

RESOLUTION NO. 2576

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A CITYWIDE POLICY REGARDING ACCESS TO MEETINGS.

THE TROUTDALE CITY COUNCIL FINDS AS FOLLOWS:

1. That in January 2020 the World Health Organization declared that the spread of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) virus constituted a public health emergency of international concern, and that the Secretary of Health and Human Services, pursuant to section 319 of the Public Health Service Act, did determine and declare that a public health emergency exists in the United States.

2. That in March 2020, Governor Kate Brown declared a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 outbreak in Oregon, finding that COVID-19 has created a threat to public health and safety, and constitutes a statewide emergency under Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) Chapter 401.025(1), and issued a series of Executive Orders with the intent to mitigate the spread and impact of COVID-19 in Oregon.

3. That in response to the threat to public health and safety the State and Multnomah County made several rules governing attendance at meetings and gatherings. In response to those rules, remote electronic attendance and participation in public meetings became a regular occurrence.

4. COVID-19 continues to be a health concern for many people even though rules governing indoor meetings have been relaxed. However, the Oregon State Legislature passed HB 2560 during the 2021 legislative session, which the Governor signed into law. The law provides in part:

“(3) All meetings held by a governing body of a public body, excluding executive sessions, must provide to members of the general public, to the extent reasonably possible, an opportunity to:

(a) Access and attend the meeting by telephone, video or other electronic or virtual means;

(b) If in-person oral testimony is allowed, submit during the meeting oral testimony by telephone, video or other electronic or virtual means; and

(c) If in-person written testimony is allowed, submit written testimony, including by electronic mail or other electronic means, so that the governing body is able to consider the submitted testimony in a timely manner.”

5. Each individual is impacted by COVID-19 differently, and some are more susceptible to serious illness or death. Often what makes a person, their cohabitants or their friends and family, more susceptible to serious illness or death is not obvious to

others. It is therefore incumbent upon the City to be responsible, and respectful to everyone's health concerns, and to honor medical privacy.

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

Section 1. Based on the above findings set forth herein and upon the evidence in the whole record, the City Council hereby directs all City staff and City committees to respect every person's personal medical decisions and privacy in respect to in-person or remote attendance at any and all City meetings.

Section 2. All Council meetings and City committee meetings shall be available to attend physically or remotely. Any other City meetings, where it is practical, shall also offer, as best as possible, a remote attendance option.

Section 3. It is the policy of this City that everyone's choice to attend City meetings either in person or remotely is treated with respect, and no aspersions shall be cast upon anyone for their choice on how to attend a City meeting.

Section 4. The City Manager Ray Young, and as delegated to staff, shall strive to ensure that remote access to all Council meetings and City committee meetings is ensured and accessible to all.

Section 5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

**YEAS:6
NAYS:0
ABSTAINED:0**



Randy Lauer, Mayor
Date: September 14, 2022



Sarah Skroch, City Recorder
Adopted: September 13, 2022