

RESOLUTION 20-84

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PANAMA CITY BEACH, FLORIDA, IMPLEMENTING A HIRING MORATORIUM AND NON-ESSENTIAL SPENDING FREEZE, AND SUSPENDING EARLY SICK LEAVE PAYOUTS FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES, AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATELY EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary, President of the United States, Governor of the State of Florida, and Bay County have all declared the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, to be an international, national, state, and local emergency; and

WHEREAS, as a result of COVID-19, commercial and economic activity has been drastically reduced by global and national quarantining, government imposed restrictions, and recommendations to shelter in place to slow the spread of the virus throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, the City, since its inception, has not imposed an ad valorem tax on the property owners of the City but has, instead, relied upon the levy of local business taxes; and

WHEREAS, the City's local business tax on merchants, levied at a rate measured by one percent (1%) of gross sales revenue of all sales of goods, provides the majority of the City's general revenue; and

WHEREAS, because the City's local business tax is largely based upon consumer spending, the City's overall financial health is tied to the economic health of the City's businesses; and

WHEREAS, due to the anticipated reduction in tourism and consumer spending predicated by the COVID-19 outbreak, the City anticipates a significant reduction in business tax revenue and a corresponding strain on its ability to fund the essential municipal services provided to the City's visitors and residents; and

WHEREAS, the City is home to the world's most beautiful beaches and serves as one of the nation's premier tourist destinations to over 4 million visitors per year while also serving as the permanent home for approximately 13,000 residents; and

WHEREAS, to safeguard against the effects of the anticipated loss in revenue the City Council finds it necessary to adopt certain fiscal restraint policies designed to preserve essential municipal services.


NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PANAMA CITY BEACH, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

1. Hiring Moratorium. The City hereby implements a hiring moratorium across all departments and positions for the remainder of the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020 subject to the following exemptions:
 - a. Essential positions, previously approved and budgeted by the City Council in the Police and Fire Departments. Essential positions shall be those necessary to ensure an adequate level of municipal services or which directly affect the health and safety of the City's guests and residents as determined by the City Manager.
 - b. Reinstatements as required by the City's Charter.
 - c. The City Manager may grant a waiver of this moratorium for replacement of employees terminated by the City Manager or City Council or for employees who abandoned their employment.
2. Early sick-leave payouts pursuant to Resolution 20-14 are hereby suspended for the remainder of the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020.
3. Non-essential Spending Moratorium. The City hereby implements a moratorium on non-essential expenditures from the City's General Fund, including but not limited to vehicles, equipment, furniture, software, and capital improvements subject to the following exemptions:
 - a. All previously awarded, budgeted capital construction projects under construction may continue.
 - b. Projects utilizing restricted funds for which the City cannot realize any savings from cancellation of the project.
 - c. Essential purchases necessary to ensure an adequate level of services and to maintain the public health, safety, and welfare of the guests and residents of the City as determined by the City Manager.
 - d. Replenishment of normal office supplies.

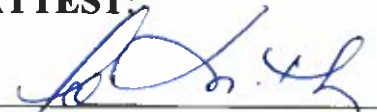
THIS Resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage.

PASSED in regular session this 26th day of March, 2020.

CITY OF PANAMA CITY BEACH

By: 
Mike Thomas, Mayor

ATTEST:


Mary Jan Bossert, City Clerk
Jo Smith, interim