ORDINANCE NO. 2020-004

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING POSTPONEMENT OF MAY 2, 2020 ELECTION AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS INCIDENTAL AND RELATED THERETO

WHEREAS, the City of West Lake Hills, Texas (the "City") is a political subdivision of the State of Texas (the "State") and on February 12, 2020, the City Council of the City (the "City Council") approved that certain Ordinance Calling a Bond Election (the "Original Ordinance") calling a bond election to be held within the boundaries of the City on May 2, 2020 (the "Election"); and

WHEREAS, the public health risks posed by Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19") have resulted in the closure of schools and businesses and governmental decrees restricting and prohibiting public gatherings statewide and such closures, restrictions and prohibitions are reasonably anticipated to interfere with the Election; and

WHEREAS, City administration continues to evaluate and respond to new and evolving recommendations and guidance related to public health and safety from national and state public health officials, including the Governor of the State, Greg Abbott (the "Governor"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 418.018, Texas Government Code, the Governor issued a proclamation on March 13, 2020 certifying that COVID-19 poses an imminent threat of disaster in the state and declaring a state of disaster for all counties in the State; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 418.016, Texas Government Code, the Governor issued a proclamation on March 18, 2020 suspending certain provisions of the Texas Election 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 (collectively with the proclamation issued on March 13, 2020, the "*Proclamation*"); and

WHEREAS, the Governor suspended certain provisions of Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, as amended, to allow governmental bodies to conduct meetings via teleconference or video conference, subject to certain provisions of the Proclamations; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the public health risks posed by COVID-19 threaten the health and safety of voters and election officials in the City and that such threat to the health and safety of voters and election officials is expected to persist throughout the period for early voting and election day voting for the Election; and

WHEREAS, the City Council hereby finds and determines that it is in the best interest of the City to postpone the Election to the November 3. 2020 uniform election date.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST LAKE HILLS, TEXAS:

- Section 1. The declarations, determinations and findings set forth in the recitals of this Ordinance are hereby restated and incorporated into and made a part of this Ordinance for all purposes and are adopted as a part of the judgment and findings of the City Council.
- Section 2. Pursuant to the Proclamation, the City Council hereby exercises the authority conferred by the Proclamation and orders the Election postponed until the November 3, 2020 uniform election date.

At a subsequent meeting which shall occur not later than August 17, 2020, the City Council shall meet to consider any necessary action to revise the Original Ordinance, including changes to the date of the Election, changes in the location of the main early voting location, changes to early voting dates and hours, changes to the identity of and contact information for the early voting clerk, changes to branch early voting locations and such other changes as the City Council shall deem necessary or appropriate.

- Section 3. The City Council further authorizes and directs the City Secretary to take any and all necessary action contemplated by this Ordinance to facilitate the postponement of the Election to the November 3, 2020 uniform election date, including posting notice of the postponement of the Election on the City's website, notifying the appropriate county election officer and providing any other notice deemed appropriate in connection with the postponement.
- Section 4. All ordinances, orders and resolutions, or parts thereof, which are in conflict or inconsistent with any provision of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict, and the provisions of this Ordinance shall be and remain controlling as to the matters resolved herein.
- Section 5. All applications for ballots by mail for voters in the City that have been submitted to the early voting clerk by voters who are over the age of 65 or disabled will be valid for the November 3, 2020 uniform election date, however, applications for ballots by mail submitted by voters who expect to be absent from the City on the May 2, 2020 election date and during the related period for early voting by personal appearance will not be valid for the November 3, 2020 election date.
- Section 6. For the November 3, 2020 uniform election date, the voter registration deadline is October 5, 2020; the deadline to submit an application for ballot by mail is October 23, 2020; and the period for early voting shall commence on October 19, 2020 and end on October 30, 2020.
- Section 7. This Ordinance shall be construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State and the United States of America.
- Section 8. It is officially found, determined, and declared that the meeting at which this Ordinance is adopted was in compliance with the advisory issued by the Governor and public notice of the time, place, and subject matter of the public business to be considered at such meeting.

including this Ordinance, was given, all as required by Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, as amended.

Section 9. This Ordinance shall be in force and effect from and after the date of its adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 2 day of April, 2020.

Linda Anthony, Mayor
City of West Lake Hills, Texas

Attest:

Stephanu Mills Stephanie Mills, City Secretary City of West Lake Hills, Texas

(SEAL)

