

CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL

RESOLUTION NO. 03-20-1520

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA TEMPORARILY AMENDING WRANGELL MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 3.05.050 (TELECONFERENCING) RELATED TO ASSEMBLY MEETINGS AND TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING ALL NON-ESSENTIAL BOROUGH COMMISSION, BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

WHEREAS, COVID-19 or the novel coronavirus is a contagious virus that is actively spreading across the world, including in the United States, and specifically now in Alaska; and,

WHEREAS, public health officials describe that COVID-19 is most severe in people older than 60 and people with underlying health conditions like heart disease, lung disease, and diabetes; and

WHEREAS, state and federal public health officials currently recommend social distancing measures that minimize large group meetings and that encourage people to stay six feet apart; and

WHEREAS, state and federal officials currently prohibit group gatherings of 10 or more people; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly, boards, commissions, and committees of the City and Borough of Wrangell host multiple public meetings a month; and

WHEREAS, continuity of operations and business of the City & Borough of Wrangell must continue; and

WHEREAS, the health and safety of citizens, employees, and members of the Assembly, commissions, boards and committees is of paramount concern to the City & Borough of Wrangell; and

WHEREAS, Wrangell Municipal Code Section 3.05.050 provides for teleconference participation of Assembly meetings, but only if a physical quorum is present in the Borough Assembly Chambers; and

WHEREAS, to practice appropriate social distancing Section 3.05.050 must be temporarily amended to allow all Assembly members (staff and the public) to participate via teleconference or videoconference.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, THAT:

Section 1. Wrangell Municipal Code Section 3.05.050 (Teleconferencing) is temporarily amended as follows:

3.05.050 Teleconferencing and Videoconferencing.

A. The mayor or an assembly member who will be absent from a meeting, including public hearings and work sessions of the assembly, including an executive session, may participate in the meeting by telephone or other electronic means as provided in this section and provided the following circumstances are met:

1. The meeting is held with a quorum of members physically **or via teleconference/videoconference means** present;
2. Reasonable technical capabilities are available at the meeting location to allow the member to participate by teleconference/**videoconference**, including being able to hear and engage in discussion, and being audible to all persons participating in the meeting;
3. Prior to the meeting reasonable efforts will be made to ensure that the member participating by teleconference/**videoconference** is provided with the meeting agenda and other pertinent documents to be discussed and acted upon; access to the agenda and documents from the borough's website will be considered sufficient access;
4. For any executive session, the member participating by teleconference/**videoconference** shall acknowledge that there is no other person with the member or in close enough proximity to hear the meeting discussion.

B. Participation of Mayor and Assembly Members by Teleconference/**Videoconference**.

1. An assembly member may request to participate in any meeting of the assembly by notifying the clerk **one hour prior to any meeting**, ~~[to arrange for teleconference participation by 4:00 p.m. on the Friday before the Tuesday regular assembly meeting, and at least 12 hours before any special assembly meeting]~~.
2. The mayor, or the presiding officer in the absence of the mayor, may request to participate in any meeting of the assembly by notifying the clerk to arrange for teleconference/**videoconference** participation **one hour prior to any meeting**, ~~by 4:00 p.m. on the Friday before the Tuesday regular assembly meeting, and at least 12 hours before any special assembly meeting.~~

3. The mayor and any assembly member participating by teleconference/videoconference shall be deemed to be present at the assembly meeting for all purposes, including for quorum and voting; ~~provided, that:~~

~~The mayor, or the presiding officer in the absence of the mayor, shall not preside over the assembly meeting when participating by teleconference.~~

4. The mayor and any assembly member participating by teleconference/videoconference shall have the same right to participate in any matter as if physically present at the assembly meeting, including debate under WMC 3.05.060, adjudicatory matters, and presentations. Reasonable efforts shall be made to make available to the mayor and any assembly member participating by teleconference/videoconference any pertinent documents that are to be discussed and/or acted upon, including the assembly packet.

5. The mayor and any assembly member participating by teleconference/videoconference shall have the same right to vote on any matter as if physically present at the assembly meeting. All voting at the meeting shall be by roll call vote. The assembly member who is participating by teleconference/videoconference, or the mayor when participating by teleconference/videoconference, determines whether the member or the mayor has had the opportunity to evaluate all pertinent information, including any testimony and/or evidence, and is prepared to vote.

~~6. Teleconference participation at any assembly meeting by each assembly member or by the mayor is limited to four times during the 12-month period commencing January 1st each year. However, teleconference participation by a member or the mayor will not be allowed consecutively for more than two regular meetings. Participation in a meeting by teleconference while out of town on municipal business does not count toward the four times for which teleconference participation is permitted or toward the two consecutive regular meetings limit on participation by teleconference.~~

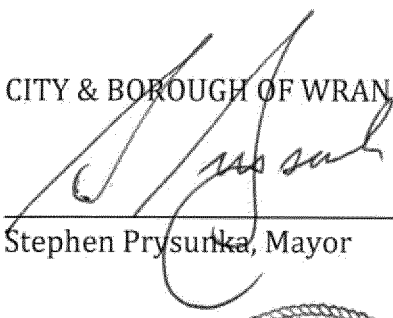
C. All votes taken at the meeting are by roll call of the members physically present at the meeting and the members participating by teleconference/videoconference.
[Ord. 947 § 2, 2018; Ord. 915 § 3, 2016; Ord. 882 § 2, 2014.]

Section 2. This temporary amendment to Wrangell Municipal Code Section 3.05.050 is effective March 17, 2020 and shall sunset, unless otherwise previously terminated, October 17, 2020.

Section 3. All nonessential Commission, Board and Committee meetings are hereby suspended for a period of eight weeks beginning March 17, 2020 and ending May 17, 2020.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA THIS 17TH DAY OF MARCH, 2020.

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL



Stephen Prysunka, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kim Lane, Borough Clerk

