

**ORDINANCE CONFIRMING, READOPTING, AND CONTINUING THE  
EMERGENCY ORDINANCE ADOPTED ON APRIL 6, 2020 AND 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  
TITLE 15 CHAPTER 7 SECTION 1(b)**

**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 24, 2020 the Harrisonburg City Council (the Council) confirmed the declaration of local emergency made by the local director of emergency management on March 14, 2020 and

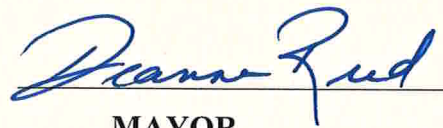
**WHEREAS**, the Council finds that COVID-19 constitutes a real and substantial threat to public health and safety and constitutes a “disaster” as defined by Virginia Code §44-146.16 being a “communicable disease of public health threat;” and

**WHEREAS**, 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

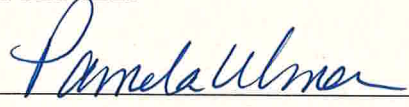
**WHEREAS**, Virginia Code § 44-146.21(C) further provides that a local director of emergency management or any member of a governing body in his absence may upon the

- 2. That the Emergency Ordinance adopted on April 6, 2020 is confirmed, readopted, and continued in its entirety.
- 3. That unless confirmed, readopted, and continued, this Ordinance shall expire after six months, except that this Ordinance shall expire immediately upon the revocation of the Local Declaration of Emergency.
- 4. An emergency is deemed to exist, and this ordinance shall be effective upon its adoption.

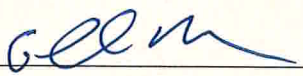
**ADOPTED AND APPROVED** this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2021.

  
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 MAYOR

ATTESTEE:

  
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 CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
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 G. Chris Brown, City Attorney