

Resolution 2020-001

**BOROUGH OF DELAWARE WATER GAP
MONROE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

JOINT DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, a novel coronavirus (now known as “COVID-19”) has spread throughout the United States and threatens the health and well-being of all citizens, particularly the elderly and those with existing health problems; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) have declared COVID-19 a “public health emergency of international concern,” and a “pandemic”; and

WHEREAS, on March 6, 2020, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania issued a Proclamation of Disaster Emergency that proclaims the existence of a disaster emergency throughout the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, among other things, the Governor’s Proclamation suspends the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of Commonwealth business, and urges the governing bodies and executive officers of all political subdivisions affected by this emergency to act as necessary to meet the current exigencies as legally authorized under the Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court issued an order declaring a statewide judicial emergency until April 14, 2020 due to the threat posed by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court issued a second order closing all Pennsylvania courts to the public, except for certain emergency and essential functions, and further suspending all time calculations for purposes of time computation relevant to court cases or other judicial business as well as time deadlines; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council and Mayor deems COVID-19 to constitute a threat of imminent disaster to the health of the citizens of the Borough of Delaware Water Gap (the “Borough”); and

WHEREAS, this threat of imminent disaster and emergency has the potential to cause significant adverse impacts upon the population throughout the Borough; and

WHEREAS, current guidance from the CDC and the federal and state governments suggests an immediate need for extraordinary measures to avoid gatherings of individuals;

WHEREAS, COVID-19, and its possible consequences, endangers the health, safety and welfare of a substantial number of persons residing in the Borough; and

WHEREAS, emergency management measures are required to reduce the severity of this disaster and to protect the health, safety and welfare of endangered residents in the Borough; and

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Council and Mayor of the Borough of Delaware Water Gap pursuant to the provisions of Section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code, (35 PA C.S.A. §7501), as amended, do hereby declare the existence of a disaster emergency in the Borough.

FURTHER, we direct the Borough Emergency Management Coordinator to coordinate the activities of the emergency response, to take all appropriate action needed to alleviate the effects of this disaster, and to take any other emergency response action deemed necessary to respond to this emergency.

FURTHER, all meetings, hearings or other gatherings of all Borough boards, committees and commissions, including the Planning Commission, Zoning Hearing Board, Building Hearing Board, excluding any meetings of Borough Council, are postponed for a period of 30 days;

FURTHER, effective immediately and until further notice, the Borough office at 49 Main Street, Delaware Water Gap, PA 18327 is closed to the public, but will remain operational and staffed during regular business hours by phone (570-476-0331), email (s.serrano@dwgpa.gov), regular mail, or the Borough's website (<https://dwgpa.gov/>);

STILL FURTHER, we authorize officials of the Borough to act as necessary to meet the current exigencies of this emergency, without regard to time-consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law (excepting mandatory constitutional requirements) pertaining to the performance of public work, entering into 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.

This Declaration shall take effect immediately, and remain in effect until such time as Borough Council adopts a subsequent declaration terminating the local disaster emergency.

DECLARED BY THE Council and Mayor of the Borough of Delaware Water Gap, Monroe County, Pennsylvania this 13th day of March, 2020.

BOROUGH OF DELAWARE WATER GAP

(BOROUGH SEAL)



JACK SHOEMAKER, President

JOINING AND APPROVING:

MAYOR



LARRY FRESHCORN