

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF MOUNT CRAWFORD, VIRGINIA

**AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF PROCEDURES FOR ELECTRONIC PUBLIC
MEETINGS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS TO ENSURE THE CONTINUITY OF
GOVERNMENT DURING
THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC DISASTER**

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, Governor Ralph S. Northam issued Executive Order Fifty-One declaring a state of emergency for the Commonwealth of Virginia arising from the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order Fifty-One acknowledged the existence of a public health emergency which constitutes a disaster as defined by Virginia Code § 44-146.16 arising from the public health threat presented by a communicable disease anticipated to spread; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order Fifty-One ordered implementation of the Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan, activation of the Virginia Emergency Operations Center to provide assistance to local governments, and authorization for executive branch agencies to waive “any state requirement or regulation” as appropriate; and

WHEREAS. On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency, beginning March 1, 2020, in response to the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2020 the governing body of Rockingham County Board of Supervisors confirmed the declaration of local emergency made by the local director of emergency management on March 14, 2020, specifically finding that the COVID-19 Pandemic constitutes a “disaster” as defined in Virginia Code § 44-146.16, being a “communicable disease of public health threat”; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Code § 15.2-1413 provides that, notwithstanding any contrary provision of law, a locality may, by ordinance, provide a method to assure continuity of government in the event of a disaster for a period not to exceed six months; and

WHEREAS, on April 13, 2020, the governing body of the Mount Crawford, Virginia Town Council, pursuant to Virginia Code § 15.2-1413, adopted an emergency Ordinance to Effectuate Temporary Changes in Certain Deadlines and to Modify Public Meeting and Public Hearing Practices and Procedures to Address Continuity of Operations Associated with Pandemic Disaster (“Emergency Ordinance”); and

WHEREAS, through its Emergency Ordinance, the Mount Crawford Town Council specifically found that COVID-19 constitutes a real and substantial threat to public health and safety and constitutes a “disaster” as defined by Virginia Code § 44-146.16 being a “communicable disease of public health threat” and

WHEREAS, through its Emergency Ordinance, the Mount Crawford Town Council further found that the COVID-19 pandemic makes it unsafe to assemble in one locations a quorum for public bodies including the Town Council, the Planning Commission, the Board of Zoning Appeals, the Economic Development Board and all other local committees and authorities created by the Town Council or to which the Town Council appoints all or a portion of its members (collectively “Public Entities” and individually “Public Entity”), or for such Public entities to conduct meetings in accordance with normal practices and procedures; and

WEHREAS, through its Emergency Ordinance, the Mount Crawford Town Council adopted certain procedures to ensure the continuity of government during the COVID-19 Pandemic disaster (Continuity Procedures”), suspended any deadlines applicable to Public Entities and their staff during the COVID-19 disaster, and authorized Public Entities, at their discretion, to postpone non-emergency public hearings and action items during the disaster; and

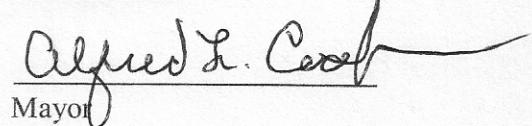
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mount Crawford Town Council hereby incorporates by reference and adopts the Continuity Procedures prescribed in the Emergency Ordinance, a copy of which is attached hereto; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mount Crawford Town Council hereby authorizes and directs its officers and staff to take all steps reasonably necessary or appropriate to implement such continuity Procedures and to develop any specific procedures as applicable for the Town of Mount Crawford, provided that such specific procedures are consistent with the terms of the Emergency Ordinance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption and shall remain in effect during the pendency of the Emergency Ordinance including for any applicable period upon the re-adoption of the Emergency Ordinance by the Mount Crawford Town Council.

ADOPTED AND EFFECTIVE this 13th day of April, 2020.

APPROVED



Alfred S. Cook
Mayor

ATTESTE:

Robby Orebough

Clerk

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT
Shane Stevens	X		
Neal Dillard		X	
Dennis Driver	X		
J.C. Smythers		X	
Toni Ray	X		