

ORDINANCE NO. 3472

“AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE STILLWATER CITY CODE BY AMENDING CHAPTER 14, CIVIL EMERGENCIES, ARTICLE I, IN GENERAL, TO AMEND SECTION 14-1, FINDINGS OF FACT, AND SECTION 14-7, SUNSET; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY”

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1: That the Stillwater City Code, Chapter 14, Civil Emergencies, Article I, In General, Section 14-1, Findings of Fact, be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 14-1. Findings of Fact.

WHEREAS, COVID-19, a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can spread from person to person; and

WHEREAS, the current scientific understanding of this virus from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicates that it spreads mainly from person to person, mainly through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person talks, coughs, or sneezes; and

WHEREAS, these respiratory droplets can land in the mouths or on noses of nearby people or can possibly be inhaled into the lungs; and

WHEREAS, spread is more likely when people are in close contact with one another (within six feet); and

WHEREAS, studies have found that mandated face coverings significantly reduce the number of infections; and

WHEREAS, the United States Center for Disease Control (CDC), Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH), and Stillwater Medical Center all recommend the wearing of face coverings in public settings to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 from person to person; and

WHEREAS, in response to the foregoing, Oklahoma State University Administration (OSU) has ordered that all students, faculty, employees, vendors, and visitors entering campus buildings and facilities wear face coverings throughout the Spring 2021 Semester; and

WHEREAS, the passage of an ordinance mandating the wearing of face coverings in certain public settings is necessary to protect the health and safety of Stillwater residents and together with the OSU face covering requirements will reduce the transmission of COVID-19 within the community; and

WHEREAS, since the passage of Ordinance 3452 and Ordinance 3463, COVID-19 has continued to spread statewide, especially in those cities and counties where no face covering mandate or similar protection is in place; and

WHEREAS, a recent study conducted by the Oklahoma State Epidemiologist found that Oklahoma cities that had adopted face covering ordinances had less community spread of COVID-19 than those that had not taken such measures to protect their citizens; and

WHEREAS, this finding is consistent with studies and guidance issued by the CDC, OSDH and other public health organizations; and

WHEREAS, there are presently 337 active COVID-19 cases in Payne County and 221 in Stillwater; and

WHEREAS, statewide there are more than 21,000 active COVID-19 cases; and

WHEREAS, more than 4,000 deaths from COVID-19 have been reported statewide; 45 COVID-19 deaths have occurred in Payne County including 23 in Stillwater since the onset of this pandemic; and

WHEREAS, until a significant portion of the population has been vaccinated for COVID-19, the CDC and others have indicated that the wearing of face coverings will be necessary until certain immunity levels are established; and

WHEREAS, current estimates of COVID-19 vaccine distribution and administration indicate that such levels will not be achieved before late Summer 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Oklahoma has left it to the cities to decide what steps are necessary to protect their citizens from the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the City Council reaffirms its previous finding that the adoption of a face covering mandate is necessary to protect the citizens of Stillwater and that it is advisable to extend that mandate until May 25, 2021.

SECTION 2: That the Stillwater City Code, Chapter 14, Civil Emergencies, Article I, In General, Section 14-7, Sunset, be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 14-7. Sunset.

Ordinance 3472 shall expire the earlier of: May 25, 2021; the expiration of all COVID-19 related emergency declarations issued by the Mayor; or repeal, modification or extension by the City Council through a subsequent ordinance.

SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the peace, health and safety of the citizens of the City of Stillwater, Oklahoma, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this ordinance shall become effective from and after the date of publication.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 24TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2021.




WILLIAM H. JOYCE, MAYOR


TERESA KADAVY, CITY CLERK

THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE IS HEREBY PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 24TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2021.




WILLIAM H. JOYCE, MAYOR


TERESA KADAVY, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY THIS 24TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2021.


JOHN E. DORMAN, CITY ATTORNEY

First Reading: 2-22-21
Second Reading: 2-24-21