

**CITY OF LIBERTY LAKE,
WASHINGTON, SPOKANE
COUNTY, WASHINGTON
RESOLUTION NO 23-244**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LIBERTY LAKE, WASHINGTON,
AUTHORIZING THE USE OF ELECTRONIC AND DIGITAL SIGNATURES IN THE
CITY OF LIBERTY LAKE, AND ADOPTING AN ELECTRONIC AND DIGITAL
SIGNATURE POLICY.**

WHEREAS, in Chapter 19.360 RCW, the Washington State Legislature, to the extent not already authorized by federal or state law, authorized electronic dealings for governmental affairs and established the implementation framework for electronic governmental affairs and governmental transactions; and

WHEREAS, in March 2020, through Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6028 (“ESSB 6028”), the Washington State Legislature repealed Chapter 19.360 RCW and adopted the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act, which intended to facilitate the use of electronic transactions consistent with other applicable law, and to bring consistency to reasonable practices concerning electronic transactions and with the continued expansion of those practices; and

WHEREAS, ESSB 6028 took effect on June 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, ESSB 6028 defines an “electronic signature” as “an electronic sound, symbol, or process attached to or logically associated with a record and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the record”; and

WHEREAS, ESSB 6028 defines an “electronic record” as “a record created, generated, sent, communicated, received, or stored by electronic means”; and

WHEREAS, ESSB 6028 provides that “[a] record or signature may not be denied legal effect or enforceability solely because it is in electronic form; a contract may not be denied legal effect or enforceability solely because an electronic record was used in its formation; if a law requires a record to be in writing, an electronic record satisfies the law; and if a law requires a signature, an electronic signature satisfies the law”; and

WHEREAS, the method and process for electronic submissions and the use of electronic signatures must be established by ordinance, resolution, policy, or rule; and

WHEREAS, to increase effectiveness and efficiency of the City of Liberty Lake’s business processes, the City desires to leverage technology solutions which are in compliance with the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act to apply authenticated electronic signatures to legally enforceable electronic records as allowed by ESSB 6028.

NOW, THEREFORE, be is resolved that the City Council of the City of Liberty Lake, Washington, does hereby resolve the following:

1. The foregoing recitals are incorporated and fully made a part of this Resolution.

2. The City Council finds it to be in the public interest to allow the use of electronic records and electronic signatures for City business to the fullest extent allowed by law.

3. The City Council hereby adopts the Electronic and Digital Signature Policy attached hereto as Exhibit "A".

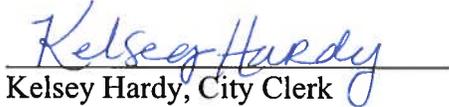
4. This Resolution and policy shall take effect immediately.

PASSED by the City Council this 7th day of March 2023.



Mayor, Cristella Kaminskas

ATTEST:

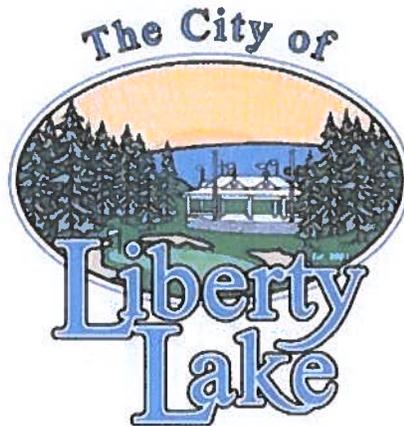


Kelsey Hardy, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Sean P. Boufz, City Attorney



CITY OF LIBERTY LAKE
ELECTRONIC & DIGITAL SIGNATURE POLICY

ADOPTED BY RESOLUTION NO. 23-244

City of Liberty Lake

Electronic & Digital Signature Policy

PURPOSE

The intent of this policy is to establish a policy to allow for the acceptance and submission of electronic and digital signatures.

State law has codified the authority to execute documents remotely. Streamlining processes that require wet signatures and replacing them with electronic signatures, when practicable, is consistent with the intent of State law to promote electronic transactions and remove barriers that might prevent the use of electronic transactions by governmental entities. By transitioning to a policy of executing documents remotely, the City will reduce its reliance on paper-based transactions and will further improve information security and sharing. Further, such transition will facilitate more efficient approval of and access to documents and reduce costs and environmental impact.

SCOPE

All Authorized Signers for the City of Liberty Lake.

REFERENCES

ESSB 6028 codified at 1.80

DEFINITIONS

Authorized Signer: The Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, City Administrator, City Clerk, City Attorney, Department Directors, and their designees, and any other City employee or elected official who has been granted authority to sign certain records on behalf of the City either by the nature of their position in relation to the record or by direct authorization from City Council or City of Liberty Lake Municipal Code.

