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Resolution 2020-06



#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2020-06**

### A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF TROY, ILLINOIS AUTHORIZING AN ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE POLICY, PURSUANT TO THE ILLINOIS OPEN MEETINGS ACT

WHEREAS, the City of Troy, Illinois, recognizes that there are certain instances that preclude members of the City Council from attending a meeting in person; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act (OMA), 5 ILCS 120/7, the public policy of this State is that public bodies may have members attend "by a means other than physical presence" in certain conditions and circumstances, specifically "[i]f a quorum of the members of the public body is physically present," "if the member is prevented from physically attending because of: (i) personal illness or disability; (ii) employment purposes or the business of the public body; or (iii) a family or other emergency," and the other means is "by video or audio conference"; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act (OMA), 5 ILCS 120/7(c), the City Council for the City of Troy, Illinois, desires to adopt rules that "conform to the requirements and restrictions" of the Statute; and

WHEREAS, as a matter of legislative intent, the City Council of the City of Troy, Illinois, acknowledges that certain health-related matters pertaining to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus in the State of Illinois provide for a rapidly evolving health situation that could require more limited public gatherings and, therefore, present an "other emergency" in which providing a minimum physical quorum of the City Council with additional participation by other members of the legislative body and by the public through electronic means would present a solution for the continuity of legislative governance that would not require cancellation of regularly scheduled meetings; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Troy, Illinois, acknowledges that the intent of the Open Meetings Act is to ensure that the actions of public bodies be taken openly and that their deliberations be conducted openly, expect for certain limited circumstances that permit closed meetings.

# NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TROY, ILLINOIS, AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. The recitals set forth above are hereby incorporated herein as if fully set forth.
- 2. The City Council of the City of Troy, Illinois, adopts the attached Electronic Attendance Policy, pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act.
- 3. This Resolution shall be in effect following its passage, approval and publication as provided by law.

4. Any and all Resolutions, sections or subsections of Resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

**PASSED** by the City Council of the City of Troy, Madison County, Illinois, approved by the Mayor, and deposited in the office of the City Clerk this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

Those voting aye: 1	Dawson, Hellrung, Henderson, noll, Levo, Manley, Turner
Those voting nay:	
Those absent:	
	APPROVED:

ALLEN P. ADOMITE, Mayor

City of Troy, Illinois

ATTEST:

BY: MALCAD KAMBULF ANDREA D. LAMBERT, Clerk City of Troy, Illinois

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#### ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE POLICY

#### POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of the City Council of the City of Troy, Illinois, that any member of the City Council may attend and participate in any meeting of the Council by "other means" defined as, by video or audio conference, provided that such attendance and participation is in compliance with this policy and any other applicable laws.

#### **PREREQUISITES**

A member of the City Council may attend a meeting electronically, by other means, if the member meets the following conditions:

- 1. A quorum of the Council is physically present throughout the meeting; and, at least five affirmative votes of the members of the corporate authority physically present, votes to approve the electronic attendance of the meeting.
- 2. The Council Member requesting to attend remotely should notify the City Clerk at least 24 hours before the meeting so that necessary communications equipment can be arranged. Inability to make the necessary technical arrangements will result in denial of a request for remote attendance.
- 3. The member must assert one of the following three reasons why he or she is unable to physically attend the meeting:
  - a. The member cannot attend because of personal illness or disability; or
  - b. The member cannot attend because of employment purposes or the business of the Council; or
  - c. The member cannot attend because of a family or other emergency.
- 4. At the meeting, the City Clerk shall inform the Council Members physically present of the request for electronic attendance.

#### **VOTING PROCEDURES**

After a roll call establishing that a quorum of at least 5 corporate members are physically present, the Mayor shall call for a motion, that a Council member may be permitted to participate electronically after specifying the reason entitling the absent member to participate electronically. All of the Council members physically present are permitted to vote on whether electronic attendance will be allowed. The motion must be approved by at least 5 members of the corporate authority that are physically present.

#### ADEQUATE EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENT

The Council member participating electronically, and all other members of the Council must be able to communicate effectively, and members of the audience attending the meeting must be able to hear all communications. Before approving electronic attendance at any meeting, the City Council shall provide equipment adequate to accomplish this objective.

#### **MINUTES**

Any member participating electronically shall be considered an off-site participant and counted as present electronically for that meeting if the member is allowed to participate. The meeting minutes shall also reflect and state specifically whether each member is physically present or by electronic means.

#### RIGHTS OF REMOTE MEMBER

A member permitted to participate electronically will be able to express his or her comments during the meeting and participate in the same capacity as those members physically present, subject to all general meeting guidelines and procedures previously adopted. The member attending electronically shall be heard, considered, and counted as to any vote taken. Accordingly, the name of any member attending electronically shall be called during any vote taken, and his or her vote counted and recorded by the City Clerk and placed in the minutes for the corresponding meeting. A member participating electronically may leave a meeting and return as in the case of any member, provided the member attending electronically shall announce his or her leaving and returning.

