

**CITY OF BLACKFOOT  
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES FROM MARCH 25, 2020**



**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Carroll called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken and those in attendance via Skype were: Councilman Brown, Councilman Gardner, Councilman Jensen and Councilwoman Simpson.

**MAYOR MARC CARROLL**

**Approval of Proposed Resolution Extending the Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency**

Mayor Carroll discussed the fact that the Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency allows local businesses access to local, state and federal aid. Councilman Jensen motioned to approve proposed Resolution No. 391 as presented and waive any further readings, Councilwoman Simpson seconded; roll call was taken and all were in favor, motion approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 391**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLACKFOOT, AFFIRMING THE MAYOR'S DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY, EXTENDING SAID DECLARATION BEYOND THE SEVEN DAY STATUTORY SUNSET, AND ESTABLISHING AUTHORITY FOR RESTRICTIONS AND CONDITIONS WITHIN THE CITY TO PREVENT FURTHER SPREAD OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC TO PROTECT THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF THE RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TO THE CITY OF BLACKFOOT, IDAHO.**

WHEREAS, the President of the United States and the Governor of the State of Idaho have declared a health emergency related to the threat of Covid-19; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Idaho Code Sec. 46-1011 the Mayor of the City of Blackfoot declared a local disaster emergency on March 19, 2020 due to the threat of Covid-19; and

WHEREAS, said declaration sets forth legal and factual considerations in support of such declaration; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Blackfoot recognizes the imminent threat of widespread and severe harm to the health of residents and visitors to the City of Blackfoot as addressed by the Centers for Disease Control and by actions of the Governor of the State of Idaho; and

WHEREAS, such declaration activates the response and recovery aspects of applicable local or intergovernmental disaster emergency plans for the furnishing of aid and assistance; and

WHEREAS, the emergency referenced herein exists because the contagious nature and potentially serious consequences of the Covid-19 virus for residents and visitors to the City of Blackfoot and requires state emergency assistance to supplement local efforts to protect life, health and property; and

WHEREAS, Idaho Code Sec. 67-2808 authorizes the Council of the City of Blackfoot to declare an emergency and that the public interest and necessity may demand the immediate expenditure of public money without compliance with formal bidding procedures; and

WHEREAS, an emergency declaration must be filed with the county recorder's office and "given prompt and general publicity."

NOW THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Blackfoot does hereby affirm and extend the Mayor's Emergency Declaration of March 19, 2020, and hereby declares:

That a Local Disaster Emergency exists and that all efforts will be made to protect the citizens and property of the City of Blackfoot through activation of all local disaster emergency plans and state emergency assistance; and

That this Local Disaster Emergency shall continue until the Centers for Disease Control and the Governor of the State of Idaho sound an end to the emergency or the Mayor expressly authorizes the discontinuation of such Declaration; and

Authorizing the Mayor, in consultation with the Council President, to establish other administrative policies or restrictions necessary to protect the public health and safety of the residents and visitors of the City of Blackfoot, which measures shall be effective upon giving prompt and general publicity by the posting on-line, facebook, or notification in the newspaper of record of the measures.

That this Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency shall be promptly filed with the Bingham County Recorder's Office; and

That prompt and general publicity shall be given by a press release notifying the public of this Declaration.

DECLARED by the City Council of the City of Blackfoot this 25th day of March, 2020.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk

#### **Proposed Utility Billing Relief**

Mayor Carroll and Planning & Zoning Administrator Kurt Hibbert visited local businesses who have been adversely impacted by COVID-19. As a result, Mayor Carroll presented Council with a proposal to provide utility billing relief to residential customers that have been directly impacted financially from the pandemic. Based on an analysis completed by City Treasurer Holly Powell, if relief is provided for residential customers, the fund will not make budget for FY 2020.

Councilmembers were then made aware of alternatives that Citizens have for relief for expenses during this difficult time, specifically resources identified by Idaho 211.

Councilmembers discussed that the City has waived the \$50 reconnect fee for March and also suspended water shut-offs due to non-payment in March and April. Given the cost, and other risks, it was felt that City utility billing relief should be utilized as a last resort.

#### **Governor Brad Little Stay-at-Home Order**

Mayor Carroll then discussed Governor Little's proclamation, and discussed specifics from his first Proclamation on March 13 for definitions of essential and non-essential services. Mayor Carroll informed the council that essential business for the City of Blackfoot is Water, Sewer, Sanitation, Fire and Police, as well as essential support services provided by City Hall in support of these departments. Since building was determined to be an essential business function, the Planning & Zoning Department will continue to issue permits.

It was discussed by Council that the Blackfoot Animal Shelter & Rescue and the Golf Course will continue to function, with policies put into place to minimize contact with patrons, implement sanitizing procedures and maintain social distancing protocols. Playground equipment in all City parks will be cordoned off. Suzanne McNeel informed Council of sanitizing procedures that were implemented in City Hall, specifically in public areas.

Further direction from the State of Idaho will determine if the City of Blackfoot will need to formalize a second declaration.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Special City Council meeting was adjourned at 4:56 PM.

**City of Blackfoot**

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Mayor Marc Carroll

Attest:

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City Clerk Suzanne McNeel

Prepared by:

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Lisa J Tornabene