



EMERGENCY ORDER NO. 2020-03

**ORDER SUSPENDING IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE AND IN-PERSON PUBLIC COMMENT
AT PUBLIC MEETINGS**

WHEREAS, the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) epidemic may cause life threatening conditions for the residents of the City of North Port; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order Number 20-52, declaring that a state of emergency exists in every county in the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the City Commission of the City of North Port, Florida adopted Ordinance No. 2020-18, declaring a state of local emergency due to the COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 2020-18 conferred on the City Manager or designee the power and authority set forth in Florida Statutes Section 252.38(3)(a); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Florida Statutes Section 252.46, the City Manager has the power to issue emergency orders with the force of the law; and

WHEREAS, this order is necessary for emergency management purposes and to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community; and

WHEREAS, Section 2-55 of the Code of the City of North Port, Florida addresses the procedure for public comment at public meetings; and

WHEREAS, limiting the number of persons in attendance at public meetings protects the health, safety, and welfare of the community and of City employees.

THEREFORE, IN HIS EMERGENCY AUTHORITY, THE CITY MANAGER OF THE CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA ORDERS:

1. Public comment procedures in Section 2-55 of the Code of the City of North Port, Florida are suspended.
2. No in-person public comment will be permitted during public meetings.
3. No in-person public attendance will be permitted during public meetings.
4. The City will make reasonable efforts to provide alternative methods for public comment and participation in public meetings.

This order is effective immediately. Unless otherwise terminated, this order expires simultaneously with the expiration of the state of local emergency.

ORDERED ON AND FILED WITH THE CLERK OF THE CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA ON MARCH 23, 2020
AT 3:30 A.M./3 P.M. BY



Peter D. Lear, CPA, CGMA
City Manager