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 cases on March 15, 2020 to 14 cases on March 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Stillwater is a regional hub for commerce and health care and the number of reported cases in adjoining counties has increased from zero on March 15 2020 to 60 on March 30, 2020; including one death; 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 case to 481 cases, impacting people ranging in age from infancy to 91 years old; and

WHEREAS, as of March 29, 2020, the CDC had identified 122,653 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 400 deaths as a result of the COVID-19 virus in the United States; and
WHEREAS, of the 122,653 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 March 30, 2020 at 11:59 PM CDST.

SECTION THREE: Previous proclamations dated March 15, 2020 and March 17, 2020 shall be deemed repealed and replaced by this Proclamation. Proclamations dated March 16, 2020 and March 23, 2020 shall remain in full force and effect to the extent said proclamations do not contradict this order and are hereby extended until the expiration of this emergency proclamation.

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

A. Shelter in Place: Effective 11:59 PM CDST March 30, 2020 all residents living within the corporate limits of the City of Stillwater, Oklahoma are required to shelter in place at their place of residence as provided herein:

1. For the purpose of this Emergency Proclamation, “residence” shall include homes, apartments, condominiums, dormitories, hotels, motels, shared rentals, temporary outdoor shelters, and similar facilities.

2. Persons may leave their residences only for Essential Activities as defined herein, or to operate Essential Businesses.

“Essential Activities” shall include:

a. Tasks essential to health and safety or the health and the health and safety of family members, household members, or pets (for example, obtaining medical supplies and medications, visiting a health care provider, obtaining supplies necessary to work from home, or to perform property maintenance);

b. Obtaining necessary services or supplies, or to obtain such services or supplies for family, household members or pets, or to deliver those services or supplies to others (for example,
food and beverage, pet food or supply, and any other household consumer products, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation and essential operation of a residence);

c. Engaging in outdoor activity, provided that the individual, except family or household members, follow social and physical distancing guidelines issued by the CDC and prior emergency proclamations issued for the City of Stillwater (for example walking, biking, running and hiking);

d. Performing work at an Essential Business;

e. Caring for or transporting a family member or pet in another household;

f. Moving to another residence either inside or outside the City of Stillwater; and

g. To otherwise carry out activities specifically permitted by this order.

"Essential Business" shall mean those businesses identified by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma, or his designee, by the Governor's Fourth Amended Executive Order 2020-07 dated March 24, 2020 and amendments thereto, as critical infrastructure sectors, including critical government workers as defined by the governmental employer.

B. Cessation of Non-Essential Business and other Non-Essential Operations: All businesses and other operations located within the City of Stillwater, except as defined by the Governor's Fourth Amended Executive Order 2020-07 dated March 24, 2020 and amendments thereto, which is incorporated by reference, herein, or otherwise exempted by force of law or other order, including state and political subdivisions over which the City has no control, are required to cease all in-person operations. Non-essential businesses and operations may continue to operate to the extent employees, contractors or other agents can perform business activities at their own residences.

C. Definitions. The definitions set forth in the Governor's Fourth Amended Executive Order 2020-07 dated March 24, 2020 and amendments thereto, which is incorporated by reference herein, and made applicable hereto, as if fully set forth herein.

D. Closure of City Hall and Facilities: Effective 12:01 AM CDST March 30, 2020, public access to City Hall shall be restricted to one secured area designated by the City Manager for cash transactions. The remainder of City Hall shall be closed to public and non-essential employee access. The City Manager shall establish processes for all transactions normally conducted at City Hall to be conducted electronically or by telephone. All permits expiring during the pendency of this emergency proclamation are hereby extended to April 30, 2020.

All City facilities closed by previous emergency proclamations shall remain closed until the expiration of this emergency proclamation. In addition, all playgrounds, athletic fields and courts, gazebos, covered pavilions and similar shared facilities located on City-owned and operated park facilities are hereby closed. Remaining park facilities and walking trails shall remain open. Users are encouraged to practice social and physical distancing when using these facilities during the duration of this emergency proclamation.

E. Violation of this Proclamation constitutes a violation of Section 2-111 of the Code of the City of Stillwater, which could result in a maximum penalty of $500 per violation. The Stillwater Police Department is authorized to enforce this order but is encouraged to use an education and warning before citation approach to enforcement.
E. This Proclamation shall expire at 11:59 PM CDST April 16, 2020 unless and until it is extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing.


WILLIAM H. JOYCE, MAYOR

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

TERESA KADAVY, CITY CLERK
PATTI OSMUS, DEPUTY

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY THIS 30th DAY OF March, 2020

JOHN E. DORMAN, CITY ATTORNEY