

***AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO GRANT AUTHORITY TO MAYOR AND/OR CITY
MANAGER TO ESTABLISH POLICIES AND TO ESTABLISH MEETING PROCEDURES
DURING STATE OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY***

WHEREAS there has been an outbreak of a respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus, known as COVID-19, which is an infectious virus that can spread from person to person and can result in serious illness or death; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020 the President of the United States declared the outbreak of COVID-19 to be a national emergency; and

WHEREAS on March 14, 2020 Governor Brian Kemp declared that a Public Health State of Emergency exists in the State of Georgia due to the public health emergency from the spread of the COVID-19; and

WHEREAS the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has noted that COVID-19 is proliferating via "community spread", meaning people have contracted the virus as a result of direct or indirect contact with infected persons, including some who are not sure how or where they became infected; and

WHEREAS guidance has been given by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and others that avoiding public gatherings of more than ten people is a way to halt the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS there have been confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the City of Canton; and

WHEREAS O.C.G.A. Sec. 38-3-28 permits a city to adopt such orders, rules and regulations as may be necessary for emergency management purposes; and

WHEREAS Sec. 2.24 of the Charter for the City of Canton allows for the adoption of emergency ordinances; and

WHEREAS the public health emergency is an emergency condition that permits exceptions to the Georgia Open Meetings Act under O.C.G.A. Sec. 50-14-1(g); and

WHEREAS the City Council for the City of Canton desires to continue to carry out the business of the city while also protecting its elected officials, employees and citizens from the spread of COVID-19;

***NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING
AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF CANTON as follows:***

1. There is declared a public health emergency in the City of Canton due to the spread of COVID-19.

2. The Mayor and/or the City Manager are authorized to adopt any policies or regulations regarding the public's access to city facilities as are deemed reasonable and necessary to protect from exposure to COVID-19 while allowing as much of the business of the City to continue as is possible.

3. The Mayor and/or City Manager are authorized to adopt any policies or regulations regarding the employees of the City of Canton as are deemed necessary and reasonable to limit exposure to COVID-19.

4. In order to avoid a public gathering at a city council meeting, no members of the public shall be allowed to attend any city council meeting in person unless asked to attend to provide information to the City Council. All meetings shall be live-streamed and available for public viewing in real time. Any meeting that cannot be live-streamed shall be cancelled unless there is an urgent need for action to address COVID-19, and such meeting shall be limited to COVID-19 matters.

5. Any member of the City Council may participate in any meeting via teleconferencing.


6. This emergency ordinance shall be automatically repealed 90 days from the date of adoption unless it is repealed earlier by the City Council, or is re-enacted by the City Council if the public health emergency continues.

7. If any portion of this Ordinance be declared invalid or unconstitutional by any court or competent jurisdiction or if the provisions of any part of this Ordinance as applied to any particular situation or set of circumstances shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity shall not be construed to affect the portions of this Ordinance not so held to be invalid. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the City Council to provide for separable and divisible parts and does hereby adopt any and all parts hereof as may not be held invalid for any reason.

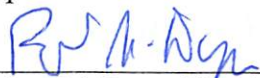
8. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately.

Attest:


Annie Fortner, City Clerk


Bill Grant, MAYOR
Date: 03-19-20

Approved as to form:


Robert M. Dyer, City Attorney