RESOLUTION #20-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL RECOGNIZING THAT EXTRAORDINARY CONDITIONS EXIST AND WILL CONTINUE TO DEVELOP DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN EMERGENCY ACTIONS WITHOUT THE NECESSITY OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2020 the State of Florida Department of Health issued a Declaration of Public Health Emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020 Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-52 declaring a State of Emergency in the State of Florida due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency and the Executive Order authorizes State agencies to suspend the provisions of regulatory statutes prescribing the procedures for the conduct of state business or the orders or rules of that agency, if strict compliance with the provisions of any such statute, order, or rule would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the Emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization declared the global spread of the coronavirus COVID-19 a global pandemic, and indicated that countries can still act to change the course of its spread; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a communicable disease with significant morbidity and mortality, and presents a severe danger to public health according to the Department of Health; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Centers For Disease Control currently recommends mitigation measures for communities experiencing an outbreak including staying at home when sick, keeping away from others who are sick, limiting face-to-face contact with others as much as possible, consulting with your healthcare provider if individuals or members of a household are at high risk for COVID-19 complications, and staying home when a household member is sick with respiratory disease symptoms if instructed to do so by public health officials or a health care provider; and

WHEREAS, the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council was created through an Interlocal Agreement on August 19, 1976, the Interlocal Agreement was amended and restated on October 18, 2005, and the Interlocal Agreement describes the powers and duties of the Council and its Executive Director; and

WHEREAS, this developing situation may necessitate dynamic, time-sensitive actions to ensure the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council can continue to effectively perform our mission and serve our local governments; and
WHEREAS, public health recommendations, restrictions on travel and public gatherings, and individual circumstances may prevent the Council from meeting as a body to conduct business and grant approvals and authorizations in a timely manner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL THAT:

Section 1. The above recitals are declared to be true and correct and are hereby made part and parcel of this resolution. In accordance therewith, and with the aforementioned Executive Order 20-52, certain procedures and formalities pertaining to the operation of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council are hereby waived as follows, in furtherance of the health, safety and welfare of the region:

Section 2. The Executive Director may suspend or modify Council’s Purchasing Policy and Personnel Policy to the extent necessary to ensure operation of the Council and the provision of services to member local governments.

Section 3. The Executive Director may amend the approved budget, including transfers between budgeted program expenditures and the use of reserve funds, if necessary, to ensure operation of the Council and the provision of services to member local governments.

Section 4. The provision of Section (9) Finances, Item (g) limiting purchases of a single item of either equipment or goods in excess of $5,000 without Council approval may be waived by the Executive Director to the extent necessary to ensure operation of the Council and the provision of services to member local governments.

Section 5. Section (9) Finances of the Interlocal Agreement, item (e) concerning check signing authority may be modified by the Executive Director to substitute other Council members if any only to the extent of the inability of the designated members to serve. In no case shall the two signatures consists solely of Council staff.

Section 6. The Executive Director shall confer with the Council Chairman to the fullest extent practicable if exercising the authority granted in Sections 2, 3, 4 and 5 above.

Section 7. The Order of Succession for the position of Chairman in the event of the Chairman’s illness, unavailability, or otherwise inability to serve shall be:

1. Chairman Michael Houston of Martin County
2. Vice Chairman Jeff Hmara of Palm Beach County
3. Secretary-Treasurer Cathy Townsend of St. Lucie County
4. Commissioner Peter O’Bryan of Indian River County as the member from Indian River County with the longest current period of service on Council
Section 8. The Order of Succession for the position of Executive Director in the event of the Executive Director’s illness, unavailability, or otherwise inability to serve shall be:

1. Executive Director Thomas J. Lanahan
2. Economic Development and Intergovernmental Programs Director Stephanie Heidt
3. Urban Design Director Dana Little
4. Emergency Programs Director Kathryn E. Boer

Section 9. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption and shall remain in force and effect for the duration of the Governor’s Executive Order 20-52 or until the Council is able to meet with a quorum of members at the call of the Chairman and exercise their authority.

DULY ADOPTED by the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council this 13th day of March 2020.

Michael Houston  Thomas J. Lanahan
Chair  Executive Director