

City Council – Action Request Form

Date: June 14, 2022

To: Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

From: Angela I. Carmon, City Attorney

Council Action Requested:

Ordinance Amending Chapter 2 of City Code Entitled “Administration” Regarding Remote Participation in Meetings

Strategic Focus Area: Service Excellence

Strategic Objective: No

Strategic Plan Action Item: No

Key Work Item: No



The current remote participation ordinance allows the City Council, as a body, to participate remotely/virtually in committee and council meetings during the State of Emergency (“SOE”). At other times, individual Council Members may participate remotely/virtually for very limited reasons (personal illness or disability that does not impact the member’s ability to participate in the meeting, family, or other personal emergency) provided a majority of City Council or Committee Members are participating in person. The revised draft ordinance extends the bases for a Council Member to participate remotely to “other scheduling conflicts that make in-person attendance impracticable”.

Additionally, volunteer boards and commissions experienced an increase in membership participation during COVID-19. Many of the volunteer boards and commissions would like to continue to meet remotely. While the authority for such volunteer boards and commissions to meet remotely is not as certain as desired, the actions of such boards, with a few exceptions, are advisory and nonbinding. The revised ordinance amendment allows the City designated boards and commissions to continue to meet remotely, upon a majority vote of the membership, provided the public is afforded access to the meeting in the same manner as that previously

Committee Action:

Committee	CDHGG 6/14/22	Action	Approval
For	Unanimous	Against	

Remarks:

afforded under G.S. 166A-19.24, and all notice procedures set forth in G.S. 143-318.12 are adhered to. However, no hearings, including, but not limited to case reviews before the Citizen Police Review Board, hearings before the Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission and the City-County Planning Board, and quasi-judicial proceedings before the Winston-Salem Zoning Board of Adjustment, shall be conducted remotely under this provision, unless all persons who have standing to participate in the hearing have been given notice of the hearing and consent to the remote meeting. The prohibition on remote hearings set forth herein shall not apply to the Transportation Advisory Committee or Winston-Salem Transit Authority. The ordinance amendment will apply to boards and commissions with membership designated by the City and other governmental entities.

The attached ordinance amendment is recommended for your approval.