ORDINANCE NO. 714-2020-12

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF VENUS, TEXAS ADOPTING ARTICLE III (SPECIAL EVENTS) OF CHAPTER 24 (STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND OTHER PUBLIC PROPERTIES) OF THE CITY OF VENUS CODE OF ORDINANCES TO ESTABLISH REGULATIONS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS; PROVIDING A PURPOSE AND DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING FOR A SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT AND EXEMPTIONS; PROVIDING FOR A SPECIAL EVENT PERMITTING PROCESS; PROVIDING FOR REGULATIONS TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY; PROVIDING FOR THE REVOCATION, TERMINATION AND APPEAL OF A SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT; PROVIDING FOR AN APPLICATION FEE; PROVIDING FOR OPERATING PROCEDURES; PROVIDING FOR A SAVINGS AND SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR A REPEALER CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY OF A FINE NOT TO EXCEED THE SUM OF TWO THOUSAND (\$2000.00) DOLLARS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Venus, Texas ("City") currently hosts a variety of special events for the benefit of its citizens and the enjoyment of the public at-large; and

WHEREAS, the City anticipates that the number of special events held by the City or individuals will increase in the future; and

WHEREAS, in order to plan for and protect the health and safety of participants, spectators and citizens, it is necessary to enact regulations related to special events to ensure that City staff is adequately informed of the details of special events held wholly or partially in the City; and

WHEREAS, the City has investigated and determined that the adoption of regulations related to special events is in the best interest of the citizens of Venus and will provide for the public health and safety.

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

Section 1. Findings. The findings set forth above are incorporated herein as if set forth verbatim.

Section 2. <u>Adoption of Article III (Special Events) of Chapter 24 (Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Properties)</u>. Article III (Special Events) of Chapter 24 (Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Properties) is hereby adopted as follows:

"ARTICLE III. SPECIAL EVENTS

Sec. 24-70 - Purpose

The purpose of this article is to secure the general health, safety and welfare for the residents of the City by regulating the manner in which special events are conducted, requiring compliance with standards to ensure the safety of the attendees and the residents of the City and to stimulate significant economic growth, promote tourism and generate revenue for businesses in the City.

Sec.24-71 - Definitions

Applicant means the person seeking to hold a special event who has filed a written application for a special event permit, including the applicant's employees, permitted assigns and other persons controlled by the applicant.

Block Party means the use of a street for a residential neighborhood function or event which involves the temporary barricading of one or more streets.

City means the City of Venus, Texas.

City-Sponsored Event means:

- (i) an event sponsored in whole or in part by the City; or
- (ii) an event conducted by or with a non-profit organization, and for which the City pays all or a portion of the costs of the special event.

Concession means a facility at a special event where food and/or drink is offered to the public for sale.

Director means the City Administrator or his or her designated representative.

Non-Profit Organization means an organization or entity that is exempt from the payment of taxes pursuant to section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Parade means any assembly, march, demonstration or procession upon public streets within the City, including persons, animals, or vehicles that are reasonably likely to interfere with the normal flow or regulation of traffic. Parade shall include, but not be limited to, runs, walks, marathons or similar events.

Permanent structure means a structure for which a certificate of occupancy has been issued.

Permit means written approval from the city or its designated representative for a special event, upon the receipt and review of a completed application.

Person means any individual, assumed name entity, partnership, association, corporation or other organization or entity.

Reimbursable Costs means costs incurred in the staging of the special event, including, without limitation, the following:

i. Utility services provided to the special event, including all of the costs of installation, maintenance and connection;

- ii. Food services inspection;
- iii. Repair, maintenance and removal of facilities in the event of a failure of applicant;
- iv. Repair of streets, alleys, sidewalks, parks and other public property;
- v. Police protection;
- vi. Emergency medical services;
- vii. Fire protection;
- viii. Garbage disposal and cleanup;
- ix. Traffic control;
- x. Equipment, including but not limited to bleachers, sound equipment, tents, tables and chairs; and
- xi. Other direct costs associated with the special event.

