

RESOLUTION NO. 5 (2020)

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING EMERGENCY FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO OPEN HEARTS ADVOCATES FOR THE BALANCE OF 2020

WHEREAS, the City of Craig has determined that an emergency exists with respect to the continuing financial survival of a nonprofit organization known as Open Hearts Advocates, which serves a significant public purpose with the City of Craig;

WHEREAS, since 1978 Open Hearts Advocates, previously known as Advocates – Crisis Support Services, has provided free, confidential assistance for local victims of crime, domestic abuse, sexual assault, human trafficking, suicide and accidental death, and other forms of interpersonal violence in Moffat County; these include a 24-hour hot-line, counseling and support emergency safe shelter, referrals and information, protective order assistance, personal advocacy and support, community education, safety planning and children’s advocacy;

WHEREAS, the impact of the Open Hearts Advocates in the community in terms of calls for service has been very significant with the numbers continuing to increase year to year, and although no socio-economic group is immune from the issues addressed there is a significantly higher proportionate benefit of the services of Open Hearts Advocates to the most challenged and vulnerable groups without our community;

WHEREAS, during the time of its existence Open Hearts Advocates has been supported primarily through grant funding, but was adopted in May 2018 by Community Clinics at Memorial Regional Health (“CCMRH”), which has up to this point allowed Open Hearts Advocates to survive, but which has determined that such support will not continue beyond the date of April 22, 2020, without additional financial support from the City and Moffat County;

WHEREAS, the City, together with Moffat County, has conducted a workshop with the leaders and staff of Memorial Regional Health and Open Hearts Advocates, has reviewed the budget and made inquiries to determine whether there are additional budget cuts possible to remedy the situation, as well as discussion on the public need for the continuation of Open Hearts Advocates;

WHEREAS, there has been a determination that if the City of Craig and Moffat County each contribute a monthly support in the amount of \$6,200 beginning May 1, 2020, that CCMRH would continue to provide the balance of the support to allow Open Hearts Advocates to continue operations through December 31, 2020;

WHEREAS, the Moffat County Commissioners recently approved such support and are committed to provide monthly payments of \$6,200 beginning May 1, 2020;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF CRAIG, COLORADO, AS FOLLOWS:

The City Council determines that an emergency exists with respect to the continuing operation of Open Hearts Advocates.

There is a significant public need for the services provided by Open Hearts Advocates, which would negatively impact a significant portion of the citizens of Craig should such services cease to exist.

The City Council has determined that Open Hearts Advocates is operating on the smallest budget possible in order to carry out the basic functions of its mission and that the leaders are pursuing all possible outside sources of present funding, but that such sources in the short term are currently insufficient for the continuing operation of Open Hearts Advocates without local emergency support.

The City of Craig will provide temporary emergency funding to Open Hearts Advocates, in the amount of \$6,200 per month beginning May 1, 2020, so long as Moffat County provides the same level of support and that CCMRH provides the balance of the funds necessary to continue operations at its current level through December 31, 2020.

In the event that Moffat County or CCMRH fail to commit or cease to provide their funding, then this commitment from the City of Craig will cease. In the event that Open Hearts Advocates ceases to provide the current level of services prior to end of December 31, 2020, the City of Craig will cease to provide the monthly support.

In accordance with C.R.S. § 31-16-105, the City Council hereby determines that this Resolution is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health or safety.

This Resolution shall take effect upon adoption, shall be authenticated and shall be numbered and recorded in the official records of the City.

If any provision of this resolution or the application of it to any person or circumstance is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this resolution which can be given effect without the invalid provisions or applications. The provisions of this resolution are expressly declared to be severable.

READ AND APPROVED THIS 24TH DAY OF MARCH 2020 BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF, COLORADO.

Jarrold Ogden, Mayor

ATTEST:

Liz White, City Clerk