**[INSERT CITY/TOWN OF \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_], MISSISSIPPI DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY RELATED TO COVID-19**

**WHEREAS,** on March 14, 2020, the Governor of the State of Mississippi issued a Proclamation declaring a State of Emergency related to the high risk for an outbreak of the novel coronavirus, identified as COVID-19, in the State of Mississippi;

**WHEREAS,** the risk of spread of COVID-19 within Mississippi and the **[INSERT CITY/TOWN OF \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_]**, Mississippi constitutes a public emergency that may result in substantial injury or harm to life, health and property within the **[CITY/TOWN]**;

**WHEREAS**, as a result of the Governor’s Proclamation and the findings therein related to the COVID-19 pandemic, which findings are fully adopted and incorporated herein as if in same word and detail, the Mayor and **[BOARD OF ALDERMEN/CITY COUNCIL]** (“Governing Body”) of the **[CITY/TOWN]** are desirous of declaring an emergency pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-17 to combat the pandemic of COVID-19.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DECLARED** by the Governing Body of the **[CITY/TOWN]** as follows:

1. Pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-17, a Declaration of Emergency is immediately implemented within the **[CITY/TOWN]** to combat the spread of COVID-19.
2. The Mayor is hereby authorized to take any other reasonable actions as necessary and consistent with Miss. Code Ann. 33-15-17 to combat the pandemic of COVID-19.
3. This Declaration shall remain in effect until termination by the Governing Body **[, which shall be reviewed at every subsequent meeting of the Governing Body]**.

**[OPTIONAL PROVISIONS**

1. **In addition to the full authority granted in Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-17, the Governing Body is hereby authorized to enter into contracts and incur obligations necessary to combat the pandemic of COVID-19 without regard to time-consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law pertaining to the performance of public work, entering contracts, the incurring of obligations, the employment of temporary workers, the rental of equipment, the purchase of supplies and materials, the levying of taxes and the appropriation and expenditure of public funds.**
2. **The [CITY/TOWN]’s parks and community center shall be closed until such time as the pandemic has been brought under control, all within the discretion of the Mayor.**
3. **The Mayor is hereby authorized to restrict the public’s access, as necessary, to all other [CITY/TOWN] buildings, including [CITY/TOWN] Hall.**
4. **The [CITY/TOWN] may adopt policies restricting access to meetings of the Governing Body or other [CITY/TOWN]-related functions. In the event such action is taken, reasonable measures will be implemented to provide the public access to the meeting via video means, teleconference or other reasonable electronic measures.**
5. **The [CITY/TOWN] hereby encourages the restriction of all public gatherings in the [CITY/TOWN] to less than \_\_\_\_\_\_ people and to self-quarantine at home for a period of \_\_\_\_\_\_ days if you experience any of the symptoms of COVID-19, as set forth by the Centers for Disease Control, or have been exposed to someone diagnosed with COVID-19.**

**END OF OPTIONAL PROVISIONS]**

**[COUNCILMAN/ALDERMAN]** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ made the motion and **[COUNCILMAN/ALDERMAN]** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ seconded the motion for its adoption. The Mayor put the question to a roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

**[INSERT VOTE]**

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