Special Event means an occurrence which takes place on a periodic basis, or a stand-alone occasion, wholly or partially on the City's rights of way, public property, or private property which may cause an interruption of regular activities and involves one or more of the following activities:

- i. closing a public street;
- ii. blocking or restricting access to public property and streets;
- iii. sales of merchandise, food or beverages on public property;
- iv. sale of alcoholic beverages on public or private property where otherwise prohibited;
- v. erecting a tent or canopy on public property, or on private property where otherwise prohibited by ordinance;
- vi. installing a stage, band shell, van, trailer, portable building, grandstand or bleachers on public property;
- vii. installing a stage, band shell, van, trailer, portable building, grandstand or bleachers on private property where otherwise prohibited by ordinance;
- viii. placing portable toilets on public property, or on private property where otherwise prohibited by ordinance;
- ix. events or gatherings of seventy-five (75) or more persons for a common purpose including a parade, using private or public property; or
- x. the operation of a hayride utilizing public property or streets.

Sec. 24-72 – Permit Required; Exemptions

(a) Permit Required.

- 1. An applicant shall apply for a special event permit with the City and pay all applicable fees.
- 2. A special event application form, including the payment of applicable fees, must be completed and submitted to the City no fewer than sixty (60) days prior to the date of the proposed special event.
- 3. The issuance of a special event permit authorizes appropriate City departments to issue permits for activities in connection with the authorized event in locations where such activities would otherwise be prohibited by ordinance.

- 4. Setup for the special event may begin the day immediately preceding the day of the special event and must be completely removed before noon the day following the special event unless otherwise approved in writing by the Director. Public property shall be restored to its original condition as it existed prior to the special event.
- 5. The city and its officials, officers, employees and agents shall not be liable for any damage to or loss of any such property or facilities sustained during removal or storage of such property, equipment, tents or other facilities and the applicant shall indemnify the city, its officials, employees and agents against all claims for such damage or loss.
- 6. Issuance of a special event permit does not authorize removal or alteration of public property and any such removal or alteration is strictly prohibited.
- 7. In addition to complying with all conditions of the special event permit and applicable ordinances, the applicant shall comply with federal, state, and county laws, rules, and regulations.
- 8. If an applicant's special event occurs on a recurring basis (e.g., weekly, monthly), a single special event permit may be issued for a six-month period, after which time the applicant must reapply for a new special event permit in compliance with this article.

(b) Exemptions.

The following are exempt from the rules and regulations of this article:

- 1. A private party held on private property and to which the public is not invited, provided such party does not impact public rights of way or involve activities not permitted by applicable zoning regulations as determined by the City.
- 2. An event wholly contained on a property specifically designed or suited for the event and that holds a certificate of occupancy for such use, and includes adequate parking to accommodate events.
- 3. Funeral processions.
- 4. Activities under the control of the City parks department conducted on City property that do not affect public right-of-ways.
- 5. Sporting and/or special events sponsored by the Venus Independent School District which take place exclusively on Venus Independent School District property.
- 6. A demonstration, parade, or assembly related to the expression of feelings and beliefs on current political, religious, or social issues.

Sec 24-73 – Special Event Application

- 1. A person desiring to hold a special event shall apply for a special event permit by filing a written application on a form provided by the City with the Permitting Department.
- 2. An application for a permit for a special event shall be made at least sixty (60) days prior to the date and time of the commencement of the special event.
- 3. An application shall contain, but not necessarily be limited to, the following information:
 - a. The name, home address and telephone number, office address and telephone number, date of birth and driver's license number of the applicant and of any other persons responsible for the conduct of the special event;

