ORDINANCE NO. 2020-22

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF COPPERAS COVE, TEXAS, EXTENDING A DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER; ESTABLISHING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE DURATION OF THE DISASTER; RESTRICTING CERTAIN ACTIVITIES; ESTABLISHING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS.

WHEREAS, in December 2019 a novel coronavirus, now designated COVID-19, was detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Outcomes have ranged from mild to severe illness, and in some cases death; and,

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization Director General declared the outbreak of COVID-19 as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), advising countries to prepare for the containment, detection, isolation and case management, contact tracing and prevention of onward spread of the disease; and,

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2020, the World Health Organization Director General urged aggressive preparedness and activation of emergency plans to aggressively change the trajectory of this epidemic; and,

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared that the COVID-19 outbreak should be characterized as pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, President Trump declared a national emergency on March 13, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, Governor Greg Abbott declared a public health disaster on March 13, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, the Center for Disease Control ("CDC") lowered the recommended number of persons at mass gatherings to 50 persons; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the CDC lowered the recommended number of persons at mass gatherings to 10 persons; and

WHEREAS. On March 19, 2020, Texas Governor Greg Abbott issued orders, prohibiting social gatherings in excess of 10 people; and

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2020, the Governor issued orders dealing with hospital care during this crisis; and

WHEREAS, at his March 22, 2020 press conference, the Governor acknowledged that the urban centers may need to enact more stringent measures to address this public emergency and stated that he would applaud the cities for doing so; and

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2020, the Governor has issued Executive Order GA-14, implementing statewide essential services and activities protocols; and,

WHEREAS, as of April 1, 2020, there are 3,997 persons confirmed to have COVID-19 in Texas, 58 Texans have died from COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, as of April 1, 2020, there are 44 persons confirmed to have COVID-19 in Bell County and 1 person in Coryell County; and,

WHEREAS, over 186,101 cases of COVID-19 have been reported in the United States, including 3,603 deaths; and,

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention is closely monitoring the growing number of COVID-19 cases that have spread into the United States; and,

WHEREAS, a large gathering of unidentifiable individuals without necessary mitigation for the spread of infection may pose a risk of the spread of infectious disease; and,

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control recommends that citizens stop handshaking, clean hands at the door, schedule regular hand washing, avoid touching faces and cover coughs and sneezes, disinfect surfaces like doorknobs, tables, desks, and handrails regularly, and increase ventilation by opening windows or adjusting air conditioning; and,

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control recommends the use of videoconferencing for meetings when possible, and adjusting or postponing large meetings or gatherings; and,

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control recommends citizens stay home if they are feeling sick or when they have a sick family member in their home; and,

WHEREAS, households with vulnerable seniors and persons with underlying health conditions should conduct themselves as if they were a significant risk to the vulnerable senior or person with underlying conditions; and,

WHEREAS, the identification of "community spread" cases of COVID-19 in the United States has signaled that transmission of the virus is no longer limited to those who traveled to China, or had contact with travelers who have visited China; and,

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 virus spreads between people who are in close contact with one another through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and,

WHEREAS, the continued worldwide spread of COVID-19 presents an imminent threat of widespread illness, which requires emergency action; and,

WHEREAS, a declaration of local disaster includes the ability to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to disease, control the risk, and promote the health and safety of Copperas Cove residents; and,

WHEREAS, the scientific evidence shows that at this stage of the emergency, it is essential to

slow virus transmission as much as possible to protect the most vulnerable and to prevent the health care system from being overwhelmed. One proven way to slow the transmission is to limit interactions among people to the greatest extent practicable. By reducing the spread of the COVID-19 virus, this Ordinance helps preserve critical and limited healthcare capacity in the City; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Copperas Cove will work collaboratively with Coryell, Bell and Lampasas Counties, and other area agencies and political subdivisions to ensure that all appropriate and necessary measures are taken to limit the development, contraction and spread of COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, the mayor is designated as the emergency management director of the City of Copperas Cove, and may exercise the powers granted to the governor on an appropriate local scale; and,

WHEREAS, a declaration of local disaster and public health emergency includes the ability to reduce the possibility of exposure to disease, control the risk, promote health, compel persons to undergo additional health measures that prevent or control the spread of disease, including isolation, surveillance, quarantine, or placement of persons under public health observation, including the provision of temporary housing or emergency shelters for persons misplaced or evacuated and request assistance from the governor of state resources; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor, under the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, has authorized the use of all available resources of state government and political subdivisions to assist in the City's response to this situation; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor has determined that extraordinary and immediate measures must be taken to respond quickly, prevent and alleviate the suffering of people exposed to and those infected with the virus, as well as those that could potentially be infected or impacted by COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, the Mayor has made a Declaration of Public Health Emergency, and further declared all rules and regulations that may inhibit or prevent prompt response to this threat suspended for the duration of the incident; and,

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2020, the City Council of the City of Copperas Cove approved an ordinance extending the declaration of local disaster through April 3, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COPPERAS COVE:

Section 1. The recitals contained in the preamble hereof are hereby found to be true, and such recitals are hereby made a part of this Ordinance for all purposes and are adopted as a part of the judgment and findings of the City Council.

