



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, March 24, 2020

Council Session

Item G-20

**#2020-84 - Approving the Disaster Declaration for COVID-19
Response**

Staff Contact: Jon Rosenlund

Council Agenda Memo

From: Jon Rosenlund, Emergency Management Director
Meeting: March 18, 2020
Subject: Disaster Declaration
Presenter(s): Jon Rosenlund, Emergency Management Director

Background

On March 13, 2020, the Federal Government and also Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts declared a state of emergency in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic incident. On March 17, 2020, the Mayor of Grand Island declared a state of emergency for the City of Grand Island.

Discussion

In response to a world pandemic of the COVID-19 coronavirus, the President of the United States and the Governor of Nebraska both signed declarations of emergency. The City of Grand Island, working collaboratively with the Central District Health Department, and observing what was transpiring throughout the world, began in February 2020 to prepare plans, procedures and protocols for disease prevention and mitigation among the residents of the City.

On March 17, 2020, following significant announcements made by the Federal government as well as the State of Nebraska regarding guidelines related to social distancing and disease mitigation, the Mayor of the City of Grand Island signed a declaration of emergency in anticipation that COVID-19 would significantly affect the operations of necessary City functions, impact the population and pose a threat to the health and safety of residents within the City. On a related note, the Chair of the Hall County Board of Commissioners signed a Disaster Declaration for Hall County, also on March 17, 2020.

Alternatives

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. Move to approve

2. Refer the issue to a Committee
3. Postpone the issue to future date
4. Take no action on the issue

Recommendation

City Administration recommends that the Council approve the Disaster Declaration signed by Mayor Roger G. Steele on March 17, 2020.

Sample Motion

Move to approve the Disaster Declaration made on March 17, 2020.




Working Together for a
Better Tomorrow. Today.

DISASTER DECLARATION FOR COVID-19

The City of Grand Island has suffered from a Pandemic Outbreak of COVID-19 that occurred on March 13, 2020 causing the closure or threatened closure of government offices, threatened the continuation of essential government services, and endangerment of health and safety of the citizens of Grand Island within the disaster area.

Therefore, the Mayor of the City of Grand Island has declared a state of emergency authorized under Nebraska State Statute R.R.S. 81-829.50 on behalf of the City of Grand Island, and will execute for and on behalf of the City of Grand Island, the expenditure of emergency funds from all available sources, the invoking of mutual aid agreements, and the applying to the State of Nebraska for assistance from the Governor's Emergency Fund and any other resources he deems necessary in the fulfillment of his duties.


WITNESS my hand
Mayor Roger G. Steele

March 17, 2020


RaNae Edwards, City Clerk



RESOLUTION 2020-84

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 (also known as the coronavirus) global pandemic and epidemic sickness has already had a substantial disruptive effect on Nebraska communities; and

WHEREAS, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and epidemic sickness will likely continue to pose a significant threat to the health and safety of the residents of the City of Grand Island; and,

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Trump declared a national emergency because of the COVID-19 epidemic; and,

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Governor Ricketts declared a state emergency because of the COVID-19 epidemic; and,

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the Mayor of the City of Grand Island issued a Disaster Declaration in anticipation that the COVID-19 Pandemic will affect the City of Grand Island and poses an significant threat to the health and safety of the residents of the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, that the City Council approves of the necessity of the March 17, 2020 Disaster Declaration in order to obtain and utilize outside resources to respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic, to ensure a timely and effective response and to provide for safe and passable streets.

- - -

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, March 24, 2020.

Roger G. Steele, Mayor

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

Approved as to Form	☐ _____
March 20, 2020	☐ City Attorney