



CITY OF HARRISONBURG  
**OFFICE OF THE  
CITY ATTORNEY**

409 SOUTH MAIN STREET, HARRISONBURG, VA 22801  
OFFICE (540) 432-7701 • FAX (540) 432-7778

TO: Eric Campbell, City Manager  
FROM: Chris Brown  
DATE: March 18, 2020  
RE: Participation in City Council meetings through electronic communications

**Summary:** Consider adopting a policy for participation by City Council members in City Council meetings through electronic communications.

**Background:** Section 2.2-3708.2 of the Code of Virginia permits members of local governing bodies to participate in meetings through electronic communications, provided a quorum is still physically present and the governing body has adopted a written policy for participation via electronic communications.

**Key Issues:** Adoption of this written policy will allow Council members to continue to participate in City Council meetings even if an emergency prevents their physical presence. For example, if a Council member were instructed to self-quarantine, that Council member would have the option of notifying the Mayor that he or she still wishes to participate in an upcoming meeting via electronic communications.

**Environmental Impact:** None

**Fiscal Impact:** None

**Prior Actions:** None

**Alternatives:**

- (a) Adopt the written policy as presented;
- (b) Adopt the written policy with modifications; or
- (c) Take no action.

**Community Engagement:** None

**Recommendation:** Staff recommends adoption of the written policy as presented.



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**Attachments:** (1) Proposed Participation in Meetings Through Electronic Communications Policy

**Review:**

*The initiating Department Director will place in Legistar, in sequence of transmittal, the names of each department that must initial their review in order for this item to be placed on the City Council agenda. The completion of review only addresses the readiness of the issue for Council consideration. This does not address the recommendation for approval or denial of the issue.*

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