

ORDINANCE NO. O2021- 21

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING VIRTUAL MEETINGS AND ATTENDANCE

WHEREAS, In response to the State of Ohio's Executive Orders, The City of Gallipolis started conducting virtual meetings to mitigate the spread of COVID 19 but still provide public access to meetings, and

WHEREAS, the State's proclamation has expired; and

WHEREAS, the City has discovered over the past year that conducting virtual meetings has not only mitigated the spread of COVID 19 but has also improved government operations, increased transparency and allowed for attendance by the public and commissioners which would otherwise not have been possible without a virtual option, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Commission of the City of Gallipolis, Ohio:

SECTION 1: The Codified Ordinances of Gallipolis, Ohio are supplemented by enacting new section 121.03 to read as follows:

121.03 PUBLIC MEETING ATTENDANCE

(A) *Definitions.* As used in this section:

- (1) "Electronically" means by way of electronic equipment or devices, including but not limited to, live streaming by means of internet, local radio, television, cable public access channels; call in information for teleconference; or by means of any similar technology.
- (2) "Open to the Public" means that that a public meeting, or hearing conducted in-person, electronically, virtually, or any combination thereof, to which the public has access to the deliberations and official actions of the Commission.
- (3) "Virtually" means by way of teleconference, video conference, or any other similar electronic technology.

(B) *Attendance.* The City Commission may permit its members to attend its public meetings or hearings in-person, virtually, or a combination of the two. The following shall apply if any or all of the members are attending virtually:

- (1) Each member attending virtually shall be considered present as if the member is in person at the public meeting or hearing, shall be permitted to vote, and shall be counted for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present at the public meeting or hearing;

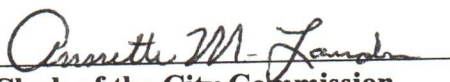
- (2) Any vote on a resolution, ordinance or formal action of any kind cast by a member attending virtually shall have the same effect as if the member is in-person at the public meeting or hearing; and
- (3) The Commission shall ensure that the public can observe and hear the discussions and deliberations of all the members of the Commission whether members are attending in person or virtually.

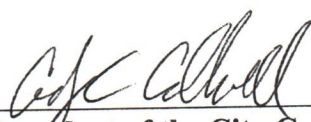
(C) *Open to the Public.* The Commission may determine the method by which its meetings, or hearings, are open to the public virtually, in person or a combination thereof. For public hearings conducted virtually, the public body must also establish means, through the use of electronic equipment that is widely available to the general public, to communicate during the meeting.

(D) *Notice to the Public.* Notice shall be given to the public in accordance with the Codified Ordinances of the City of Gallipolis and consistent with the Charter whether they are in person, virtual or a combination of the two.

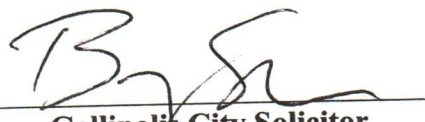
PASSED: 7/20/21

ATTEST:


 Clerk of the City Commission
 Annette M. Landers


 President of the City Commission
 Cody Caldwell

The foregoing Ordinance is hereby approved as to form and correctness thereof,


 Gallipolis City Solicitor
 Brynn Saunders Noe