

**CITY OF WAHKON, MINNESOTA  
MAYORAL DECLARATION NO. 2020-1**

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor of the City of Wahkon, Minnesota ("Mayor") finds that the following local emergency ("Emergency") exists in the City of Wahkon, Minnesota ("City"):

1. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization determined that the COVID-19 outbreak constitutes a pandemic. On March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a national state of emergency as a result of the pandemic.
2. On March 13, 2020, Governor Tim Walz issued Emergency Executive Order 20-01 declaring a state of peacetime emergency to address the COVID-19 pandemic in Minnesota. The Governor's Executive Order along with this Declaration triggers activation of certain emergency management plans and enables the City to exercise its emergency powers. On March 25, 2020, Governor Walz issued Emergency Executive Order 20-20, which requires people to stay home except to engage in certain exempted activities or to perform work in areas designated as "critical sector" work.
3. The spread of COVID-19 in the United States and Minnesota has raised serious public health concerns and resulted in a great deal of uncertainty. Much remains unknown about the virus and how it spreads.

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota Statutes, Section 12.29 authorizes the Mayor to declare the existence of the Emergency, to invoke necessary portions of any existing City emergency operations plans, and to potentially authorize aid and services in accordance with interjurisdictional agreements; and

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota Statutes, Section 12.37 authorizes the City, acting through its governing body, to: (1) enter into contracts and incur obligations necessary to combat the disaster by protecting the health and safety of persons and property and by providing emergency assistance to the victims; and (2) exercise the powers vested by that section in the light of the exigencies of the disaster without compliance with time-consuming procedures and formalities otherwise prescribed by law; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor finds that the Emergency is sudden and could not have been anticipated, and that this situation threatens the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the community and threatens the provision and delivery of city services as a result of the Emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor finds that the Emergency poses the risk of and may cause catastrophic loss of public health, safety, and welfare if not immediately addressed.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, as the Mayor of the City of Wahkon, Minnesota, I declare that a Local Emergency exists effective at 6:00 p.m. on April 13, 2020 in the City of Wahkon, Minnesota.

This declaration of a local emergency will invoke any of the City's emergency operations plans or otherwise validate said plans that were invoked upon the governor's order. The portions that are necessary for response to and recovery from the Emergency are authorized, including but not

limited to all appropriate community containment and mitigation strategies. To the extent normal state laws and city policies and procedures impede an efficient response or compliance with federal and state directives and recommendations, the City Clerk Treasurer, Emergency Manager, and their designees are authorized to suspend compliance with those laws, policies, and procedures and to take those actions necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. A city council meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., in accordance with state laws, to address the emergency.

Dated: April 13, 2020.

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Ronda Bjornson, Mayor  
City of Wahkon, Minnesota