- b. The name and address of the owner of the location where the special event is to be held, and a statement describing the terms and conditions of the agreement whereby the applicant is authorized to use the land;
- c. A description of the place where the special event is to be held which will provide a physical description of the location upon which the special event is to be held and a description which will adequately locate the property within the City limits;
- d. The following general information:
 - i. A description of the special event;
 - ii. Requested date, location and hours of operation;
 - iii. Use of structures, including tents, fences, barricades, signs, banners and restroom facilities;
 - iv. The estimated number of persons participating in the special event;
 - v. Specific details of how the applicant proposes to provide security and traffic control;
 - vi. The time and location of street closings, if any are requested;
 - vii. If applicable, details of the offer of merchandise or service of concessions at the special event, designating any street vendors or peddlers involved;
 - viii. If applicable, a description of animals to be used with proof of vaccinations or health status records;
 - ix. Details of how the applicant will clean up the area used after the special event, and proof that the applicant possesses or is able to obtain all licenses and permits required by City ordinance or by state law for the conduct of the special event;
 - x. The estimated number of spectators, participants or guests; and
 - xi. If applicable, proof of notification and consent signed by each owner and tenant of the properties in the area affected by a block party.
- 4. If the special event includes the sale or consumption of alcohol in any form, the applicant shall, at the time of the submission of their application, include specific details with regard to the service of alcohol, including the type of alcohol, vendors, logistics, process of service, Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission ("TABC") certification and any other information deemed necessary by the City and/or as required by this chapter.
- 5. The applicant shall, at its own expense, procure, pay for and maintain the following insurance through an insurance company with an A.M. Best A+ rating, authorized to do business in the state of Texas and acceptable to the City. The applicant shall furnish certificates of insurance executed by the insurer or its authorized agent stating coverages, limits, expiration dates and compliance with all applicable required provisions:
 - a. Commercial general liability insurance, with an endorsement adding the City of Venus as an additional insured, including but not limited to premise operations, personal and advertising injury, products, operation, independent contractors and contractual liability, with minimum combined limits of \$1,000,000 per occurrence, \$1,000,000 products/completed operations aggregate and \$2,000,000 general aggregate;
 - b. Liquor liability insurance, either endorsed onto the above described policy or written on a stand-alone basis, if any of the following applies:
 - i. The applicant is in the business of manufacturing, selling or distributing alcoholic beverages;

- ii. The applicant serves or furnishes alcoholic beverages for a charge, whether or not such activity requires a license or is for the purpose of financial gain; or
- iii. The applicant serves or furnishes alcoholic beverages without a charge, if a license is required for such activity.
- 6. Insurance requirements for Block Parties shall be personal or general liability coverage in an amount not less than \$300,000.00 with an endorsement adding the City of Venus as an additional insured. The provisions of Section 5(b) above shall apply to Block Parties.

All applications shall also include a performance bond or security deposit in the amount of \$500.00, except applications for Block Parties and City-sponsored events. The City may, in its sole discretion, request any and all additional information necessary to make a determination as to the status of a submitted application.

Sec. 24-74 - Special Events and Alcohol

Any special event providing for alcohol sales or consumption shall have a valid permit or license to sell or serve alcoholic beverages issued by TABC and shall follow all TABC rules and regulations associated with the permit. A certified bartender shall be used for the service of alcohol when required by the Director, or when otherwise required by law. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that participants, spectators and patrons do not carry alcoholic beverages into or out of the special event.

Sec. 24-75 - Required Permit Application Fee; Permit Application Fee Established

(a) Required Fee.

An applicant for a special event permit shall pay a permit application fee, in an amount established by the City Council, at the time the application is submitted, and if required, shall submit bond as provided for herein. A copy of the fee schedule is available from the Permitting Department. Special events sponsored by the City, block parties, and special events held by non-profit organization shall be exempt from the requirement to pay a permit fee.

(b) Fee Established.

A special event permit application fee of \$65.00 shall be due upon submission of an application for consideration.

Sec. 24-76 - Review of Plans and Application

- (a) The City, by reviewing and/or approving plans submitted with an application, assumes no liability or responsibility thereof. The following plans shall be required where applicable to the proposed special event:
 - 1. Site Plan: A conceptual site plan of the premises to be used for the special event must be submitted at the time of the filing of an application. A final site plan, which shall be reviewed and is subject to approval by the Director, must be submitted a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to the special event. The final site plan must be detailed and drawn to scale. It must show the location and anticipated use of concession and display booths, portable

toilets, dumpsters, and stages. It must show the location and orientation of loudspeakers, locations for electricity and water, and any other relevant elements. Once the final site plan is approved, it cannot be altered without the prior written consent of the City. Non-substantial on-site adjustments to the conceptual or final site plan may be made in consultation with the Director. A walk-through to verify that the actual setup of the special event site meets with the approved final site plan shall be conducted prior to the special event.

