

RESOLUTION NO. 6373-2021

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEBASTOPOL
TOLLING OF PLANNING AND BUILDING PERMIT APPROVALS DUE TO COVID-19 EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the State of California declared a State of Emergency on March 4, 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sebastopol City Council declared a local emergency due to Covid-19 pandemic on March 12, 2020, and extended by the Council on July 7, 2020 and September 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the County of Sonoma declared an initial Order of the Health Officer on March 17, 2020, No, C19-03, ordering a Shelter in Place for County residents and restricting business operations to slow the spread of COVID-19 and mitigate the impact on delivery of critical healthcare services; and,

WHEREAS, these restrictions included restrictions on all operations other than essential operations, including construction, planning, and building, with further Order revisions providing for limited operations which are still in effect; and,

WHEREAS, these responses to the Covid-19 pandemic crisis have been critical to protect public health and safety. However, these restrictions have, and will continue to cause, financial stress to residents, business owners, and property owners alike in the City of Sebastopol and throughout Sonoma County, the State of California, and the United States; and

WHEREAS, the financial impacts of these restrictions have impacted local businesses and property owners through both restrictions on construction activity and financial impacts; and

WHEREAS, the covid-related emergency has continued throughout 2020, and continues in 2021; and

WHEREAS, the “Delta” and “Lambda” Variants, and other variants of Covid-19, continue to have impact on business operations, supply chains in the construction industry, and financing; and

WHEREAS, the health of local businesses is critical to the City’s economy and the ability of businesses and property owners to make improvements to their properties and pursue their business interests are a critical component of the City’s long-term recovery from the financial impacts of Covid-19 pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Sebastopol wishes to support local residents, business owners, and property owners throughout this emergency and in their recovery.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Sebastopol City Council hereby approves and certifies the following:

1. The expiration for any Planning and Zoning entitlements approved as of the date of this Resolution shall be tolled until September 15, 2022. This includes an entitlements required under Sebastopol Municipal Code Sections 8.12 (“Tree Protection”), 15.04 (“Building and Construction, International Building Code”), Title 16 (“Subdivisions”) , and Title 17 (“Zoning”).


2. If entitlements approved under Title 16 ("Subdivisions") are extended by the State of California through legislative action, this tolling shall be superseded and replaced by State action, and the State extension only shall apply.
3. No action shall be required by holders of entitlements to receive this extension.
4. Active entitlement applications submitted as of the date of this Resolution that would otherwise be withdrawn under Section 17.400.030(C)5 may be extended at the discretion of the Planning Director or her designee.
5. These actions shall be implemented consistent with State law and/or any directive issued by the Governor.

The above and foregoing Resolution was duly passed, approved, and adopted at a meeting by the City Council on the 7th day of September 2021, by the following vote:

VOTE:

Ayes: Councilmembers Hinton, Rich, Slayter, Vice Mayor Gurney and Mayor Glass
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

APPROVED: 
Mayor Ura Glass

ATTEST: 
Mary Gourley, Assistant City Manager/City Clerk, MMC

APPROVED AS TO FORM: 
Larry McLaughlin, City Attorney