

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING PROTOCOL FOR PUBLIC MEETINGS DURING TIMES OF DECLARED EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson issued Executive Order 20-03 in which he declared a state of emergency in response to the global pandemic caused by the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, Mayor Smith declared a state of emergency in the City of North Little Rock in response to the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2020, Governor Hutchinson issued Executive Order 20-10, which amended Executive Order 20-03 and declared the entire State of Arkansas an emergency disaster area and, in conjunction with the Directive of the Arkansas Secretary of Health, prohibited gatherings of more than ten people in any confined indoor space; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 20-10 provided that the directive restricting gatherings of ten or more people did not apply to municipal governing bodies, but advised these entities to limit person-to-person contact and maintain appropriate social distancing of at least six feet to prevent the spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that in order to protect the public's health, safety, and well-being, it is in the best interest of the City and its residents to establish a policy modifying the procedures for all of its public meetings during this declared state of emergency

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1: That except as otherwise provided herein, the City Council will follow its procedural rules adopted by Ordinance No. 9079, and all established City boards and commissions will follow their adopted bylaws.

SECTION 2: That the City Council and all established City boards and commissions will provide proper advance notification to the media as required by the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act.

SECTION 3: That the Mayor, City Clerk, City Attorney, and Commission Chair, if applicable and possible, will be physically present at the place where the meeting is held. If physical presence is not possible, said officials may participate via electronic means as set forth below.

SECTION 4: That City Council and Commission members, as well as City staff addressing agenda items, may participate in the meetings via electronic means as if they were physically present at the meeting. "Electronic means" is defined as by telephone, cell phone, electronic tablet, computer, or other electronic device which allows audio or video call or chat and that is recordable and audible to all parties participating in and attending or viewing the meeting.

SECTION 5: That all meetings will be made available for live viewing on the City's website and the City's Facebook page, as well as on local public access television.

SECTION 6: That in order to promote social distancing, the City strongly encourages the public to watch these live-streamed internet broadcasts on an electronic device, rather than physically attending.

SECTION 7: That to ensure public participation, any member of the public wishing to be heard on an agenda item, or during the public comment period of the meeting, may email those comments to the City Clerk at CityClerkOffice@nlr.ar.gov no later than two hours prior to the start of the meeting. These comments shall be presented and heard at the appropriate time during the meeting, as indicated on the published agenda.


PASSED:

APPROVED:

Mayor Joe A. Smith

SPONSOR:

ATTEST:



Mayor Joe A. Smith *by AT*

Diane Whitbey, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Amy Beckman Fields, City Attorney

PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY/ABF

FILED	<u>10:58</u>	A.M.	_____	P.M.
By	<u>A. Fields</u>			
DATE	<u>4-7-2020</u>			
Diane Whitbey, City Clerk and Collector North Little Rock, Arkansas				
RECEIVED BY	<u>J. W. Sserf</u>			