

RESOLUTION NO. 26-2022

Introduced by: Sam Artino

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING TEMPORARY AUTHORITY, EXPIRING JULY 1, 2022, FOR MEMBERS OF A PUBLIC BODY TO MEET BY MEANS OF TELECONFERENCE OR VIDEO CONFERENCE.

WHEREAS, Ohio House Bill 51 was passed by Ohio House of Representatives on March 3, 2021, passed by the Ohio Senate on January 26, 2022, and signed into law by Governor Mike DeWine on February 9, 2022, with an effective date of February 17, 2022; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 51 permits public bodies to hold and attend meetings and conduct and attend hearings by means of teleconference, video conference, or any other similar electronic technology through June 30, 2022, with any action taken therein having the same effect as if it occurred in person, and members so attending counted as present; and

WHEREAS, Huron City Council wishes to enact the same provisions included in House Bill 51 as it relates to meetings of City Council, all boards, committees and commissions, and any other public body. Public body and meeting have the meanings as set forth in section 121.22 of the Revised Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HURON AND STATE OF OHIO:

SECTION 1. That members of a public body may hold and attend meetings and may conduct and attend hearings by means of teleconference, video conference, or any other similar electronic technology.

SECTION 2. Any resolution, rule, or formal action of any kind has the same effect as if it occurred during an open meeting or hearing of the public body.

SECTION 3. Notwithstanding division (C) of section 121.22 of the Revised Code, members of a public body who attend meetings or hearings by means of teleconference, video conference, or any other similar electronic technology, shall be considered present as if in person at the meeting or hearing, shall be permitted to vote, and shall be counted for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present at the meeting or hearing.

SECTION 4. Public bodies shall provide notification of meetings and hearings held under this section to the public, to the media that have requested notification of a meeting, and to the parties required to be notified of a hearing, at least twenty-four hours in advance of the meeting or hearing by reasonable methods by which any person may determine the time, location, and the manner by which the meeting or hearing will be conducted, except in the event of an emergency requiring immediate official action. In the event of an emergency, the public body shall immediately notify the news media that have requested notification or the parties required to be notified of a hearing of the time, place, and purpose of the meeting or hearing.

SECTION 5. The public body shall provide the public access to a meeting held under this section, and to any hearing held under this section that the public would otherwise be entitled to attend, commensurate with the method in which the meeting or hearing is being conducted, including examples such as livestreaming by means of the internet, local radio, television, cable, or public access channels, call in information for a teleconference, or by means of any other similar electronic technology. The public body shall ensure that the public can observe, when applicable, and hear the discussions and deliberations of all the members of the public body, whether the member is participating in person or electronically.

SECTION 6. When members of a public body conduct a hearing by means of teleconference, video conference, or any other similar electronic technology, the public body shall establish a means, through the use of electronic equipment that is widely available to the general public, to converse with witnesses and to receive documentary testimony and physical evidence.

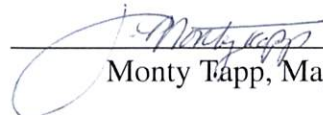
SECTION 7. The authority granted herein applies notwithstanding any conflicting provision of the Revised Code or City Charter. Nothing in this section shall be construed to negate any provision of section 121.22 of the Revised Code, Chapter 119 of the Revised Code, or other section of the Revised Code that is not in conflict with this section.

SECTION 8. This resolution is effective until June 30, 2022.

SECTION 9. That this Council hereby finds and determines that all formal actions relative to the adoption of this Resolution were taken in an open meeting of the Council and that all deliberations of this Council and of its committees, if any, which resulted in formal action, were taken in meetings open to the public in full compliance with applicable legal requirements, including O.R.C. §121.22 of the Revised Code

SECTION 10. That this Resolution shall go into effect and be in full force and effect immediately upon its passage.


Clerk of Council


Monty Tapp, Mayor

Adopted: 08 MAR 2022