

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

emergency procedures to ensure continuity of government; ratifying and affirming the city manager's authority and exercise of authority and discretion in taking actions in the best interest of the City; and authorizing the city manager to take actions to implement the provisions of the ordinance;

K. City Council continues to recognize, confirm, affirm, and find that emergency and disaster conditions and effects existed and continue to exist and the occurrence and/or threat of COVID-19 continues to merit and even necessitates action by City Council to provide for methods to help assure sustained continuity in local government as to the City and its related public bodies, officials and others, and proceedings;

K. This matter has been properly heard and considered; and

L. These recitals are deemed an integral part of this ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Staunton, Virginia (Council), to the fullest extent permitted by law under these continuing extraordinary, even unprecedented circumstances, that:

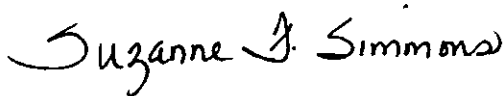
1. All actions of Council in the Emergency Ordinance and the provisions of such ordinance are **RATIFIED, CONFIRMED AND AFFIRMED**, including without limitation, the **CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT** provisions of such ordinance, which are expressly reenacted until January 15, 2021, in accordance with, and subject to, § 15.2-1413 of the Code of Virginia; and

2. The Clerk of Council is **DIRECTED** to have posted a copy of this ordinance at the usual places and on the City's website and public places and to provide a copy to the Chair of each City-related public body, including but not limited to the School Board, the Economic Development Authority, the Planning Commission, and the Historic Preservation Commission.

Adopted: September 24, 2020
Effective Date: September 24, 2020
Expiration Date: As provided



Andrea W. Oakes, Mayor



ATTEST: _____
Suzanne F. Simmons, Clerk of Council