

EMERGENCY DECLARATION AND ORDINANCE NO. ~~20-06~~ **#20-13**

**A DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY ARISING BECAUSE OF COVID-19; AN ORDINANCE TAKING IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY MEASURES BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DUBLIN.**

**WHEREAS**, the President of the United States of America declared a National Public Health Emergency on March 13, 2020 due to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of the State of Georgia declared a State Public Health Emergency on March 14, 2020 and urged “local officials to do what’s in the best interest of their communities to keep people safe and stop the spread of coronavirus” on March 19, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 24, 2020, pursuant to the authority vested in the Mayor and Council of the City of Dublin by the Constitution and laws of the State of Georgia, the Mayor and Council passed an Emergency Declaration and Ordinance, Ord. No. 20-06, which implemented measures intended to slow the pace of the COVID-19 outbreak; and

**WHEREAS**, since March 24th, 2020, the Governor of the State of Georgia has issued a series of executive orders which have each provided for statewide mandatory shelter in place provisions, guidelines for business operations, and guidance for the citizens of our State to reduce the spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor’s latest executive order, numbered 07.15.20.01, provides for additional guidance for Georgia which is effective through 11:59PM on July 31, 2020, and

**WHEREAS**, on July 27, 2020, the cumulative total of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Laurens County is 561 and there have been 2 deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 27, 2020 Fairview Park Hospital’s critical care hospital beds were and remain full of COVID-19 patients; and

**WHEREAS**, as of July 27, 2020, the 14-day positive case rate for COVID-19 in Laurens County remains high; and

**WHEREAS**, the local health department has indicated that the continued high 14-day positive case rates indicate significant and high community transmission rates in and around Laurens County; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Dublin is located in the heart of the State of Georgia directly on Interstate 16 and in close proximity to Interstate 75, two of the State’s main thoroughfares for travel without and within this State; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Dublin provides essential services to its citizens, including, but not limited to, police and fire protection, utility services, sanitation services, and regulatory services, all of which will need to be continued during the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, essential personnel in the emergency, medical, and commerce fields continue to provide services during the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council desire to take measures to protect those essential services, to protect the personnel providing those services, and the general public; and

**WHEREAS**, in the judgment of the Mayor and Council of the City of Dublin, there exists emergency circumstances particular to the jurisdiction of the Mayor and Council which require extraordinary and immediate corrective actions for the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the community, the state, and the nation; and