- 2. Fire Protection: a plan for prevention of fires and for adequate protection of persons and property in the event of a fire, including, without limitation, adequate exits, fire extinguishers, adequate access for fire trucks and emergency vehicles.
- 3. Concessions: a plan to identify the types of concessions participating in the special event, and information related to service provided by those concessions.
- 4. Emergency Medical Service: a plan to provide adequate emergency medical services at the special event.
- 5. Parking: a plan to provide adequate parking for the proposed special event including written permission in the form provided by the land to be used for the special event.
- 6. Police Protection: a plan providing for adequate safety, security, traffic and crowd control in connection with the special event, which addresses the location of booths, stages and event structures, severe weather shelters, location of security staff, location of assembly area and approximate occupancy.
- 7. Promotional: if applicable, the plan to promote, market and advertise the special event.
- 8. Sanitation Plan: a plan to insure that the highest standards of cleanliness and sanitation are maintained at the special event, including adequate restroom facilities, and a plan to empty refuse containers frequently so as to prevent overflow.

Based upon the information supplied in the application, and the experience of City staff, emergency medical service, police protection and fire protection beyond that level normally provided will be supplied, at the applicant's sole expense, by the appropriate City department as deemed necessary by the City's Director.

- (b) In addition to the other information provided by the applicant in considering whether to approve a permit, the City shall also review the following:
 - 1. Whether there is convenient and safe access for ingress and egress to the special event;
 - 2. Whether sufficient traffic control personnel are proposed to ensure safety to all members of the traveling public, including pedestrians, along all public roadways in the proximity of the proposed event and/or along which the public is likely to travel to reach the site;
 - 3. If the proposed event is at night, whether sufficient illumination will be provided to protect the safety of the persons assembled; and
 - 4. Whether the site is so arranged to provide sufficient space for persons assembled, vehicles, sanitary facilities and appurtenant equipment.

City Staff shall determine whether the application and plans meet City safety and other requirements, and an applicant may be requested to modify an application to meet these requirements. Should any of the submitted plans fail to give, and after notice, the applicant is

unable to provide for, adequate assurances that the plans will be implemented and carried out, the permit application may be denied.

Sec. 24-77 – Minimum Public Health and Safety Requirements for a Special Event; Cancellation of Special Event

- (a) The following list represents the minimum public health and safety requirements for a special event, and based upon the contents of the special event permit application and the knowledge and belief of the Director, the Director may request additional information or impose requirements beyond those identified below for the best interest of the public health and safety:
 - 1. All public safety services shall be provided by the City of Venus and/or Johnson or Ellis County personnel. Crowd management requires a minimum of two officers for each 500 persons.
 - 2. Food preparation, service and storage will be provided for pursuant to the rules, policies and regulations of the Texas Department of Health and the City of Venus, as amended.
 - 3. An adequate safe supply of potable water, meeting the requirements of the Texas Department of Health shall be provided.
 - 4. Toilet facilities will be provided for pursuant to the requirements of the City building code, as amended. In the event that the toilet facilities at the City Civic Center are utilized, a cleaning fee will be collected as part of the reimbursable costs and an attendant must be provided to prohibit unauthorized use of the Civic Center facilities. In the event that portable toilets are utilized, such portable toilets must be placed on an improved surface.
 - 5. Refuse shall be collected, stored and transported in a manner that protects against odor, infestation of insects, and/or rodents.
 - 6. Refuse and recycling containers shall be clearly marked and readily accessible.
 - 7. Electrical systems shall be installed and maintained in accordance with the provisions of the applicable state standards and City regulations.

The applicant shall ensure that adequate communications between local law enforcement, fire protection and emergency personnel and any private security personnel is provided.

(b) At any time, prior to the commencement of or during a special event, the Director shall have the authority to immediately cancel the special event, if, in the sole determination of the Director, there is a threat to the public health, safety or welfare. In the event of cancellation, there shall be no refund of permit fees paid to the City.

Sec. 24-78 – Issuance, Denial and Revocation of Special Event Permit

- 1. The application for a special event permit shall be denied if the permit application does not contain the information and plans required by this article.
- 2. Upon receipt of an application for a special event which contains all required plans. The Director shall forward a copy of the application, and any submitted plans, to each City department. The department shall review the plans and application and shall notify the Director if additional information is necessary or of their approval or denial of the application within thirty (30) days of the department's receipt of the application.

