

ORDINANCE NO. 20210225-004

AN ORDINANCE WAIVING RESIDENTIAL PERMITTING AND DEVELOPMENT FEES RELATED TO REPAIRING OR RECONSTRUCTING STRUCTURES, AND REMOVING TREES AND TREE LIMBS DAMAGED AS A RESULT OF CERTAIN WINTER WEATHER EVENTS; WAIVING EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FEES AND COSTS FOR SERVICES PROVIDED DURING CERTAIN WINTER WEATHER EVENTS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

PART 1. FINDINGS.

- (1) On February 12, 2021, Governor Greg Abbott issued a Declaration of State of Disaster due to severe winter weather posing an imminent threat of widespread and severe property damage, injury, and loss of life due to prolonged freezing temperatures, heavy snow and freezing rain statewide and declaring a state of disaster in all 254 Texas counties.
- (2) On February 14, 2021, Mayor Steve Adler issued a Declaration of Local Disaster due to severe winter weather posing an imminent threat of widespread and severe property damage, injury, and loss of life due to prolonged freezing temperatures, heavy snow and freezing rain.
- (3) From February 11, 2021, through February 19, 2021, the City of Austin, Texas experienced prolonged freezing temperatures, significant snow accumulation, and freezing rain ("February 2021 Winter Weather Event").
- (4) During the February 2021 Winter Weather Event, many homes experienced burst pipes, which resulted in the flooding of many of those homes, and downed trees and tree limbs.
- (5) The City has a health and safety interest in protecting its residents from the dangers posed by flooding, structural damage, and damaged trees and tree limbs. There is an immediate need to prevent these homes from becoming further damaged.
- (6) During the February 2021 Winter Weather Event, the demand for services provided by the City's Emergency Medical Services Department (EMS) tripled, which caused EMS to operate in a fashion similar to a multi-casualty response.

- (7) In this mode of operation, EMS medics must move quickly from call to call, which results in little-to-no down time between calls. The City has a health and safety interest in ensuring that EMS medics, when operating in such a situation, focus on responding to calls.

PART 2. FEE WAIVERS FOR RESIDENTIAL REPAIRS.

- (A) The city council waives all residential permitting and development fees that, in the judgment of the Building Official, are required to repair or reconstruct structures or property damaged or destroyed; and required to remove damaged trees and tree limbs as a result of the February 2021 Winter Weather Event that occurred in the City of Austin's planning jurisdiction. The fees covered by this waiver include, but are not limited to, permitting, plan review, inspection, demolition, and variance fees. The fees covered by this waiver are for repair of existing structures only. The fees covered by this waiver do not include fees for re-inspections.
- (B) To the extent necessary, city council ratifies and authorizes the waiver of any fee described in Subsection (A) that was not assessed beginning on February 12, 2021, through the date of this ordinance.

PART 3. FEE WAIVERS FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.

The city council ratifies and authorizes the waiver of any fees and costs for emergency medical services provided between February 12, 2021, and February 20, 2021.

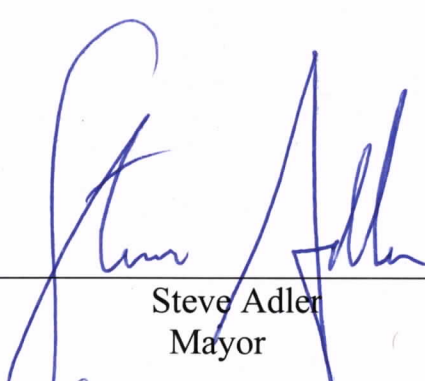
PART 4. This ordinance expires on March 31, 2021.

PART 5. Based on the findings in Part 1 of this ordinance, the city council finds that repair and reconstruction of damaged structures; removal of damaged trees and tree limbs; and the EMS services provided during the period described in Part 3 constitute an emergency. Because of this emergency, this ordinance takes effect immediately on its passage for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

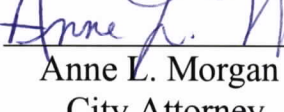
PASSED AND APPROVED

February 25, 2021

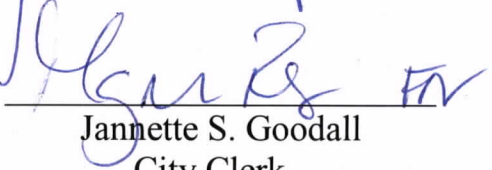
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Steve Adler
Mayor

APPROVED: 

Anne L. Morgan
City Attorney

ATTEST: 

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk