RESOLUTION R-2019-

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONGMONT, COLORADO

DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND ESTABLISHING LONGMONT’S INTENT

TO TAKE IMMEDIATE AND ACCELERATED ACTION TO ADDRESS THE CLIMATE CRISIS

WHEREAS, climate change is an urgent unfolding crisis that presents a serious threat to human existence; and

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has issued a special report on the impact of global warming and the need to reduce global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions earlier than 2030 to hold atmospheric warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and avoid the most catastrophic impact of climate change; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the United States’ Fourth National Climate Assessment made it clear that climate change will wreak havoc across the United States, and that the current pace and scale of climate action is not sufficient to avoid substantial damage to the economy, the environment and to human health over the coming decades; and

WHEREAS, Longmont and the rest of Colorado, already suffers from the impacts of climate change in the form of drought, air pollution, extreme heat, species stress, negative health effects, and floods, and these disasters will become more severe as global GHG emissions continue to poison the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, climate change will increasingly make basic human necessities more expensive and difficult to obtain; and
WHEREAS, throughout the United States, frontline communities have historically borne the brunt of longstanding environmental injustice including fossil-fuel created degradation and it is acknowledged that these communities must actively participate in the planning, decision-making, and implementation of climate action and must benefit equally from a just transition to a sustainable and equitable economy; and

WHEREAS, to stay within 1.5 degrees Celsius, cities and nations throughout the world will need to significantly reduce their per capita emissions by 2030 or earlier; and

WHEREAS, restoring a safe and stable climate will require mobilization at all levels of government and society on a scale, scope, and speed not seen since World War II; and

WHEREAS, efforts to control climate change will have many benefits such as cleaner air and water; improved health; local employment; cost savings for households, businesses, and the city; and the creation of a stronger and more resilient community; and

WHEREAS, Longmont City Council took a decisive leadership role by committing to 100% renewable electricity supply by 2030 and through the Platte River Power Authority Board (PRPA) started our region on a mandate for conversion to renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, the Longmont Sustainability Plan, adopted in 2016, provides a road map for Longmont to achieve the vision of becoming an engaged community that promotes environmental stewardship, economic vitality, and social equality to create a sustainable and thriving future for all; and

WHEREAS, Longmont has already taken steps to lower GHG emissions by passing the 2030 renewable electricity supply resolution above. It is acknowledged that such steps are not sufficient, in and of themselves, to adequately address the magnitude of the climate emergency.
NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONGMONT, COLORADO, RESOLVES:

Section 1

That the City Council of Longmont hereby declares a state of climate emergency and that the global climate crisis poses a serious, urgent, and pressing threat to the well-being of Longmont, its inhabitants, economy, and environment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is the intent of the City of Longmont to do everything in its power to swiftly convert to an ecologically, socially, and economically sustainable economy and to reduce community-wide carbon emissions as much and as quickly as possible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City re-affirms its goal of supporting 100% electric energy generation by 2030 or earlier, and further directs City staff and PRPA to shorten the time period to the earliest technologically feasible date, to more adequately address the severity of the climate crisis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City government must work and partner with residents, businesses, and community groups to educate our community about the climate emergency, including holding public meetings about the crisis, and must work to catalyze a just transition and climate emergency mobilization effort at the local, state, national and global levels, to provide maximum protection to our residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Longmont City Council will convene a climate working group composed of City staff, other subject matter experts, partners, concerned residents, including those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, to discuss further steps the City
should take to promote a carbon-free, sustainable city, with the goal of creating and submitting a report outlining such steps within 120 days of this resolution, and quarterly thereafter, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Longmont calls upon the State of Colorado, the United States of America, and all governments and peoples worldwide to initiate a Climate Emergency Mobilization and Just Transition effort to reverse global warming by restoring near pre-industrial global average temperatures and greenhouse gas concentrations; that halts the development of new fossil fuel infrastructure; rapidly phases out all fossil fuels and the technologies which rely upon them; transitions to regenerative agriculture; works to end the sixth mass extinction of species; creates high-quality, well-paying jobs with comprehensive benefits; mitigates the potentially adverse impacts to those who will be most impacted by this transition; and results in an equitable, inclusive and resilient community for all.

Section 2

The Council repeals all resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict with this resolution, but only to the extent of such inconsistency.

Passed and adopted this _________ day of ______________________, 2019.

________________________________________
MAYOR

ATTEST:

________________________________________
CITY CLERK
APPROVED AS TO FORM

ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY

DATE

PROOFREAD

DATE

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND SUBSTANCE:

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT

DATE

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