- 3. Upon receipt of the findings of the Departments, the Director shall notify the applicant if the application is approved or if additional information is necessary to evaluate the application.
- 4. The City departments and City may prescribe licenses and permits required by other city ordinances or applicable law, restrictions, regulations, cost for city services, safeguards, and other conditions necessary for safe orderly conduct of a special event, to be incorporated into the special event permit before issuance.
- 5. The City shall advise the applicant of the estimated cost for city services, safeguards and other conditions necessary for the safe and orderly conduct of the special event.
- 6. Prior to the issuance of the permit, the applicant shall agree in writing to pay the deposit at least ten (10) days prior to the special event.
- 7. If applicable, a deposit of one half of the estimated cost of reimbursable costs required to be paid to the City as the result of a special event must be received by the City not less than ten (10) days before the date of the special event. The balance of the reimbursable costs are required to be paid before the conclusion of the special event.
- 8. The City may deny an application for a special event permit if:
 - a. a permit has been granted for another special event at the same place and time or within two (2) hours of the end of the previously permitted special event;
 - b. The proposed special event will unreasonably disrupt the orderly flow of traffic, and no reasonable means of re-routing traffic or otherwise meeting traffic needs are available:
 - c. The applicant fails to comply with, or the proposed special event will violate, a city ordinance or other applicable law, unless the prohibited conduct or activity would be allowed under this article;
 - d. The applicant makes a false statement of material fact on an application;
 - e. The applicant has had a special event permit revoked within the preceding twelve (12) months or the applicant has committed two (2) or more violations of a condition or provision of a special event permit or of this article within the preceding twelve (12) months;
 - f. The applicant fails to adequately arrange for: the protection of the event participants, maintenance of public order in and around the special event location, crowd security, taking into consideration the size and character of the event, emergency vehicle access; or safe sanitary conditions for the preparation of food concessions;
 - g. The applicant fails to provide proof that the applicant possesses or is able to obtain a license or permit required by city ordinance or other applicable law for the conduct of all activities included as part of the special event;
 - h. The applicant fails to pay any outstanding costs owed to the City related to a past special event permit;
 - i. The applicant fails to submit the required deposit;
 - j. The applicant fails to obtain the required insurance;
 - k. The proposed special event would unduly burden City services; or
 - 1. The special event begins or ends outside the city limits, unless the applicant supplies proof of approval of any other affected governmental entity.

Sec. 24-79 – Special Conditions & Prohibitions

- (a) In determining whether to grant an application for a special event permit, the City may establish specific conditions for traffic safety and the protection of public health.
- (b) Notwithstanding any other provision in this Article, no special event permit may be granted permitting crafting, food vendors, or cooking in the gazebo on the city square.

Sec. 24-80 – Revocation of Permit

The Mayor may revoke a special event permit issued pursuant to this article upon the finding of one or more of the following:

- 1. That the applicant has violated one or more of the provisions of the special event permit;
- 2. That the applicant has failed to pay the deposit(s) required herein;
- 3. That the special event permit was obtained by fraud or misrepresentation; or
- 4. That the preparations for the special event will not be completed prior to the planned commencement of the special event.

Sec. 24-81 – Appeal of Denial or Revocation of Permit

If the City Staff denies issuance or the Mayor revokes a special event permit, the City shall send to the applicant by certified mail, return receipt requested, written notice of denial or revocation and of the right to an appeal. The applicant must appeal the decision within three (3) days to the City Council in writing. The City Council shall, at a regularly scheduled meeting or at a special called meeting, consider all the evidence in support of or against the action appealed and render a decision either sustaining or reversing the denial or revocation.

Sec. 24-82 – Operating Procedures

- 1. A special event shall not substantially interrupt the safe and orderly movement of traffic near the special event.
- 2. A special event shall not interfere with proper fire and police protection of, or ambulance service to, areas near the special event or unreasonably require the diversion of police and fire protection and ambulance service from other parts of the City.
- 3. The applicant shall control the level of sound emanating from the site in compliance with the Texas Penal Code and the City's noise ordinance, as amended.
- 4. The site of the special event shall be adequately lit, but the lighting shall not unreasonably reflect beyond the boundaries of the special event unless adjacent properties are uninhabited.
- 5. The applicant shall comply with the laws of the State of Texas regulating the sale and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages.
- 6. An applicant in receipt of an approved special event permit shall comply with all directions and conditions contained within the special event permit and with all city ordinances and other applicable laws.
- 7. For events held on City property, the applicant shall return the property to at least as good a condition as before the special event. The grounds and immediate surrounding property shall be cleared of refuse within twenty-four (24) hours following the special event. The

applicant shall be liable for the costs of any damage to property or waste removal not performed by the applicant at the conclusion of the special event.