Section 2. That the local state of disaster and public health emergency as declared by Mayor Bradi Diaz for the City of Copperas Cove pursuant to §418.108(a) of the

Texas Government Code is hereby superseded, amended, and extended until April 30, 2020 with the consent of the Copperas Cove City Council pursuant to §418.108(b) of the Government Code, including all rules and regulation attached hereto as Exhibit A.

Section 3. Pursuant to §418.108(c) of the Government Code, this extension of declaration of a local state of disaster and public health emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the City Secretary.

Section 4. Pursuant to §418.108(d) of the Government Code, this extension of declaration of a local state of disaster and public health emergency activates the City of Copperas Cove emergency management plan.

Section 5. Pursuant to §418.020(c) of the Government Code, this extension of declaration authorizes the City to commandeer or use any private property, temporarily acquire, by lease or other means, sites required for temporary housing units or emergency shelters for evacuees, subject to compensation requirements.

Section 6. Pursuant to §122.006 of the Health and Safety Code, this extension of declaration authorizes the City to take any actions necessary to promote health and suppress disease, including quarantine, examining and regulating hospitals, regulating ingress and egress from the City, and fining those who do not comply with the City's rules.

Section 7. All ordinances or parts thereof, which are in conflict or inconsistent with any provision of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict, and the provisions of this Ordinance shall be and remain controlling as to the matters herein.

Section 8. This Ordinance shall be construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas and the United States of America.

Section 9. A violation of this ordinance is a Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed $2,000.

Section 10. If any provision of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance shall be held to be invalid, the remainder of this Ordinance and the application of such provision to other persons and circumstances shall nevertheless be valid, and the City Council hereby declares that this Ordinance would have been enacted without such invalid provision.

Section 11. It is officially found, determined, and declared that the meeting at which this Ordinance is adopted was open to the public and public notice of the time, place, and subject matter of the public business to be considered at such meeting, including this Ordinance, was given, all as required by Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, as amended.

Section 12. This Ordinance shall be in force and effect from and after its final passage.

PASSED, ADOPTED, and APPROVED the 3rd day of April, 2020.

Bradi Diaz, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lisa Wilson, City Secretary

CITY OF COPPERAS COVE ★ TEXAS ★

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Denton, Navarro, Rocha, Bernal,
& Zech, P.C., City Attorney

EXHIBIT A

Public Health Emergency Rules and Regulations

Consistent with the Governors Executive Order GA-14 the following rules and regulations are hereby implemented:

- In accordance with guidance from DSHS Commissioner Dr. Hellerstedt, and to achieve the goals established by the President to reduce the spread of COVID-19, every person in Texas shall, except where necessary to provide or obtain essential services, minimize social gatherings and minimize in-person contact with people who are not in the same household.
- "Essential services" shall consist of everything listed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in its Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce, Version 2.0, plus religious services conducted in churches, congregations, and houses of worship. Other essential services may be added to this list with the approval of the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM). TDEM shall maintain an online list of essential services, as specified in this executive order and in any approved additions. Requests for additions should be directed to TDEM at EssentialServices@tdem.texas.gov or by visiting www.tdem.texas.gov/essential services.
- In providing or obtaining essential services, people and businesses should follow the Guidelines from the President and the CDC by practicing good hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and sanitation, implementing social distancing, and working from home if possible. In particular, all services should be provided through remote telework from home unless they are essential services that cannot be provided through remote telework. If religious services cannot be conducted from home or through remote services, they should be conducted consistent with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC by practicing good

hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and sanitation, and by implementing social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

- In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visiting gyms, massage establishments, tattoo studios, piercing studios, or cosmetology salons; provided, however, that the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options for food and drinks is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of this executive order.
- This executive order does not prohibit people from accessing essential services or engaging in essential daily activities, such as going to the grocery store or gas station, providing or obtaining other essential services, visiting parks, hunting or fishing, or engaging in physical activity like jogging or bicycling, so long as the necessary precautions are maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and to minimize in-person contact with people who are not in the same household.
- In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall not visit nursing homes, state supported living centers, assisted living facilities, or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance as determined through guidance from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

These rules and regulations do not mandate sheltering in place. All critical infrastructure will remain operational and government entities and businesses will continue providing essential services.

For offices and workplaces that remain open, employees should practice good hygiene and, where feasible, work from home in order to achieve optimum isolation from COVID-19. The more that people reduce their public contact, the sooner COVID-19 will be contained and the sooner this executive order will be rescinded.