 12, 2020, for approximately four weeks or more, there will be negative economic consequences and hardship for the Ashland economy.

**NOW, THEREFORE, based upon the findings set forth above, I order that:**

**Section 1.** I do hereby declare that a state of emergency now exists in the City of Ashland and the that city has expended or will shortly expend its necessary and available resources. we respectfully request that the county provide assistance, consider the city an “emergency area” as provided for in ORS Chapter 401, and, as appropriate, request support from state agencies and /or the federal government.

**Section 2.** City officials are authorized 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 efficiently conduct activities that minimize or mitigate the effect of the emergency, pursuant to AMC Chapter 2.62.

**Section 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.

**Section 4.** All non-essential city commissions, committees, and task forces are cancelled until April 7, 2020. This cancellation order may be extended in two-week increments.

**Section 5.** The City Council may choose to hold only one meeting each month, as permitted by State law.

**Section 6.** 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 and any extension(s) thereof.

**Section 7.** This Declaration of State of Emergency is effective immediately, is subject to ratification or disapproval by the City Council and, unless disapproved, shall remain in effect until and including April 7, 2020, and may be extended thereafter in two-week increments.

Dated and effective at \_\_\_\_\_ p.m. this \_\_\_\_\_ day of March, 2020.

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Kelly A. Madding, City Administrator

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REVIEWED  
David Lohman, City Attorney