



TOWN OF ERWIN

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Mayor
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Ricky W. Blackmon
Melinda Alvarado

DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN THE TOWN OF ERWIN

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus previously unidentified in humans and which can spread from person to person; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on January 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") has warned of the high public health threat posed by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary declared a public health emergency in the United States for COVID-19 under Section 319 of the Public Health Service Act; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services ("NCDHHS") has confirmed multiple cases of COVID-19 in North Carolina as of March 10, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the State of North Carolina declared a State of Emergency, as defined in N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 166A-19.3(19) and 166A-19.3(19) based on the public health emergency posed by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, it has been reported that the President of the United States will be issuing a national State of Emergency on March 13, 2020;

WHEREAS, the Town of Erwin has the authority to declare a State of Emergency pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 166A-19.2 and 166A-19.31;

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as the Mayor of the Town of Erwin under Chapter 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes and Section 10-1 of the Town of Erwin Code of Ordinances:

1. A State of Emergency is hereby declared within the jurisdiction of the Town of Erwin based on the public health emergency posed by COVID-19.
2. The emergency area covered by this State of Emergency shall be within the entire Town of Erwin.
3. The Town strongly encourages its citizens to comply with the following recommendations:
 - a. Avoid large gatherings in public places, particularly gatherings of over 50 people. This is particularly important for elderly people. The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet). Avoiding large gatherings will help prevent the disease from spreading.
 - b. Wash hands frequently with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds each time, and avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

- c. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
 - d. Regularly check for updates on the NC Department of Health and Human Services website and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the latest updates and information.
- 4. Citizens are encouraged to pay any utility bills online or over the phone. To the extent in person payment is necessary, citizens are encouraged to use the drive thru window or the afterhours drop box set up for payments.
 - 5. All non-essential public facilities may be closed, in part or in whole, to the public at this time.
 - 6. The Town reserves the right to take additional enforcement steps pursuant to its authority under G.S. 166A-19.31(b) as necessary. To the extent any additional emergency measures are deemed necessary, they will be announced on the Town's website and will publicly posted at regular public notice locations.

DECLARED this the 13th day of March, 2020

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Patsy M. Carson", written over a horizontal line.

Patsy M. Carson,
Mayor