

RESOLUTION NO. 67-20

A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTIONS 14-20 AND 22-20 REGARDING TELEPHONIC AND ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION IN CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS POLICY

RECITALS:

On March 23, 2020 the City Council adopted Resolution 14-20 and implemented the Telephone and Electronic Participation in City Council Meetings Policy (Policy.) On April 15, 2020 Resolution 22-20 amended Resolution 14-20. Since then and in further response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, which continues to pose a significant threat to public health and safety, and consistent with extant Executive and Public Health Orders and recommendations, the City Council again finds and determines that it is in the best interest of the public health and safety to amend the City Council policy regarding its and the public's means of participating in City Council meetings.

Accordingly, and based on, and because the COVID-19 health emergency persists, the City Council by and with this Resolution does revise the Policy concerning the conduct of its meetings. In order to reduce the possibility of the spread of the contagion, City Council will be receiving all public comment and testimony via electronic means. The City Council welcomes public participation via electronic means in City Council proceedings and will endeavor to make that participation meaningful.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION:

That the Telephone and Electronic Participation in City Council Meetings Policy (Policy) shall be amended and revised as provided herein. Revisions are included below; deletions are shown in ~~striketrough~~ and additions are shown in underline.

The revised Policy is and shall become effective for City Council work sessions and regular Council meetings on and after November 30, 2020 and shall continue in effect until revised by subsequent resolution of the Council.

The purpose of the amended and revised Policy is the facilitation of City Council operations during the pandemic by providing for participation of the public and City Council in meetings and for all matters coming before the Council for which public participation is allowed without exposing themselves or others to risks of contagion.

1) A City Councilmember may participate and vote by telephone or electronic means ("Electronic Participation") at any meeting of the City Council if the Councilmember is unable to physically attend the meeting(s) due to quarantine, illness or has concern of risk of exposure to the COVID-19.

2) For purposes of this Policy, Electronic Participation requires utilizing conference telephone, video or similar electronic means which is(are) clear, uninterrupted and allows two-way communication for the Councilmembers in attendance and the Councilmember(s) participating remotely, as well as persons interested in the conduct of City business. Members of the public will be provided a means to participate in the proceedings by telephone and/or video as the same may be limited by available technology, all subject to, and as determined in the sole discretion of the City Council.

(3) No less than 24 hours in advance of the meeting, the City Clerk shall publish to the City Council and the public, the authorizations for accessing the scheduled meeting. The notice shall include both electronic and telephonic means of access the City can will make every reasonable effort to provide the technical means to make connections to facilitate participation.

(4) Electronic Participation by a Councilmember(s) shall be counted toward the establishment of a quorum for conducting business of the City Council. During the pandemic, physical presence of a quorum is not required; all members of City Council may, but are not required to, participate in meetings electronically.

(5) Electronic Participation may be discontinued by a motion and majority of Councilmembers voting in support of the motion, at any time during a meeting in which it is allowed, if the telephonic or electronic service, equipment or connection(s) results in distorted transmissions of audio and/or video and cannot reasonably be restored within a reasonable time.

(6) This policy applies to all public meetings of the City Council.

(7) All votes shall be conducted by roll call.

(8) "Action plus" minutes of the meeting together with an audio and/or video recording shall be taken and kept as the record of all meetings conducted pursuant to this Policy.

(9) Meetings conducted pursuant to this Policy shall be broadcast on channel 191 and/or streamed on gjc.org

PASSED and ADOPTED this 18th day of November 2020.

C.E. Duke Wortmann

C.E. "Duke" Wortmann
President of the City Council

W Winkelmann

Wanda Winkelmann
City Clerk

