

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 2021-001

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO DECLARE A STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR ANDERSON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC; PROCEDURES FOR OPERATION OF ANDERSON COUNTY DURING THE EMERGENCY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

WHEREAS, Anderson County, South Carolina has been impacted by and is immediately threatened by a public health emergency due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19);

WHEREAS, Anderson County government has the responsibility pursuant to South Carolina Code Section 4-9-120 and Section 2-38(c) Code of Ordinances, Anderson County, South Carolina to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of Anderson County Citizens and to mitigate the effects of emergency events; and

WHEREAS, since December 11, 2020 Anderson County has been in the top ten (10) counties in the State of South Carolina in new daily positive COVID-19 cases;

WHEREAS, Anderson County has been in the top ten (10) counties in the State of South Carolina for total number of cumulative positive COVID-19 cases since October 25, 2020, a period of over nine (9) weeks;

WHEREAS, on December 25, 2020, Anderson County experienced the highest single day number of reported COVID-19 positive cases at 199 positive cases since the beginning of the pandemic;

WHEREAS, hospitals within Anderson County have recently reported that they are experiencing the highest levels of COVID-19 patients since the beginning of the pandemic and are operating at or near capacity for COVID- 19 patients;

WHEREAS, health care officials, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, have suggested social distancing and minimizing mass meetings as ways to control the spread of the COVID-19 virus;

WHEREAS, Anderson County Council passed Resolution R2020-033 on November 20, 2020 encouraging the wearing of face coverings when in public areas; and,

WHEREAS, the Anderson County Council has determined that it is necessary to put in place procedures to minimize mass meetings to the extent possible until the consequences of the pandemic subside and to further plan for the continuation of County Services.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the Anderson County Council in meeting duly assembled that:

1. A state of emergency is hereby declared within Anderson County due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19);

2. The County Administrator, in cooperation with the Emergency Preparedness Department, Law Enforcement Officials, and such other federal, state and local officials as the County Administrator deems appropriate, is authorized and directed to take all necessary and appropriate actions to carry out the terms of this Emergency Ordinance and protect the life, health and safety of the citizens of Anderson County. Such actions shall include, but not be limited to, development and implementation of a plan for continuity of County operations; directing or redirecting personnel and/or functions of County departments and agencies for purposes of addressing the effects of COVID-19 pandemic while performing County services; and protecting the health and safety of County employees and the public for so long as the emergency exists.

3. All agencies of Anderson County are directed to cooperate to the fullest extent with the County Administrator and provide such assistance as may be required for response to this emergency.

4. During this state of emergency, the County Council and standing committees of County Council will meet on an as-needed basis determined by the Chairperson of County Council or the chairperson of the standing committees of County Council. Therefore, the requirement of Section 2-37(a) of the Code of Ordinances, Anderson County, South Carolina that the dates and places of all Council meetings for the year be established at the first meeting of County Council in January is suspended until the emergency ceases.

5. During this state of emergency, all boards, commissions, and committees (including ad-hoc committees) shall not meet and the County Administrator is directed not to schedule any such meetings. Any timelines related to any approval requirements by boards and commissions are hereby suspended and the timeline shall restart after the emergency ceases.

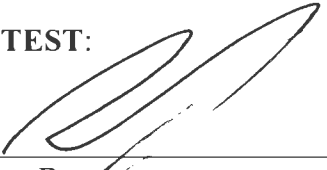
6. The only exception to no meetings of boards, commissions, and committees is the previously scheduled meetings of the Planning Commission on January 7, 2021, and the Board of Land Use and Zoning Appeals on January 14, 2021.

7. During the period of effectiveness of this Emergency Ordinance, any Ordinance, Resolution or policy of Anderson County in conflict with the provisions hereof are suspended by this Emergency Ordinance.

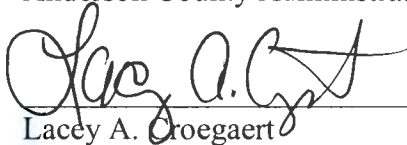
8. This ordinance shall be effective upon approval by County Council and in accordance with Section 2-38 (c) of the Code of Ordinances, Anderson County, South Carolina, this state of emergency shall continue in effect for a period of sixty-one (61) days unless sooner terminated by or further action is taken by the Anderson County Council.

ORDAINED in meeting duly assembled this 5th day of January, 2021.

ATTEST:



Rusty Burns
Anderson County Administrator



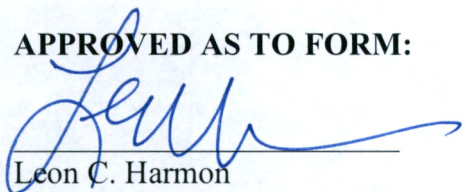
Lacey A. Croegaert
Clerk to Council

FOR ANDERSON COUNTY:



Tommy Dunn, Chairman
Anderson County Council

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Leon C. Harmon
Anderson County Attorney