

## **City of Westwood Hills, Kansas Resolution 2020–2**

### **Resolution of the City of Westwood Hills, Kansas, Declaring a Local State of Emergency; Temporarily Expanding the Authority of the Mayor to Act on Behalf of the City; and Ratifying Previous Decisions Regarding the COVID-19 Emergency.**

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19, a respiratory disease that spreads easily from person to person and may result in serious illness or death has been confirmed in Kansas; and

**WHEREAS**, a State of Disaster Emergency for the state in its entirety was proclaimed by the Governor of the State of Kansas on March 12, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the President of the United States declared a national emergency on March 13, 2020, regarding the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Johnson County, Kansas, declared a State of Local Disaster Emergency within the county on March 19, 2020, and passed Resolution No. 021-20, and

**WHEREAS**, the health, safety, and welfare of persons within the City of Westwood Hills, Kansas, are of critical importance and have been endangered by the threat and spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Body of the City of Westwood Hills, Kansas, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic desires to protect the public health, safety, and welfare by declaring a local state of emergency and by temporarily expanding the authority of the Mayor to act on behalf of the city during such time of emergency.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF WESTWOOD HILLS, KANSAS:**

**Section 1.** A Local State of Emergency is declared regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic. All local ordinances and resolutions pertaining to times of emergency passed under the Home Rule Authority of the City of Westwood Hills, Kansas, granted by Art. 12 Sec. 5 of the Kansas Constitution, are now in effect to the extent that they do not contradict or conflict with the State Emergency Plan or Emergency Plan of Johnson County, Kansas.

**Section 2.**

A. The Mayor is hereby vested, temporarily, with the authority to make all decisions pertaining to personnel and City operations without the need to obtain Council approval for said actions. This grant includes the authority to suspend City operations; the authority to temporarily amend, extend, or suspend policies and procedures, including purchasing and personnel policies, of the City in response to the emergency; the authority and discretion to make decisions concerning the grant of additional leave and/or benefits to City employees; the authority to make decisions and purchases exceeding previously

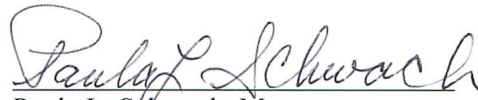
established purchasing authority granted by the Council; and the authority to make other decisions deemed necessary to continue City operations and secure the well-being and safety of City employees and the public at large in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

B. The Mayor shall keep the Governing Body informed of the actions taken pursuant to this grant of authority by reporting them to the Governing Body at the next meeting after the action was taken.

**Section 3.** The Governing Body hereby ratifies the emergency decisions made by the Mayor in response to COVID-19 prior to the date of this Resolution.

**Section 4.** This resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and shall remain in effect until future action is taken by the Governing Body or the State of Disaster Emergency declared by Johnson County, Kansas, has expired.


Passed by the Governing Body and signed by the Mayor this 13<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020.

  
Paula L. Schwach, Mayor

**Attest:**

  
Beth O'Bryan, City Clerk

**Approved as to form:**

  
James R. Orr, City Attorney

