

ORDINANCE NO: 2020-032

*An Emergency Ordinance to temporarily suspend the normal operating procedures of
City of Columbia Boards and Commissions 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, the City of Columbia convened a meeting of the Midlands Coronavirus Task Force to begin working with other government agencies in an effort to prevent the spread of the disease; and,

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the City of Columbia suspended the normal operating procedures for City Council; and,

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020 The World Health Organization declared a world-wide pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020 the President of the United States, Donald J. Trump declared a national emergency for the United States and its territories over the Coronavirus; and,

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Governor of the State of South Carolina Henry McMaster declared a State of Emergency due to the Coronavirus;

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020 the Mayor of the City of Columbia Steven Benjamin declared a State of Emergency for the City of Columbia; and,

WHEREAS, as of March 16, 2020 there have been thirty-three cases reported in the State of South Carolina; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council find 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 the City of Columbia Boards and Commissions meetings; 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; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council this 17th day of March, 2020, that the City of Columbia temporarily suspends the normal operating procedures of the City of Columbia Boards and Commission meetings and allows for the members to remotely participate in voting and operational procedures by telephone or other means of electronic communication; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that should the Mayor and City Council amend Ordinance No.: 2020-027 adopted on March 10, 2020 setting out the temporary operations and procedures for City Council meetings that such amendments shall then apply to all City of Columbia Boards and Commissions; and,

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

Requested by:

Assistant City Manager Gentry



Mayor

Approved by:



City Manager

Approved as to form:



City Attorney

Introduced: 3/17/2020
Final Reading: 3/17/2020

ALTEST:


City Clerk

ORIGINAL
STAMPED IN RED