

17-21

AN ORDINANCE TO TEMPORARILY AMEND COUNCIL RULES PERTAINING TO COUNCIL, BOARD AND COMMISSION MEETINGS IN RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19).

Whereas, a novel strain of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) spread throughout numerous countries including the United States; and

Whereas, since early in 2020, the City of Appleton has worked cooperatively with local, state and federal governmental entities to implement measures to reduce the potential spread of, and exposure to, COVID-19 including temporary changes to rules governing public meetings contained in the Municipal Code as well as the Rules of Council; and,

Whereas, on or about May 20, 2020 the Common Council adopted Ordinance 74-20 temporarily amending Council Rules pertaining to public comment and appearances at Council, Board, and Commission meetings; and

Whereas, a COVID-19 vaccine has been widely distributed to the public and it is anticipated that a majority of residents will be vaccinated by early summer; and,

Whereas, it is now necessary to repeal Ordinance 74-20 in order to implement revised temporary rules allowing for a flexible and measured return to in-person meetings.

The Common Council of the City of Appleton does ordain as follows:

Notwithstanding any provision contained within the City of Appleton Municipal Code or Council Rules, in response to COVID-19, the Council adopts the following rules and procedures:

Regular business of the Common Council, its subcommittees, Boards, Commissions and the like shall continue to occur in the Council Chambers. Following adoption of this ordinance, the Chairperson of these respective bodies (or Council President in the case of Council meetings) shall endeavor to appear in person. Commencing June 1, 2021 the Chairperson will coordinate the in-person attendance of at least a quorum of members to ensure that business is conducted in the event of technical issues with any member's remote appearance. In the event that the Chairperson is unable to appear in person, the Vice-Chairperson or elected chairperson pro tempore shall preside over the meeting.

In person public comment at Council Meetings, Committee Meetings, Board and Commission Meetings may occur in the regular course of business but, as circumstances warrant and subject to the discretion of the Mayor, may be modified from time-to-time. For the duration of this temporary ordinance, Citizens who cannot appear in person may provide statements or comments via mail addressed to the Mayor, placed in the City Hall dropbox, or sent by email prior to the Council Meeting to mayor@appleton.org; written comments for mandatory Public Hearings will be distributed to the Council and made part of the public

record of the meeting as appropriate. Remote public participation may be offered at the discretion of the Mayor or chair and subject to the availability of technology and resources to allow for said participation.

Most public meetings which are conducted under these rules will be made available on www.appleton.org and may be viewed as a live stream or recording at a later date.

Persons requiring other reasonable accommodations may contact the office of the Mayor at mayor@appleton.org or phone 920-832-6400.

Unless the Common Council acts to repeal this temporary ordinance at an earlier date, this temporary ordinance shall automatically repeal September 30, 2021.

All provisions of the City Ordinances, Council Rules and Commission General Rules of Order not specifically altered by these temporary rules shall remain in effect.

Section 2: This ordinance shall be in full force and effect immediately and ordinance 74-20 is repealed in its entirety.

Section 3: Due to the temporary nature of this Ordinance, it shall not be codified in the Appleton Municipal Code.

Publication Notice

Please take notice that the City of Appleton enacted ordinance 17-21 TEMPORARILY AMEND COUNCIL RULES PERTAINING TO COUNCIL, BOARD AND COMMISSION MEETINGS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19. The ordinance temporarily modifies ordinances and council, board and commission rules pertaining to the conducting of Common Council, subcommittee, board, commission and similar meetings in response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

The full text of the ordinance may be obtained at the Office of the City Clerk, 100 N. Appleton Street, Appleton, WI 54911 and through the City's website at www.appleton.org.