

INTER

OFFICE

MEMO

To: HARRISBURG CITY COUNCIL
From: Kirk Petroski, City Clerk
LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL FORM

Date:

LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL FORM/CERTIFICATE OF ACCEPTANCE

BILL NO. -2022 RESOLUTION NO. -2022

THE ABOVE LISTED ITEM WAS WRITTEN AND PREPARED FOR FINAL INTRODUCTION AT THE HARRISBURG CITY SOLICITOR'S OFFICE ON:



Sr. Deputy City Solicitor

1-28-22

Date

Requested by Department/Bureau: Council

Department/Bureau Contact Person: D. Bowers

For Action on or before:

The attached was received in the Office of the City Clerk for introduction on

Received by: _____

Date: _____

BILL NO. ____ - 2022

Moved by: _____

An Ordinance amending Chapters 1-101.1, Council and 1-302, Glossary of Terms, of Title 1, Legislative Code and Chapter 2-501, Boards, Commissions, and Authorities of Title 2, Administrative Code, to provide the authorization for virtual public meetings, virtual access for participants of certain public meetings, and to provide for manner and time of the publishing of agendas for public meetings.

WHEREAS, the City of Harrisburg (the “City”) conducted virtual public meetings for many of its Boards, Commissions, and Authorities beginning in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the virtual public meetings provided increased public access to the City and its officials; and

WHEREAS, the City is committed to easing the public’s access to the meetings of its Boards, Commissions, and Authorities; and

WHEREAS, continued virtual public meetings may be required to maintain public health while continuing to conduct the City’s business during the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus causing the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Harrisburg finds that it is in the public interest to provide for continued virtual attendance at and access to public meetings after the cessation of the Governor’s Disaster Emergency Declaration which allowed such virtual public meetings.

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Harrisburg finds that increasing the means of participation in the public meetings of the City of Harrisburg will increase governmental transparency and increase the means of public participation in government.

64 virtual public attendance, attendance of applicants, or attendance of any other person
65 Council deems appropriate including City Employees, at regular or special meetings of
66 Council to the maximum extent allowed by law, and the City shall provide all necessary
67 technical services to effectuate such virtual public meetings.

68 ****

69 CHAPTER 1-302
70 GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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72 “Authorized Telecommunication Device” Includes any device which permits, at a minimum,
73 audio communication between individuals.

74
75 ****

76
77 TITLE 2, ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

78
79 ****

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81 PART 5 (2-500) BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AUTHORITIES

82
83 ****

84 CHAPTER 2-501
85 BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND AUTHORITIES

86
87 §2-501.4 Virtual Public Meetings

88 A. All Boards, Commissions, Committees, and Authorities of the City of Harrisburg are
89 hereby authorized to hold their public meetings by making use of City-authorized
90 telecommunication devices as defined in Title 1, Chapter 302 “Glossary of Terms” of
91 the Codified Ordinances of Harrisburg. Public Meetings held using authorized
92 telecommunication devices shall be referred to as virtual public meetings. Agendas
93 for virtual public meetings shall be posted on the City of Harrisburg’s website at least
94 twenty-four (24) hours in advance of such meetings.

95 B. The City shall provide all necessary technical services to effectuate such virtual
96 public meetings for all the Boards, Commissions, and Authorities of the City that are
97 not independently funded.

98 C. Nothing in this section shall alter any rights or duties established by the Sunshine
99 Act, 65 Pa. C.S. §701 et seq. as amended, but shall authorize virtual public meetings
100 to the greatest extent allowed by said Act.

101

102 **SECTION 2.** DELEGATION. Appropriate City officials are authorized to take such actions as
103 are necessary to effectuate this ordinance, including but not limited to, the implementation of
104 rules and regulations to carry out the purpose of this ordinance.

105

106 **SECTION 3.** SEVERABILITY. If any provision, sentence, clause, section or part of this
107 ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is for any reason found to be
108 unconstitutional, illegal or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality,
109 illegality or invalidity shall not affect or impair any of the remaining provisions, sentences,
110 clauses, sections or parts of this ordinance. It is hereby declared as the intent of the Council of
111 the City of Harrisburg that this ordinance would have been adopted had such unconstitutional,
112 illegal or invalid provision, sentence, clause, section or part not been included herein.

113

114 **SECTION 4.** REPEALER. All ordinances or provisions of ordinances in conflict with the
115 provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed in so far as they are inconsistent herewith.

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117 **SECTION 5.** EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall take effect in accordance with the law.

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119 Seconded by: _____

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121 Passed by Council: _____

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123 Signed by the Mayor: _____

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