

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON,  
DECLARING AN EXIGENT FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCE DUE TO THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS  
COVID-19 PANDEMIC WHICH REQUIRES ADJUSTMENTS TO CITY BUDGET PRIORITIES**

**WHEREAS**, on February 29, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee signed Proclamation 20-05 declaring that a State of Emergency exists in all counties in the State of Washington due to the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the State, and that the risk of person-to-person transmission throughout Washington State and the United States of America would significantly impact the life and health of our people, as well as the economy of Washington State, and is a public disaster that affects life, health, property or the public peace. The Governor directed State agencies and departments to utilize State resources to do everything reasonably possible to assist political subdivisions of the State in responding to and recovering from the outbreak; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 12, 2020, Governor Inslee adopted Proclamation 20-08, amending his prior proclamations to prohibit public school districts, charter schools, and private schools in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties from conducting in-person educational, recreational, and other K-12 school programs in their school facilities. Subsequently, on March 13, 2020, the Governor expanded K-12 school closures of all Washington schools from March 17 through at least April 24, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 17, 2020, the Olympia City Council enacted Ordinance No. 7233 declaring a state of public health emergency, and that the Olympia City Council will take all actions within its powers and resources to protect the public peace, health, safety and welfare of the citizens and businesses of the City of Olympia during the novel coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic to mitigate the consequences of the illness and public health emergency taking place and to maintain essential public services such as police, fire, public works and public utilities such as water and solid waste collection; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 23, 2020, the Governor issued Proclamation 20-25 ordering citizens of Washington to stay home, non-essential businesses to cease operations, and restricting essential business activities until midnight April 8, 2020, subject to extension by further order of the Governor; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 24, 2020, the Governor issued Proclamation 20-28 waiving strict compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act until midnight April 23, 2020, such that continuity of necessary and routine business of local governments may continue remotely during the novel coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 26, 2020, the Attorney General issued updated general guidance on the conduct of open public meetings during the novel coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, informing local governments that necessary and routine business, including business necessary to respond to the current COVID-19 outbreak and current public health emergency, may continue. The Attorney General recognized that while OPMA does not require public comment, if the agency permits oral public comment at a meeting for other reasons, any remote participation arrangement must have a means for each member of the public who is speaking to hear each other, not just the members of the governing body who are speaking. The Attorney General recognizes that it is not a violation of the OPMA for the City to require the public to use a conference call-in or remote access login number or to comply with other similar conditions or remote attendance during the time the Governor’s proclamation is in effect, in order for citizens to provide testimony during a public hearing; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 4.1.1(i.) of the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Olympia and the OMPD Board states that barring an “exigent financial circumstance or natural disaster” 11% of the City’s general fund revenues shall go to support the Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation Department; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 4.1.1(iv.) of the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Olympia and the OMPD Board states that barring an “exigent financial circumstance” the City intends to allocate the first \$500,000 of year-end fund balance to park land acquisition; and

**WHEREAS**, the Olympia City Council deems it prudent to conduct a public hearing to take citizen testimony on the issue whether the novel coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic represents an “exigent financial circumstance or natural disaster” that has resulted in negative economic impacts causing temporary closure of many Olympia businesses, which will result in a dramatic reduction of the City’s sales tax revenues and business and occupation tax, constituting an “exigent financial circumstance” for the City General Fund budget in order to maintain essential City services such as police, fire, public works and public utilities including water and solid waste collection;

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL DOES HEREBY RESOLVE** as follows:

**Section 1.** The above-stated recitals are adopted as findings of the Olympia City Council and are incorporated by this reference as though fully set forth herein.

**Section 2.** Pursuant to Ordinance No. 7233 declaring a state of public health emergency, the Olympia City Council will take all actions within its powers and resources to protect the public peace, health, safety and welfare of the citizens and businesses of the City of Olympia during the novel coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic to mitigate the consequences of the public health emergency taking place and to maintain essential public services such as police, fire, public works and public utilities such as water and solid waste collection.

**Section 3.** The Olympia City Council finds and declares that due to negative economic impacts from business closures as a result of the current public health emergency and the resulting loss of revenue to the City of Olympia and unanticipated expenditures to assist citizens and businesses afflicted by the novel coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, there is and exists a severe exigent financial circumstance that prevents the City of Olympia from complying with subsections 4.1.1(i) and 4.1.1(iv) of the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Olympia and the Olympia Metropolitan Park District Board, until such time as the Olympia City Council finds and determines the exigent financial circumstance has passed.

**PASSED BY THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of April, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

**/s/ Mark Barber**  
CITY ATTORNEY