

Ordinance No. 2020 - 24

**AN UNCODIFIED EMERGENCY ORDINANCE
RATIFYING, CONFIRMING AND AFFIRMING
UNCODIFIED EMERGENCY ORDINANCE 2020-04**

Recitals

A. On January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared novel coronavirus (COVID-19) a public health emergency of international concern and on March 11, 2020, the WHO characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic;

B. On March 12, 2020, the Governor of Virginia declared a state of emergency, to prepare and coordinate Virginia's response to the potential spread of COVID-19;

C. On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States issued a proclamation declaring a national emergency concerning the COVID-19 outbreak;

D. On March 16, 2020, the City Manager and Emergency Management Director, Steven L. Rosenberg, declared a local emergency concerning COVID-19 and its effects;

E. At its special-emergency meeting on March 18, 2020, by resolution, the Staunton City Council confirmed Mr. Rosenberg's Declaration of a Local Emergency and declared a disaster related to COVID-19;

F. On March 23, 2020, the Governor of Virginia issued an executive order that, in essence, further recognizes the emergency and disaster COVID-19 outbreak, closing the public schools for the entire remainder of the school year and closing recreational and other non-essential establishments;

G. The Governor of Virginia has issued further executive orders that reflect the existence of a continuing emergency and disaster related to COVID-19;

H. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that since January 21, 2020, there have been over 6,500,000 COVID-19 cases in the United States, with the number of deaths continuing to increase.

I. § 15.2-1413 of the Code of Virginia authorizes any locality to, by ordinance, provide a method to assure continuity in its government in the event of a disaster;

J. On March 24, 2020, City Council adopted uncodified emergency Ordinance 2020-04 (the "Emergency Ordinance"), reratifying and reaffirming the declaration of a local emergency and disaster due to novel coronavirus; implementing