Sec. 24-83 – Signs

- 1. All signs used in connection with a special event shall be professionally executed and must comply with all applicable ordinances, rules, and regulations of the City of Venus, and be approved in writing by the Director.
- 2. Written permission from the City must be obtained prior to placing signs on public property. The design and content of signs placed on public property must be approved by the City. Signs placed on public property must be designed and constructed such that they do not leave adhesive residue on property when removed. Inflated signs anchored to the ground, a building or other structure are prohibited. The release of balloons of any kind is prohibited.
- 3. Permanent existing signs on public property may not be removed or covered.
- 4. Special event signs are allowed on designated light posts and perimeter fencing only with the approval of the Director. Such signs may only be hung by using the bracket provided by the City or a cable tie. Such signs may only be displayed according to the timeline approved by the Director.
- 5. No placard or other form of advertising may be displayed without the prior written approval of the Director. Any placard or other form of advertising erected, maintained or displayed without such consent may be removed by the City at the applicant's expense.
- 6. The City shall supervise the placement of all directional or promotional signs placed on public streets. The rental cost of directional signs is the responsibility of the applicant and payment may be required in advance of the event.

Sec. 24-84 – Indemnification

An applicant for a special event permit shall execute a written agreement in a form written by the City to indemnify and hold harmless the City and its officers, council members, representatives, agents, attorneys, and employees against all claims of injury or damage to persons or property, whether public or private, arising out of the event.

Sec. 24-85 - Offenses

A person commits an offense if the person:

- 1. Commences or conducts a special event without the appropriate permits, including a special event permit, or fails to comply with any requirement or condition of a special event permit as required by this article; or
- 2. Participates in a special event for which a special event permit has not been granted.

Sec. 24-86-Sec. 24-110 – Reserved."

Section 3. <u>Savings Clause</u>. All rights and remedies of the City of Venus, Texas, are expressly saved as to any and all violations of the provisions of the Ordinance or any other ordinance which have accrued at the time of the effective date of this Ordinance; and, as to such accrued violations and all pending litigation, both civil and criminal, whether pending in court or not, under such

ordinances, same shall not be affected by this Ordinance but may be prosecuted until final disposition by the courts.

Section 4. <u>Cumulative Clause</u>. This Ordinance shall be cumulative of all provisions of state or federal law and other ordinances of the City of Venus, Texas, except where the provisions of this Ordinance are in direct conflict with the provisions of such ordinances, in which event the conflicting provisions of such ordinances are hereby repealed.

Section 5. <u>Severability Clause</u>. It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council that the phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs and sections of this Ordinance are severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this Ordinance shall be declared unconstitutional by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs and sections of this Ordinance, since the same would have been enacted by the City Council without the incorporation of this Ordinance of any such unconstitutional phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section.

Section 6. Repealer Clause. Any provisions of any prior ordinance of the City whether codified or uncodified, which are in conflict with any provision of the Ordinance, are hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict, but all other provisions of the ordinances of the City whether codified or uncodified, which are not in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance, shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 7. Penalty Clause. Any person, firm, corporation or business entity violating this Chapter shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be subject to a fine not to exceed the sum of \$500.00, unless the violation relates to fire safety or public health and sanitation, including dumping and refuse, in which the fine shall not exceed the sum of \$2,000.00. Each continuing day's violation under this article shall constitute a separate offense. The penal provisions imposed under this Chapter shall not preclude the City from filing suit to enjoin the violation.

Section 8. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its passage and publication as required by law.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Venus, Texas, on this the 14th day of December, 2020.

Iames L. Burgess, Mayor

Callie Green, City Secretary

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APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Timothy A. Dunn, City Attorney