



ORDINANCE NO. 23-0926-02

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WHITEHOUSE, TEXAS, ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT; PROVIDING ITS PURPOSE AND RESPONSIBILITIES, LEADERSHIP AND STRUCTURE, COLLABORATION, AND FUNDING; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE, SEVERABILITY AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the safety and well-being of the residents of Whitehouse, Texas, are of utmost importance; establishing the office of emergency management and qualified assigned personnel; and disaster planning, preparedness, response, and recovery are vital functions that require organized coordination and management; and

WHEREAS, the provisions recommended within this ordinance are made pursuant to such authority and for good government of the City; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Government Code, Title 4 Executive Branch, Subtitle B. Law Enforcement and Public Protection, Chapter 418. Emergency Management, Chapter 418, mandates that all political subdivisions of the state establish a local emergency management organization;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITEHOUSE, TEXAS, that:

SECTION 1: ESTABLISHMENT

The City of Whitehouse Office of Emergency Management is hereby established as the authorized disaster agency responsible for emergency management within Smith County, Texas.

SECTION 2: PURPOSE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The City of Whitehouse Office of Emergency Management shall have the authority and responsibility for coordinating with Smith County Office of Emergency Management, under the provisions of the Smith County Hazard Mitigation Plan and Emergency Operations Plan, implementing disaster planning, preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities within the City of Whitehouse in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.

SECTION 3: LEADERSHIP AND STRUCTURE

The City of Whitehouse Office of Emergency Management shall be headed by an Emergency Management Coordinator who shall be appointed by the City Manager. The Emergency Management Coordinator shall have the necessary authority to carry out the functions of the Office of Emergency Management.

SECTION 4: COLLABORATION

The City of Whitehouse Office of Emergency Management shall collaborate directly with Smith County Office of Emergency Management; under the provisions of the Smith County Hazard Mitigation Plan and Emergency Operations Plan and with various local, state, and federal agencies, organizations, and stakeholders to ensure effective disaster management and response.

SECTION 5: FUNDING

Funding for the City of Whitehouse Office of Emergency Management shall be allocated in accordance with the City of Whitehouse budgeting process to support its operations, staff, training, and equipment needs.

SECTION 6: SAVINGS CLAUSE

All provisions of any ordinance in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent they are in conflict; but such repeal shall not abate any pending prosecution for violation of the repealed ordinance, nor shall the repeal prevent a prosecution from being commenced for any violation if occurring prior to the repeal of the ordinance. Any remaining portions of said ordinances shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 7: SEVERABILITY

Should any section, subsection, sentence, clause and/or phrase of this Ordinance be declared unconstitutional and/or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, it is expressly provided that any and all remaining portions of this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect. The City hereby declares that it would have passed this Ordinance, and each section, subsection, clause and/or phrase thereof irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses and/or phrases be declared unconstitutional and/or invalid.

SECTION 8: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately after adoption.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED on this 26th day of September 2023.


James Wansley, Mayor

ATTEST:


Susan Hargis, City Secretary