

WHEREAS, it is well recognized COVID-19 presents a public health concern that requires extraordinary protective measures and vigilance; 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 Executive Order 2020-10 to address emergency procedures and restrictions, in the interest of public health; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, the Town Council of the Town of Atlantic Beach, empowered by Sec. 5-7-250 of the S. C. Code of Laws to enact emergency ordinances affecting life, health, or safety declared a State of Emergency in the Town, passed an Emergency Ordinance declaring a State of Emergency in the Town due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the declared State of Emergency is set to expire May 18, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on April 6, 2020, Governor issued Executive Order 2020-21, restricting the public to “Home or Work,” including six-foot distancing and travel restrictions limited to Essential Business, Activity, or Critical Infrastructure Operations, and requiring quarantine of visitors from “hot spot” states; and

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2020, Governor McMaster lifted the closure of public beach accesses, but maintained the State of Emergency; and

WHEREAS, on April 27, 2020, Governor McMaster lifted parts of previous Executive Order restrictions, but extended the statewide State of Emergency through May 12, 2020; and

WHEREAS, as of May 5, 2020, the CDC reported COVID-19 has widespread community transmission reach in South Carolina, and as of May 4, 2020, SCDHEC’s trend projections indicate COVID-19 cases are expected to peak by May 23, after the expiration of the March 19 Proclaimed Emergency in the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Atlantic Beach annually hosts the popular Atlantic Beach Bike Fest each May, which draws attendees from many states, including “hot spot” states, and the Town has received inquiries from hopeful attendees for 2020, despite the event being canceled this year due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council values its citizens’ health and the protection of individuals, families, and the general public, and wishes to continue to comply with and enforce the Governor’s Executive Orders; and

WHEREAS, the Town's limited public resources are dedicated to enforcement of the Emergency Orders and maintenance of safe social distancing, including on public property and beaches within the Town's jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, South Carolina law permits the Town to enact emergency ordinances to meet public emergencies affecting life, health, safety and property upon a single reading, provided that such emergency ordinance shall expire automatically on the sixty-first day following its enactment;

WHEREAS, Town Council deems it proper and necessary to adopt this emergency ordinance to extend the declared State of Emergency in the Town and to continue to protect its citizens from COVID-19, in light of the Town's unique needs as a beach and travel destination;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Atlantic Beach, in Council assembled:

I. Extension of Declared Emergency. The State of Emergency declared by Town Council March 19, 2020, is extended, to include delegated powers, authorities, and procedures.

II. Short Term Rentals Suspended. Short-Term Rentals offered by Hotels, private rental agencies, VRBO, Airbnb, and other Overnight Accommodations are suspended for 29 days or less, effective immediately, Friday, May 8, 2020, until May 31, 2020, unless lifted sooner by ordinance of Council or pre-emptive Executive Order. This shall apply to rentals of any such accommodations to commence on or after the effective date for any period of time less than 30 days. Exempt: Short-Term Rentals extended to government, public health agency, law enforcement, military, or other credentialed critical personnel actively responding to COVID-19.

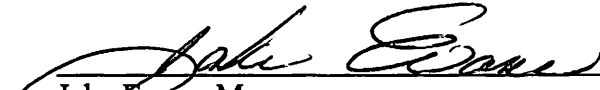
III. Beach Access Closures. Public beach accesses in the Town of Atlantic Beach are declared closed to the public, effective immediately, Friday, May 8, 2020, until May 31, 2020, unless lifted sooner by ordinance of Council or pre-emptive Executive Order.

IV. Suspension of Local Provisions. During the period of effectiveness of this Emergency Ordinance, any ordinance, resolution, policy, or bylaw that conflicts with it is suspended.

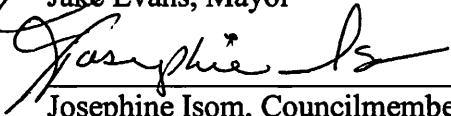
V. Severability. If any provision of this ordinance or the application thereof shall be held invalid, that invalidity shall not affect the other provisions of this article, which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this article are declared to be severable.

VI. Effective Date; Expiration. These provisions shall be effective upon a single hearing and two-thirds vote, and shall expire on the sixty-first day following the effective date, which is the date passed, or upon the lifting of the State of Emergency declared by the Governor or Town Council, if earlier.

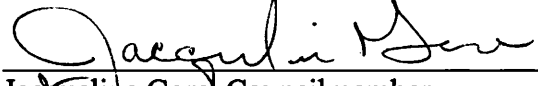
BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Atlantic Beach, South Carolina, as an Emergency Ordinance on one reading, by affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present in assembly this 8th day of May, 2020.



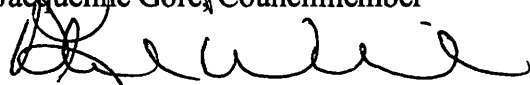
Jake Evans, Mayor



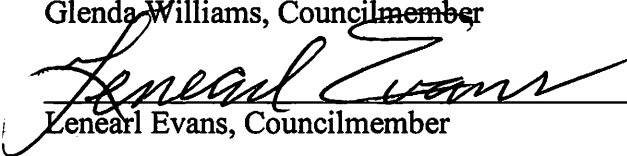
Josephine Isom, Councilmember



Jacqueline Gore, Councilmember

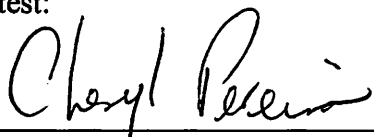


Glenda Williams, Councilmember




Lenearl Evans, Councilmember

Attest:



Town Clerk



Town Manager