

**CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-31**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA EXTENDING  
RESOLUTION NO. 2020-05 WHICH CONTINUES THE DECLARATION BY  
THE MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR OF A LOCAL DISASTER  
EMERGENCY IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 AND A REQUEST FOR STATE  
AND FEDERAL ASSISTANCE**

**WHEREAS**, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified COVID-19, a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, which is a new strain of coronavirus not previously identified in humans, as posing a significant public health risk; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization designated the initial outbreak of COVID-19 as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 31, 2020, United States Health Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency for the United States to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020, Governor Michael J. Dunleavy declared a public health disaster emergency due to the imminent threat of a COVID-19 outbreak in Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 15, 2020, in accordance with AS 26.23.140, CBS Municipal Administrator John M. Leach declared a local disaster emergency in response to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 16, 2020, in accordance with AS 26.23.140, the Assembly continued said declaration of a local disaster emergency to protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the CBS deeming it necessary to continue said declaration until November 24, 2020, or until COVID-19 is no longer declared a federal or state emergency, whichever occurs first; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 9, 2020, President Donald J. Trump approved a major disaster declaration for the State of Alaska to aid in COVID-19 recovery efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 6, 2020, Alaska had over 17,000 confirmed cases, and 84 deaths from COVID-19, and these numbers are expected to increase; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 16, 2020, Governor Dunleavy declared a public health disaster emergency due to the ongoing widespread community transmission of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 continues to pose an imminent threat to human health, safety and welfare to the residents of the City and Borough of Sitka (CBS); and

**WHEREAS**, due to the highly contagious nature of COVID-19, the available CBS infrastructure and resources, including Mount Edgecumbe Medical Center, the Sitka Airport, the Sitka School District, among others, will be likely inadequate to handle the consequences of a continued COVID-19 outbreak unless the CBS continues to implement emergency powers; and

**WHEREAS**, it is essential to extend local emergency powers given the potential ability of COVID-19 to cause injury or death to people, necessitating measures to protect the public health, safety, and welfare; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to contain any potential harm that may be caused by COVID-19, federal and state assistance is needed to continue to supplement local efforts to respond to this public health emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, the Assembly deems it necessary, through the Municipal Administrator, to continue to request the Governor Dunleavy of Alaska to provide state assistance to the CBS in its response to COVID-19, including assistance for fire protection, law enforcement, and the provision of other funds, services, functions, supplies, or materials determined by the Municipal Administrator, in consultation with local emergency agencies, to be necessary to meet the public health, safety, and welfare needs arising from or incidental to COVID-19 and to recover from the damages caused; and

**WHEREAS**, the Assembly deems it necessary to continue the authorization and direct the Administrator to continue implementation of any orders necessary to prevent the transmission of infectious disease and to take measures to ensure that all cases of contagious disease are subject to proper control and treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Assembly deems it necessary to make all resources of the municipal government, including CBS personnel, available as necessary to deal with the emergency, and municipal departments, agencies, and/or personnel may be transferred or altered in function for the purpose of performing or facilitating performance services responsive to this emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, while the potential extent and effect of COVID-19 cannot yet be known, it remains vital for the CBS to be prepared and take all needed precautions throughout the entire timeframe of the emergency related to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, because of the ongoing nature of the emergency, the Assembly deems it necessary to extend said Resolution No.2020-05 until June 30, 2021, or until COVID-19 is no longer declared a federal or state emergency, whichever occurs first; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA, ALASKA:**

**Section 1.** The Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka hereby extends Resolution 2020-05, entered March 16, 2020, which continues the declaration of a local disaster emergency by the Municipal Administrator, effective on March 15, 2020, with respect to COVID-19. Said declaration shall remain in effect until June 30, 2021, or until COVID-19 is no longer declared a federal or state emergency, whichever occurs first. The Municipal Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to give this Resolution prompt and general publicity and to file it promptly with the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.


**Section 2.** As authorized by AS 26.23.140, this Resolution is intended to continue the response and recovery aspects of any and all applicable local or interjurisdictional disaster emergency plans, and to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance under those plans.

**Section 3.** The Municipal Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to request that the Governor of Alaska continue to provide such state assistance as may be available to meet the ongoing

emergency created by COVID-19 and to request additional assistance from federal agencies where state capability is not adequate. Further, the Municipal Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to issue and implement any orders necessary to prevent the transmission of infectious disease and to take measures to ensure that all cases of contagious disease are subject to proper control and treatment. In addition, the Municipal Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to make all resources of the municipal government, including CBS personnel, available as necessary to deal with this emergency, and municipal departments, agencies, and/or personnel may be transferred or altered in function for the purpose of performing or facilitating performance services responsive to this emergency.

**Section 4. Effective Date.** This resolution shall be effective immediately after its adoption.

**SIGNED** in Sitka, Alaska this 24<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2020

  
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Steven Eisenbeisz, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Sara Peterson, MMC  
Municipal Clerk

1<sup>st</sup> and final reading 11/24/2020

Sponsor: Administrator