

RESOLUTION N O . 2022-33

A RESOLUTION REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 2013-04 AND SETTING POLICIES AND CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH ASHLAND WILL ACTIVATE SEVERE WEATHER EMERGENCY SHELTER FACILITATION

RECITALS:

- A. Ashland is in an area that has four distinct seasons, all of which can exhibit extreme conditions due to severe weather events that can be hazardous to persons without access to adequate heating, cooling, sheltering or air quality resources.
- B. The City of Ashland desires to set forth the conditions under which it will call for the availability of protective or emergency sheltering during severe weather-related events and the policies related to the procedures the City will take to determine when to call of a shelter and how the City will coordinate with community volunteers and disseminate information on such emergency shelter.

THE CITY OF ASHLAND RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. This resolution repeals and replaces Resolution 2013-04.

SECTION 2. Provision of Emergency Shelter During Severe Weather Events

- 1) Ashland will facilitate the provision of protective or emergency shelter within available resources as set forth here during times of extreme weather. Calling or activating a severe weather shelter is subject to practical considerations which may include, but are not limited to, identifying an available facility/facilities appropriate for the intended use, the ability to operate the shelter(s) in a safe manner for all potential users and supporting volunteers/staffing, the capacity of the shelter operations to adhere to the Severe Weather Shelter Operations Policy (attached), and the availability and level of necessary resources to support shelter operation. Necessary resources include volunteer support and contracted/city staffing, authorized and available funding. The City's ability to address or manage practical considerations will impact its ability to call for or maintain over time a severe weather shelter. For purposes herein, weather conditions shall be considered extreme under the following:
 - The general threshold for calling a cold weather shelter: 32 degrees or below considering such factors as wind chill, precipitation, number of days' duration or in instances where the National Weather Service issues a Weather Warning.
 - The general threshold for calling an extreme heat shelter: 95 degrees or above depending upon other factors such as humidity, UV index, and overnight lows or in instances where the National Weather Service issues an Extreme Heat warning.
 - The threshold for calling a smoke related shelter: an air quality index of 150 and above or designation of "unhealthy for everyone") or above.
 - And/or any combination of weather conditions, community circumstances including interruption of electric or essential city services, which, at the discretion of the City Manager, or their designee, make conditions hazardous to human life without adequate shelter.

SECTION 3. City's Role in Instances of Emergency Shelter

1) The City Manager, or their designee, will fulfill the following duties:

- Shelter Activation: Determine when the City will activate the provision or opening of protective or emergency shelter and approve the use of City resources for this purpose.
- **48 Hour Notice**: The City will strive to provide 48-hour notice, unless in times of sudden severe weather conditions to contracted shelter provider to allow ample time for volunteer coordination and dissemination of information to the public.
- Communication: Communicate between internal City staff and the community. This will include communication between non-profits contracted to provide shelter coordination and City staff involved/concerned with sheltering activities, including but not limited to staff from Emergency Operations, Ashland Fire and Rescue, the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Coordinator or other AFR staff as designated by the Fire Chief, Ashland Police, Ashland Parks and Recreation, and City Administration, as well as with the Mayor and City Council, and other elected and appointed officials.

Communication will include coordination with or use of Nixle alerts as appropriate. The communication should provide information to the public regarding shelter information, which could include posting new items on the City's website, notifying 211, and posting information about shelters on the City's social media platforms.

- Shelter Coordination: Protective and emergency weather shelter will be staffed by community and/or CERT volunteers. The City will take steps within funding appropriated for the purpose to contract with a third-party non-profit organization to provide shelter coordination and oversight, including volunteer coordination and the provision of liability insurance to cover all emergency shelter related activities. Contracted shelter coordination may also include soliciting, vetting, and providing trainings to shelter volunteers (in coordination with CERT volunteer trainings), maintaining a shelter volunteer contact list, and coordinating with the City staff regarding background checks for shelter volunteers. These items and any additional duties will be outlined in a separate shelter coordinator service contract.

The City will arrange for the provision of materials and resources as needed to protect those managing and utilizing its facilitated emergency shelter. Materials and resources will also be made available for the training of protective and emergency shelter associated staff and volunteers.

Shelter coordination should also include periodic or regular meetings as necessary between City staff, the non-profit shelter coordinator and volunteer participants/stakeholders to debrief event management and review shelter processes/procedures for planning and coordinating improvement.

- 2) Emergency shelter during or in anticipation of a severe weather event may require the use of an available city owned building/facility. Previously booked/scheduled groups in those locations will be subject to cancellation in such a case. The City will endeavor to establish an appropriate, permanent location and facility for emergency weather shelter for the community.

SECTION 4. Severe Weather Activation

Provisions for emergency shelter will be activated as follows:

- a) When the City Manager, or their designee, determines that weather conditions are or are

likely to become "extreme," they will contact the City's Emergency Operations Officer or CERT Coordinator to confirm the emergency circumstances and activate the provision of protective or emergency shelter.

- b) Emergency Operations Officer or CERT Coordinator will, in turn, contact the following:
- City's non-profit shelter coordinator to determine the feasibility of initiating emergency shelter operations, including the availability of volunteer staffing, and
 - The City's Parks and Recreation Department and other facilities management to determine if a city facility or facilities are available for the sheltering event. If no suitable City building is available, city staff and the non-profit shelter coordinator will work with community partners toward securing a sheltering location elsewhere in the city.
- c) The Non-profit Shelter Coordinator will contact designated representatives from volunteer organizations to arrange for on-site volunteers at the shelter.
- d) The CERT Coordinator or other AFR staff as designated by the Fire Chief, will put out a call for volunteers through the CERT system annually to notify them of shelter training availability.
- e) Shelter volunteers should bring their own cell phones in case of emergency.

SECTION 5. Emergency shelter will be operated consistent with the attached Severe Weather Shelter Operations Policy.

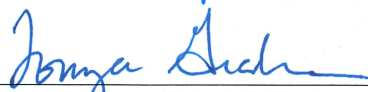
SECTION 6. This resolution takes effect upon signing by the Mayor.

ADOPTED by the City Council this 6th day of December, 2022.

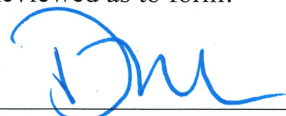
ATTEST:


Dana Smith, Clerk of the Council Pro Tem

SIGNED and APPROVED this 18th day of July, 2023.


Tonya Graham, Council Chair

Reviewed as to form:


Doug McGeary, Interim City Attorney