Consideration and Adoption of Resolution #20-06 Confirming a Local Emergency Declaration and Finding a Local Disaster

Background Information
The City Manager declared a State of Emergency in Williamsburg on March 13, 2020 as the Emergency Operations Center was activated to manage the spread of Coronavirus COVID-19 in the Greater Williamsburg area. This unprecedented health emergency has led to the closure of public buildings and a limitation on public gatherings. The impact of the long term management of this emergency now requires a restated Declaration of Emergency with the finding of a disaster. This new action will enable further actions to be taken to best protect the health, safety, and welfare of Williamsburg.

Previous Relevant Action
COVID-19 Declaration of Emergency - March 13, 2020

Staff Recommendation
Staff recommends approval as drafted.

Sample Motion
I move that the City Council approve Resolution 20-06 as drafted.

Attachments
RESO 20-06 COVID-19 Emergency Declaration 3192020
WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Director of Emergency Management, with the consent of the Williamsburg City Council, declared a local emergency based on the World Health Organization’s declaration of a pandemic and the threat to the City of Williamsburg based on conditions caused thereby; and

WHEREAS, this action was taken in concert with the March 12, 2020 declaration of a state of emergency by the Governor of Virginia, Governor’s Declaration of a State Emergency, Executive Order Number Fifty-One; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order Number Fifty-One specifically states that the anticipated effects of COVID-19 constitute a disaster as provided in Section 44-146.16 of the Code of Virginia, and has since been revised to impose additional measures intended to further limit the spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, City Council finds that that the COVID-19 pandemic is now having significantly damaging impacts on the City of Williamsburg; and

WHEREAS, guidance from the Virginia Department of Health and the CDC, and indicates that the likelihood is that this emergency will be of a protracted nature; and

WHEREAS, based on the prospect of long-term emergency measures necessitated by the pandemic, including the inability of people to safely gather for work or other reasons, the closure of schools and the cessation of other functions of normal society and of many operations of state and local government, the impact on the City’s operations, the existing and likely future impacts on public health, and the likely severe economic impact of the Governor’s emergency declaration are having and will have on the City of Williamsburg, its’ citizens and its businesses, the City Council deems it necessary to amend its existing emergency declaration and make a specific finding that a disaster now exists in the City of Williamsburg.

NOW, THEREFORE, City Council confirms the existence of a continuing emergency, ratifies the emergency declaration dated March 13, 2020, and hereby finds that a disaster as determined in the Governor’s Executive Order Number Fifty-One now exists in the City of Williamsburg; and

IT IS FURTHER CONFIRMED, PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that during the existence of said emergency, and continuing until further action of City Council, the powers, functions and duties of the Division of Emergency Management of the City of Williamsburg are those prescribed by State Law and the Ordinances, Resolutions, and
approved plans of the City of Williamsburg in order to mitigate the effects of said continuing emergency and existing disaster.

Adopted: ____________________                  __________________________

Mayor

Attest: __________________________

Clerk