

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO IMPLEMENT A TEMPORARY SMALL BUSINESS UTILITY RELIEF PROGRAM DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person to person; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Governor Mike DeWine, signed an Executive Order declaring a State of Emergency for the entire State of Ohio in relation to COVID-19 pursuant to the Governor's authority vested in him by the Constitution, the laws of the State of Ohio and in accordance with Revised Code section 5502.22; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, Craig A. Shubert, Mayor of the City of Hudson, Ohio, along with Jane Howington, its City Manager, in accordance with the Hudson Emergency Operations Plan, declared that a state of emergency existed in the city due to the threat of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health issued a Director's Order ordering, effective March 23, 2020, that all persons in the State of Ohio stay at home unless they are engaged in certain limited activities, as defined in the stay at home order, through April 6, 2020 (the "Stay at Home Order"). Thereafter, through a separate Director's Order, the Stay at Home Order was extended through May 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 and the Stay at Home Order have caused a negative economic impact on the local community and threaten the continued existence of the small businesses operating within the City due to the inability for said businesses to operate in light of the consumer behavioral changes necessitated by the COVID-19 disease pandemic; and

WHEREAS, this Council finds and concludes that, for the greater economic health of the City of Hudson and its small businesses, a temporary utility relief program shall be instituted to relieve small businesses of their obligation to pay for City of Hudson owned and operated utility service for those utility service bills that become due in April and May 2020; and

WHEREAS, this Council finds and concludes that the above described utility relief program is not intended to benefit landlords who do not otherwise operate a separate commercial entity (outside of real estate leasing services) on site or within the City of Hudson.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of Hudson, Summit County, State of Ohio, that:

Section 1. The City Manager is hereby authorized to develop, implement, and administer a temporary small business utility bill relief program in accordance with the recitals above.

Section 2. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 3. This Resolution is declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health and welfare and for the further reason that it is immediately necessary in order to retain employment opportunities and protect local small businesses during the uncertain economic time of a disease pandemic; wherefore, this Resolution shall be in effect immediately upon its passage provided it receives the affirmative vote of five (5) members of Council, except that six (6) affirmative votes shall be required if all members are present; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED:

Craig A. Shubert, Mayor

ATTEST:

Elizabeth Slagle, Clerk of Council

I certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 20-45 was duly passed by the Council of said Municipality on _____, 2020.

Elizabeth Slagle, Clerk of Council