

**ORDINANCE NO. 011-2020**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BIG SPRING, TEXAS, POSTPONING THE GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MAY 2, 2020 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING A CITY COUNCIL MEMBER FOR DISTRICT ONE AND A CITY COUNCIL MEMBER FOR DISTRICT THREE, TO NOVEMBER 3, 2020 PURSUANT TO A PROCLAMATION FROM GOVERNOR ABBOTT, PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION AND POSTING OF NOTICE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

**WHEREAS**, in December 2019 a novel coronavirus, now designated COVID-19, was detected in Wuhan City, Hubel Province, China. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Outcomes have ranged from mild to severe illness; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization Director General declared the outbreak of COVID-19 as a Public health Emergency of International Concern (“PHEIC”), and advised countries to prepare for the containment, detection, isolation and case management, contact tracing and prevention of onward spread of the disease; and

**WHEREAS**, the identification of “community spread” cases of COVID-19 in the United States could potentially signal transmission of the virus are no longer be limited to China, or contact with travelers who have visited China; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor has issued a proclamation suspending certain provisions of the Texas Election Code and the Texas Water Code to allow all local political subdivisions that are utilizing the May 2, 2020 uniform election date to postpone their election to the November 3, 2020 uniform election date.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BIG SPRING, TEXAS, THAT:**

**SECTION 1.** Pursuant to the proclamation from Governor Abbott, which authorizes the City Council to make the determination to postpone the Uniform Election Date of May 2, 2020 to the Uniform Election Date of November 3, 2020, the City Council hereby approves and votes to exercise said authority and postpone the May 2, 2020 election (see ORDINANCE NO. 006-2020) to November 3, 2020.

**SECTION 2.** The candidate filings for the election will remain valid for the election held on the November date. The filing period for candidates will not be re-opened for the November election date.

**SECTION 3.** Only qualified electors under the general laws of the state who reside in the City District One shall be qualified to vote for the office of District One City Council Member; and only qualified electors under the general laws of the state who reside in City District Three shall be qualified to vote for the office of District Three City Council Member.

**SECTION 4.** Voting by personal appearance during early voting and on election day shall be by DRE (Direct Recording Electronic) System and by official paper ballot for early voting by mail and for provisional ballots. The following dates will be followed for the November 3, 2020 Uniform Election Date:

- Voter registration deadline – Monday, October 5, 2020
- Deadline to submit an application for ballot by mail – October 23, 2020
- Early voting dates – Monday, October 19, 2020 through Friday, October 30, 2020
- Last day of Early Voting by Personal Appearance – Friday, October 30, 2020
- Last day to receive ballot by mail – Tuesday, November 3, 2020 at 7:00 PM if carrier envelope is **NOT** postmarked, **OR** Wednesday, November 4, 2020 (next business day after the election on Election Day (subject to overseas or military voter deadlines)
- Election Day – Tuesday, November 3, 2020

Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted at Howard County Courthouse located at 300 S. Main. Early voting will be held on weekdays beginning Monday, October 19, 2020 and ending Friday, October 30, 2020. The early voting polling place shall be open to the public from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 29, 2020 and Friday, October 30, 2020 and from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on all other days.

**SECTION 5.** The polling places on Election Day will be at the following vote center locations:

Dorothy Garrett Coliseum  
1001 Birdwell Lane

Ryan Hall  
605 North Main

First Baptist Church  
705 W. FM 700

Coahoma Community Center  
306 North Ave.  
Coahoma, TX

The polling places shall be open to the public from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**SECTION 6.** All applications for a ballot by mail (“ABBM”) for voters that are voting by mail due to being over age sixty-five (65) or due to a disability will **STILL BE VALID** for the November 3, 2020 election, and the ABBMs for voters who submitted ABBMs based upon an unexpected absence from the county will **NOT BE VALID** for the November 3, 2020 election.

**SECTION 7.** No later than August 17, 2020, the City Council will make any necessary revisions of this order of election. Such revisions include, but are not limited to, change the date of the election; change the location of the main early voting location; changes to the early voting dates

**Ord. 011-2020**

and hours; including weekend early voting; any changes to the identity of the early voting clerk and their contact information or any changes to branch early voting locations.

**SECTION 8.** This ordinance does not permanently change the uniform date of future elections.

**SECTION 9.** Mayor Shannon D. Thomason is hereby authorized to execute and have posted notice of said election in accordance with the law.

**SECTION 10.** It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council that the sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, and phrases of this ordinance are severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, or section be declared unconstitutional or invalid by the valid judgement or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, said unconstitutionality or invalidity shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, and sections of this ordinance.

**SECTION 11.** The City Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to cause the publication of this ordinance in accordance with law.

**SECTION 12.** This ordinance shall be effective immediately upon approval and second reading pursuant to the Big Spring City Charter.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** on first reading at a special meeting of the City Council on the **26<sup>th</sup>** day of **March, 2020**, with all members present voting “aye” for the passage of same.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** on second and final reading at a special meeting of the City Council on the **3<sup>rd</sup>** day of **April, 2020** with all members present voting “aye” for the passage of same.



Shannon D. Thomason, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tami L. Davis, Assistant City Secretary