

ORDINANCE NO: 2020-027

An Emergency Ordinance to temporarily suspend the normal operating procedures of City Council Meetings

WHEREAS, SARS-CoV-2 (the Coronavirus) the virus that causes the disease COVID-19 is responsible for an outbreak that began in Wuhan, China, and is a serious public health concern; and,

WHEREAS, as of March 3, 2020 the World Health Organization has confirmed over ninety-one thousand cases in 74 countries, with over three thousand deaths, over five hundred cases have been reported throughout the United States with seven potential new cases in the State of South Carolina; and,

WHEREAS, worldwide the virus has resulted in restricted leisure travel, school closings, quarantines, business interaction restrictions and imposition of work from home policies with five states declaring a State of Emergency, including California, Florida, Maryland and Washington state along with the City officials and multiple counties in the State of Washington, allowing local officials broad authority to take protective measures in an effort to restrict spreading of the Coronavirus; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that it is in the public interest to protect public health and the general welfare of the public to temporarily suspend the normal operating procedures of City Council; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia is working with other government agencies in an effort to prevent the spread of the disease; and,

WHEREAS, Sec. 2-86 of the Ordinances of the City of Columbia allows for the adoption of emergency ordinances on one reading without notice or hearing by affirmative two-thirds of the members present, and shall expire automatically on the 61st day following enactment; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor convened a meeting on March 6, 2020 to brief the public on precautions being taken by the City of Columbia with regard to the health and public safety of the residents of Columbia and the Midlands; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council this 10th day of March, 2020, that the City of Columbia temporarily suspends the normal operating procedures of City Council meetings and allows for the Mayor and Council Members to remotely participate in voting and operational procedures by telephone or other means of electronic communication; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this emergency ordinance to temporarily suspend the normal operating procedures of City Council shall be terminated by the issuance of another ordinance or shall automatically expire on the 61st day after enactment of this ordinance.

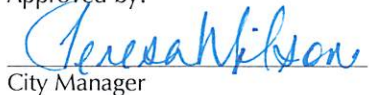
Requested by:

Mayor _____



Mayor

Approved by:



City Manager

Approved as to form:



City Attorney

ATTEST:



City Clerk

Introduced:
Final Reading:

ORIGINAL
STAMPED IN RED