

Introduced by _____

First Reading _____

Second Reading _____

Ordinance No. _____

Council Bill No. B 92-20

AN ORDINANCE

authorizing a temporary deviation from certain City Code provisions relating to parking meter hoods and transit fares; declaring an emergency for enactment; and fixing the time when this ordinance shall become effective.

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is considered an infectious, highly contagious communicable and dangerous disease and on March 11, 2020 was declared by the World Health Organization to be a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, due to the COVID-19 pandemic there have been declarations of emergency enacted by the President of the United States, the Governor of the State of Missouri and the City of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2020 due to presence of COVID-19 and the existence of community spread of the disease within the City, the Director of Public Health and Human Services (“Director”) issued a Stay at Home Order mandating all persons within the City of Columbia stay at home or at their place of residence except for carrying out Essential Activities, Essential Governmental Functions, or to operate Essential Businesses and Operations as more fully set forth in such order; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically altered the manner in which restaurants may operate and persons travel within the city and the Council finds the actions taken by the City Manager to temporarily alter certain City Code requirements related to the issuance of parking meter hoods and the payment of transportation fares to be in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Columbia and desire to extend such efforts for the duration of the City declared emergency; and

WHEREAS, in order to continue to provide for such parking meter hoods and waiver of transportation fares it is necessary for the City Council to authorize such steps as an emergency ordinance on the day of introduction so that such rules may go into effect immediately; and

WHEREAS, the City Council further finds such enactment will cause no harm to the public and is in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Columbia and advisable to promote and protect the public health, safety and general welfare of the city.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Incorporation of findings. The City Council makes and reaffirms the findings set forth above and incorporates the same by reference as if fully set forth herein.

SECTION 2. Emergency clause, effective date and duration. Due to the community spread of the COVID-19 pandemic within the City of Columbia and for the immediate preservation of public health and safety, this ordinance is enacted as an emergency ordinance within the meaning of Article II of Section 15 of the Home Rule Charter of the City. This ordinance shall go into effect immediately after its passage by six-sevenths (6/7) of the members of the City Council and shall remain in effect for the duration of the City declaration of emergency or rescinded by the City Council, whichever occurs first.

SECTION 3. Section 14-424 provisions relating to issuance of parking meter hoods temporarily waived. The provisions of Section 14-424 of the City Code relating to the issuance and payment of parking meter hoods are hereby temporarily suspended to authorize the City Manager to issue parking meter hoods at no charge to any restaurant located adjacent to metered parking spaces provided such restaurant is only offering curbside or carry out service to customers. Only those provisions of Section 14-424 which would be in conflict with this authorization are temporarily suspended and only for the limited purpose described herein. All other existing requirements relating to meter hoods shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 4. Section 22-29 provisions relating to payment of transportation fares temporarily waived. The provisions of Section 22-29 of the City Code relating to the payment of transportation fares are hereby temporarily suspended to authorize the City Manager to provide transit services at no charge to any rider during the duration of the declared City emergency or until such time as the Federal Transit Authority mandates such fares resume.

SECTION 5. Ordinance supersedes any prior code, policy or practice. To the extent any provision of the City Code or prior policy or practice of the City Council is in conflict with this ordinance, the provisions of this ordinance shall supersede such provisions.

PASSED this _____ day of _____, 2020.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor and Presiding Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Counselor