Fourth Amended Proclamation of State of Emergency

WHEREAS, a novel strain of the coronavirus, named COVID-19 has spread throughout numerous countries including the United States; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, Wisconsin Governor, Tony Evers issued Executive Order #72 Relating to a Proclamation Declaring a Health Emergency in Response to the COVID19 Coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, as of March 18, 2020, there were 90 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the state of Wisconsin, including in the counties of Fond du Lac, Milwaukee, Dane, Pierce, Racine, Sheboygan, Walworth, Waukesha and Winnebago; and

WHEREAS, the CDC expects that widespread transmission of COVID-19 in the United States will occur, and that in the coming months, most of the U.S. population will be exposed to this virus; and

WHEREAS, the CDC anticipates that widespread transmission of COVID-19 could translate into large numbers of people needing medical care at the same time, causing public health and healthcare systems to become overloaded, and affecting other critical infrastructure, such as law enforcement, emergency medical services, and sectors of the transportation industry; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19 and no medications approved to treat it; instead the best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus, which also delays the spread of the virus and reduces the impact of disease; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lake Geneva is focused on protecting the health, safety, welfare, and good order of the Lake Geneva community, including those members at highest risk; and

WHEREAS, the conditions created by these public health emergencies pose a continuing and substantial threat to public order, life, health and safety of the citizens of the City of Lake Geneva; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lake Geneva in cooperation with the local, state and federal governmental entities desires to take action to prevent exposure to and spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, because of such emergency conditions, the City Council was unable to meet with promptness to address the issue immediately; and

WHEREAS, these emergency conditions require a proactive response to stop the spread of COVID-19, including providing support to implement federal, state, and county public health operations and recommendations.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to sections 323.11 and 323.14 (4) of the Wisconsin Statutes, the City of Lake Geneva hereby declares a local State of Emergency for the City of Lake Geneva automatically expiring on May 18, 2020 at 11:59 PM, unless extended. During the State of Emergency, it is hereby ordered that the City of Lake Geneva will make all of its resources available to adopt, implement, and support all actions and recommendations of Federal, State, and County public health agencies. **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that:

1. The Mayor will use his best efforts to meet with the City Administrator and City Department Heads daily to discuss and coordinate a City response to new CDC, Walworth County Health Department, State of Wisconsin COVID-19 information, proclamations, recommendations, and requirements to protect all City residents provided the conditions allow such meetings.

2. Limit the size of gatherings in City Council Chambers to no more than 25 people and authorize the reduction of attendance at such meetings provided conditions of the current emergency dictate otherwise.

3. Recommend that where and whenever possible there be created a 'socialization distance' of 6 feet or greater in City Hall meetings.

4. Make the Police Training Room available for up to 25 people if needed to accommodate overflow from the City Council Chambers when attendees exceed 25 people and where and whenever possible create a "socialization distance" of 6 feet or greater.

5. If the number of attendees at open meetings will exceed the capacity outlined above for the City Council Chambers and the Police Training rooms, those not able to attend the meeting in person will be provided information on how to observe the meeting remotely.

6. Recommend Standing Committees meet in the City Council Chambers.

7. Postponing all City meetings except for City Council, Plan Commission, Utility Commission, Police & Fire Commission and City of Lake Geneva Standing Committees

8. Limit City employee non-essential travel to States identified as positive for Sustained Community Transmission.

9. Recommend that Department Heads adopt procedures to limit employees' direct contact with the public.

10. Encourage all residents of the City of Lake Geneva comply with Governor Evers' recommendations for maintaining personal health.

11. Release the Security Deposits of all scheduled private and public events at the Riviera that are cancelled because they will exceed Governor Evers' public gathering limit of 10 people.

12. Authorize emergency purchases of goods and materials.

13. Authorize emergency purchases of services.

14. Authorize emergency costs to the labor force.

15. Suspend the collection of parking fees and allow free parking in the City of Lake Geneva during the term of this emergency order.

16. Authorize City personnel to extend the time to renew, apply and pay for buoys, dinghy spaces, boat slips, and kayak spaces leased by the City of Lake Geneva.

17. Authorize the Mayor to take any further necessary actions to protect the health, safety and public welfare of the citizens of the City of Lake Geneva in those instances the City Council is unable to meet with promptness to address any issues requiring immediate attention.

18. Authorize Department Heads to utilize personnel within their departments in a manner that best serves the needs of the public. During this state of emergency, the employees will be paid their regular pay if they are required to stay home under circumstances resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic including but not limited to mandated self-quarantines, to care for another who is affected by Covid-19 virus, to care for children at home because of the mandated school closing, or for any other reason a person is required to stay home because of declarations by the state or federal government in response to the declared state of emergency.

19. City Hall will be closed to the public for all walk-in city business. The City Clerk will provide means for the public and any vendors to conduct business through the mail, electronically, or by phone. If face to face business is required, appointments must be made with appropriate City personnel.

20. The Lake Geneva Fire Department located at 730 Marshall Street will be closed April 7, 2020 as a polling place in an effort to protect the health of our first responders. City Hall, located at 626 Geneva Street will be the sole polling place for Aldermanic Districts I, II, III, and IV for the April 7, 2020 election.

21. Despite warnings at the state and federal levels, people have consistently been violating physical distancing recommendations in a number of our public parks. In order to protect the health, safety, and public welfare of the citizens of the City of Lake Geneva, the Skate Park, Flat Iron Park, and Library Park will be closed until this emergency order expires or is rescinded by the City Council of the City of Lake Geneva.

22. On April 6, 2020, the Wisconsin State Supreme Court voted 4-2 to enjoin an executive order issued earlier in the day by Governor Tony Evers postponing in-person voting in the spring election, scheduled for April 7, 2020, to June 9, 2020. As a result, in-person voting was expected to take place as scheduled on April 7, 2020. Also on April 6, 2020, the Supreme Court of the United States voted 5-4 to stay a district court order that had extended the absentee voting deadline. As a result, the absentee ballot postmark and return deadlines were reinstated to April 7, 2020. On the same day, April 6, 2020 the United States Supreme Court extended the due date for absentee ballots to be submitted from April 7, 2020 to 4:00 p.m. April 13, 2020. As a result the Lake Geneva Board of Canvassers was required to meet at 3:00 p.m. April 13, 2020 to count the votes. Thus the City Council meeting regularly scheduled for 6:00 p.m. April 13, 2020 will be postponed to April 14, 2020.

This Proclamation shall take effect immediately and shall continue in effect until May 18, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. or such earlier time as a quorum of the Governing Body convenes and rescinds the Proclamation.

Dated this 10th day of April, 2020

Mayor Tom Hartz

Attest: _____
Lana Kropf, City Clerk