

CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION



MEETING DATE: September 28, 2021

ITEM NUMBER: 12.B

SECOND READING:

{{customfields.ResoOrdNumber}}

TYPE OF ITEM: General Business

PRESENTED BY:

Harold Dominguez, City Manager's Office, Harold.Dominguez@longmontcolorado.gov
Dawn Quintana, City Clerk's Office, Dawn.Quintana@longmontcolorado.gov

SUBJECT/AGENDA TITLE:

Consider and Discuss Format of Future City Council Meetings

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

At the September 21, 2021 meeting, Council directed staff to place an item for discussion on the next agenda for Council to discuss the format of future meetings in light of Boulder County Public Health Order 21-08 requiring everyone two years old and older to wear masks while indoors in public spaces.

In March of 2020 when the pandemic began in earnest across the United States, City Council decided to move to virtual meetings and adopted a Policy for Electronic Participation in Longmont City Council meetings (attached). City Council then remained in a virtual setting for Council meetings until June 29, 2021 when they reconvened in person in City Council Chambers. On July 14, 2021, the City Manager cancelled the emergency declaration and then on August 9, 2021, another public health order was issued requiring face masks indoors in certain settings and for unvaccinated individuals in particular when in public spaces. On September 3, 2021 BCPH Order 21-08 was issued requiring masks when indoors in public spaces for everyone two years old or older.

This most recent public health order prompted a conversation at the August 24th meeting and Mayor Bagley moved, seconded by Council Member Waters, to return to virtual meetings. That motion failed 3-4 (Christensen, Hidalgo-Fahring, Rodriguez and Peck dissenting). A subsequent motion was made by Council Member Peck and seconded by Council Member Christensen to continue to hold Council meetings in-person, even if a mask were required at all times, and that motion passed unanimously.

Should Council opt to return to virtual meetings, staff will bring back a modified Policy for Electronic Participation for Council's consideration because the version attached only allows for virtual meetings when the Emergency Operations Center has been activated under a pandemic or declaration of emergency.

COUNCIL OPTIONS:

1. Council discretion to decide their preferred format for future Council meetings

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**RECOMMENDED OPTIONS:**

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT & FUND SOURCE FOR RECOMMENDED ACTION:

There is an additional cost to support virtual meetings in terms of staff time and those additional duties were taken on by existing staff throughout 2020 and 2021. The City Manager's Office is in the process of recruiting a part-time employee to support livestreamed virtual meetings of Council, Planning & Zoning Commission and other boards along with other related duties this position will manage.

BACKGROUND AND ISSUE ANALYSIS:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

Policy on Remote Participation for Emergencies