PROCLAMATION DECLARING STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, Chapter 14 of the Stillwater City Code and Titles 21 and 63 of Oklahoma Statutes empowers the Mayor of the City of Stillwater to proclaim a civil emergency when a natural disaster, which results in the death or injury of persons to such an extent that extraordinary measures must be taken to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the City; and

WHEREAS, a respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus ("COVID-19") was first detected in China and has now been detected in 190 locations internationally, including the United States; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic on March 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared COVID-19 a national emergency and ordered each state to set up emergency operations centers and ordered hospitals to activate their emergency preparedness plans; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Oklahoma issued a statewide declaration of emergency in response to the COVID-19 outbreak on March 24, 2020 ordering vulnerable populations to shelter in place ("safe at home") and closing certain non-essential businesses; and

WHEREAS, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC"), the COVID-19 virus spreads between people who are in close contact with one another and through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and

WHEREAS, previous proclamations were issued on March 15, 2020, limiting organized gatherings to less than 250 people, on March 17, 2020, restricting organized gatherings to less than 50 people, and closing bars, lounges, gyms and fitness facilities, entertainment venues, including private clubs, commercial amusement facilities, theaters and similar venues, as well as restaurant dining areas, and on March 23, 2020, limiting organized gatherings to less than ten people, and closing beauty parlors, barber shops, nail salons, and health clubs and spas, and encouraging retailers to implement social distancing in stores; and

WHEREAS, despite ongoing restrictions, the number of cases in Payne County, as reported by the Oklahoma Department of Health, have increased from zero confirmed cases on March 15, 2020 to 25 cases on April 9, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Stillwater is a regional hub for commerce and health care and the number of reported confirmed cases in adjoining counties has increased from zero on March 15 2020 to 84 on April 9, 2020; including four deaths; and

WHEREAS, during the same period of time, the number of cases in Oklahoma, as reported by the Oklahoma Department of Health, have increased from one confirmed case to 1684 cases and 80 deaths impacting people ranging in age from infancy to 91 years old; and

WHEREAS, as of April 9, 2020, the CDC had identified 427,460 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in 54 jurisdictions including 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and 14,946 deaths as a result of the COVID-19 virus in the United States; and
WHEREAS, of the more than 400,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the United States, just over one percent have been identified as being travel-related, meaning community transmission is responsible for much of the spread of COVID-19 in the United States; and

WHEREAS, due to the evidence across the country of rapid community spread placing residents in danger and threatening hospital resources, additional restrictions are required to protect public health, reduce further damage, insure public safety and render emergency relief.

NOW, THEREFORE, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE STILLWATER CITY CODE AND STATE LAW, I, WILLIAM H. JOYCE, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF STILLWATER, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM AND DECLARE:

SECTION ONE: A state of emergency exists within the corporate limits of the City of Stillwater, Payne County, Oklahoma.

SECTION TWO: This proclamation shall become effective on April 10, 2020 at 11:59 PM CDST.

SECTION THREE: The aforementioned conditions continue to constitute an ongoing threat to the safety and welfare of the city necessitating additional restrictions and creating a civil emergency situation within the meaning of Chapter 14 of the Stillwater City Code and Titles 21 and 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

SECTION FOUR: The emergency proclamation dated March 29, 2020 is hereby extended in its entirety to 11:59 PM CDST April 30, 2020 unless and until it is extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing.

SECTION FIVE: The following additional restrictions shall be implemented on the effective date of this proclamation:

A. The use of face coverings made of cloth or a similar material by all persons present in a retail establishment, workplace, or other gathering wherein contact is made with others not from the same household is recommended and strongly encouraged. Said face coverings should be constructed in a manner consistent with recently issued Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines. This recommendation does not alleviate the need to continue all previously adopted social and physical distancing practices and requirements, which remain in full force and effect until the expiration of this emergency order. The purchase of medical grade face masks and respirators is discouraged because said items are needed by health care professionals and workers.

B. The Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment may schedule special meetings to be convened after May 1, 2020 to address items of business that are necessary to complete ongoing transactions and closings. The Planning Commission shall not schedule any map amendment that involves (1) residually zoned property or (2) commercial property adjoining residually zoned property nor shall it schedule any text amendment for consideration during the pendency of this emergency order. All such meetings shall be conducted via City of Stillwater provided teleconferencing in accordance with the Open Meetings Act after statutorily mandated notice to affected parties.
PROCLAIMED April 10, 2020.

WILLIAM H. JOYCE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

TERESA KADAVY, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY ON APRIL 10 2020.

JOHN E. DORMAN, CITY ATTORNEY