

**CITY OF CHOTEAU, MONTANA
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

DECLARATION OF A STATE OF LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the Coronavirus Disease (“COVID-19”) a global pandemic that is controllable via precautionary measures to stop the spread of the disease;

WHEREAS, as of March 17, 2020, the United States Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicates there are over 14,366 cases and 217 deaths across the United States as a result of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, individuals in Montana have tested presumptive positive for COVID-19;

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, Governor Bullock issued an Executive Order declaring an emergency to exist within the State of Montana related to COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the Mayor passed Resolution 852 on March 20, 2020, declaring a Public Health Emergency pursuant to §10-3-402, MCA;

WHEREAS, Section 10-3-402, MCA, allows the principle executive officer of a local political subdivision to declare a state of local emergency (“Declaration”) whenever the principle executive officer determines there is an emergency;

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City of Choteau is the principal executive officer of the City of Choteau;

WHEREAS, the City faces an imminent threat to life and public health resulting from COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the circumstances of this pandemic may exceed the capacity of the services, personnel, equipment, supplies, facilities, funding, and other resources of the City of Choteau, Montana;

WHEREAS, the availability and utilization of all necessary City services, equipment, and other resources will further the efforts to protect health and safety and to preserve the lives, property, and resources of the people of the City of Choteau, Montana;

NOW, THEREFORE, AS MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHOTEAU, I HEREBY DECLARE:

1. A state of local emergency pursuant to Section 10-3-402, MCA.
2. This Declaration shall activate the response and recovery aspects of any and all adopted local disaster emergency plans, including the City of Choteau Emergency Response Plan, and authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance in accordance with such plan.

3. The Mayor has the authority, pursuant to Section 10-3-406, MCA, to prevent ingress to or egress from all or part of the City and to direct law enforcement to enforce quarantines and curfews in all or parts of the City concurrent with or at the direction of the County Board of Health Officer.

4. The Mayor will adhere to and implement all directives provided by the Governor of the State of Montana and the County Health Officer or Board of Health regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

5. Regular meetings of the City Council, as required by Section 2.12 of the City Charter will be held but only essential legally required actions will be considered until such meetings can be held via electronic means with audio and visual communications.

6. Meetings of boards, commissions, and advisory groups and all other scheduled public meetings and hearings of the City Council are temporarily postponed, unless the meeting is legally required to take an action. In such case, the meeting shall be held for the purpose of taking such legally required action only, and may be held via electronic means with audio and visual communication.

7. The Mayor has the authority to administer all affairs and departments of the City, including, but not limited to, implementing orders for employees to work from home and self-quarantine.

8. The Mayor has authority to approve contracts and expenditures in furtherance of implementing the City of Choteau Emergency Response Plan and this Declaration, and taking all measures deemed necessary to address the emergency, subject to retroactive approval by the council.

9. The Mayor, upon ratification of this Declaration by a 3/4th vote of the City Council, is authorized to enter into agreements and contracts, and make purchases and expenditures without adhering to state and local procurement requirements, including those in Titles 7 and 18, MCA. This authorization is limited only to agreements, contracts, purchases, and expenditures reasonably necessary to implement the Declaration and to no other agreements, contracts, purchases, or expenditures.

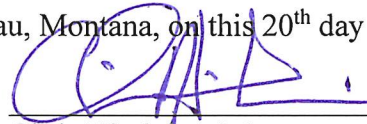
10. All City agencies are authorized to take appropriate action to assist the Mayor, federal, state, and local agencies, and other individuals in containing, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from this emergency, to protect City and local property, and to provide such other assistance as is necessary to protect the public health, welfare, and safety of the residents of the City, including any personnel, equipment, supplies, facilities, funding, and other resources deemed necessary to assist with finding, preventing, and combating COVID-19.

11. This Declaration is effective immediately and shall terminate upon subsequent order from the Mayor of the City of Choteau.

12. Copies of this Declaration be filed with the County Clerk and Recorder, the City Clerk, and the Montana Disaster and Emergency Services Division in Helena.

13. The public shall be notified of this Declaration as soon as reasonably feasible through general dissemination to the news media, posting on the city website and social media accounts, or using other means of communication appropriate for informing the general public.

Declared by the Mayor of the City of Choteau, Montana, on this 20th day of March, 2020.



Chris Hindoiem, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: 
Jodi Rogers, Finance Officer

