Amendment to Ordinance 14-2020 – Declaration of Emergency Extension for COVID-19

WHEREAS, it is well recognized that the novel Coronavirus that causes the disease COVID-19, presents a public health concern that requires extraordinary protective measures and vigilance; and

WHEREAS, these matters have taken many forms across the nation, state, and Horry County, including travel bans, school closures, individual quarantines, and cancellation of major events, among other measures; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Atlantic Beach is working with other government agencies in an effort to prevent the spread of disease; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Governor of South Carolina declared a statewide State of Emergency due to COVID-19 and on March 17, 2020, issued a Executive Order 2020-10 to address emergency procedures and restrictions on the public, in the interest of public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, Section 5-7-250 of the South Carolina Code of Laws empowers Town Council to enact emergency ordinances affecting life, health, or safety; and

WHEREAS, the confirmed cases of COVID-19 infections in Horry County continues to increase.

WHEREAS, Town Council deems it proper and necessary to adopt this emergency ordinance in order to: (a) temporarily suspend the normal operating procedures of Town Council; (b) to authorize the Town Administrator to develop and enact a plan in order to ensure continuity in the delivery of government services in light of the COVID-19 outbreak; (c) authorize the Town Administrator to enforce the Governor’s Executive Order; and (d) authorize the Town Administrator to enforce such other and further restrictions as necessary, in the interests of public health and safety, for a temporary period;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Atlantic Beach, in Council assembled, that:
1. The Town temporarily suspends the normal operating procedures of Town Council meetings and hereby allows for the Mayor and Councilmembers to remotely participate in voting and operational procedures by telephone or other means of electronic communication provided that the provisions of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act are complied with.

2. All deadlines imposed by Town Ordinance, applicable to the municipality or applicant, shall be suspended, during this temporary period.

3. The Town Administrator is authorized to develop and enact a plan in order to ensure continuity in the delivery of government services in light of the COVID-19 outbreak.

4. The Town Administrator is authorized to cancel and revoke any special events permits issued prior to the date of this ordinance for events taking place until June 1, 2021.

5. The Town Administrator is authorized to enforce the directives of the Governor and SLED in enforcement of the restrictions of food and beverage service (dine-in prohibited) and such other and further restrictions therein; and

6. The Town Administrator is authorized to implement and enforce such other and further public safety measures, to include but not be limited to a curfew, should same become necessary for public health and safety; and

7. Enforce cancel and revoke any special events permits issued prior to the date of this ordinance for events taking place until June 1, 2021.

8. This emergency ordinance shall be terminated by the issuance of another ordinance or shall automatically expire on the 61st day after enactment of this ordinance, whichever date is earlier.

SEVERABILITY. If any provision, clause, sentence, or paragraph of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall be held invalid, that invalidity shall not affect the other provisions of this article, which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this article are declared to be severable. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

BE IT ORDERED AND ORDAINED by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Atlantic Beach, South Carolina, in assembly and by the authority thereof, this 1st day of March 1, 2021.
Atlantic Beach Town Council

Jake Evans, Mayor

Josephine Isom, Councilmember

Jacqueline Gore, Councilmember

Glenda Williams, Councilmember

Lenearl Evans, Councilmember

Attest:

Cheryl Pereira, Town Clerk

Benjamin Quattlebaum, Town Manager