Digital Signature: One type of electronic signature that contains a digital certificate, issued by a licensed certificate authority, behind the signature and offers authentication when sending a “signed” electronic document.

Electronic Record: A record created, generated, sent, communicated, received, or stored by electronic means.

Electronic Signature: An electronic sound, symbol, or process attached to or logically associated with a record and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the record.

Facsimile Signature: A reproduction of a handwritten signature that has been saved electronically or by engraving, imprinting, or stamping.

POLICY

1. Pursuant to Resolution No. 23-244, the City authorizes electronic transactions and the use of electronic, digital, or facsimile signatures in accordance with this Policy.
2. A City document that is required by law to be signed in non-electronic media may not be electronically or digitally signed.
3. An electronic, digital or facsimile signature is an acceptable substitute for a wet signature on records requiring the signature of any record whenever the use of a wet signature is authorized or required, except as provided herein.
4. If an electronic or digital signature is used for interstate transactions or for documents required by the US Federal government, the signature shall comply with the requirements of the Electronic Signatures in Global and Electronic Commerce Act.
5. A document signed electronically, digitally or via facsimile shall be deemed the equivalent of an original signed document if the individual or entity signing the document has complied with the provisions of this Policy.
6. This Policy in no way affects the City's ability to conduct a transaction using a physical medium and shall not be construed as a prohibition on the use of wet signatures.

PROCEDURE

- A. Authorization for Use of Electronic Transactions and Electronic, Digital, and Facsimile Signatures
 1. Authorized Signers are authorized to sign records using a facsimile signature or via an electronic signature platform to affix electronic or digital signatures to City records as provided in this Policy.
 2. Authorized Signers may affix electronic, digital, or facsimile signatures to the following records: Minutes of all City Council meetings, retreats, and workshops, Resolutions and Ordinances adopted by the City Council, Accounts Payable records (including but not limited to invoices, vouchers, and expenditure approvals), and any and all Contracts and Agreements to which the City is a party.
 3. Electronic, digital or facsimile signatures may be used on City Records requiring execution by a third party.
- B. Security of Electronic Transactions and Electronic, Digital, and Facsimile Signatures
 1. A valid signature that is issued by a certificate authority provides the following protections:
 - i. Verifies the Authorized Signer is who they represent themselves to be because the person had to prove their identity to a certificate authority to obtain the digital signature.
 - ii. Confirms the signature was applied to the document and not copied from another document because the signature is cryptographically bound to the document.

- iii. Ensures the document was not altered after it was signed.
2. The private key used to create a digital signature is the personal property of the subscriber and is exempt from public inspection and copying under Chapter 42.56 RCW.
3. Authorized Signers may sign City documents digitally if such an option is available, providing the following:
 - i. The digital certificate utilized by the Authorized Signer in connection with the digital signature is obtained from a certification authority in compliance with state law;
 - ii. The digital certificate is not expired when the Authorized Signer signs the document digitally;
 - iii. The Authorized Signer does not provide information to the certification authority they know to be untrue; and
 - iv. The digital signature contains the following information:
 - a) A hand-written or typed representation of the Authorized Signer's signature and title;
 - b) The date and time of the signature.
4. Electronic or digital signatures cannot be applied using Authorized Signer's name. Records signed by an Authorized Signer shall use their own electronic or digital signature.
5. Authorization to use or accept facsimile signatures shall be limited to instances where the authenticity of the signatures is deemed reliable and secure. In order to accept a facsimile signature in lieu of a wet signature, the authenticity of the facsimile signature must be verified by the receiving party. Such means of verification may include:
 - i. The receipt of a facsimile signature from a facsimile number verified as belonging to or traceable to the party that did so sign and transmit the document.
 - ii. The receipt of an emailed signature from an email address verified as belonging to the party that did so sign and transmit the document.
6. Information that is necessary to verify the authenticity of a facsimile signature should be retained and transmitted to the City Clerk with the document. This retained information may include but is not limited to an electronic file with metadata saved from an email to which a facsimile signature was attached or a fax coversheet verifying who sent the record.

C. Transmission and Storage of Electronic Transactions and Signatures

1. Electronically or digitally signed electronic records shall be stored in such a way as to ensure their preservation, disposition, integrity, security, confidentiality, and auditability.
2. Electronic records shall only be transmitted via secure services including, but not limited to, email, drop box, and cloud-based digital signature platforms.