

COUNTY COUNCIL OF WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

2020 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 08

RESOLUTION NO. 22 - 2020

Introduced by: The President of the Council.

A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH SPECIAL PROCEDURES FOR THE CONDUCT OF COUNCIL MEETINGS AND WORK SESSIONS DURING THE EMERGENCY PERIOD REGARDING THE COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC.

WHEREAS, an ongoing pandemic caused by the outbreak of the COVID-19 coronavirus has infected persons in Wicomico County, resulting in at least one reported death; and

WHEREAS, in response to the pandemic, the Governor of Maryland has issued a Declaration of State of Emergency and Catastrophic Health Emergency throughout the State and a statewide Order dated March 30, 2020 prohibiting large gatherings and events and closing senior centers and non-essential businesses and other establishments and requiring all persons to stay at home; and

WHEREAS, although the Governor's order of March 30, 2020 does not prohibit the Council from conducting its legislative meetings and work sessions together as a group at the Council Chambers or other single location, the Council desires to establish procedures for conducting those events by remote participation of the Council members from different locations and for excluding the public from attending events conducted in the Council Chambers or other single location.

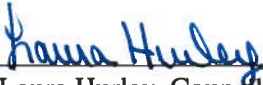
NOW, THEREFORE, the Council hereby adopts the following procedures during the emergency period declared by the Governor regarding the COVID-19 coronavirus:

1. Council meetings and work sessions may (but unless so ordered by the Governor are not required to) be conducted by Council members participating by communication with one another from remote locations, provided that simultaneous access to such communication is available to the public by telephone or the Internet without special charge imposed for such access from locations within Wicomico County and public notice of the means of public access is provided reasonably in advance of the event.
2. Council may conduct meetings and work sessions by physical presence of the members but exclude the public from attending provided that simultaneous public access to the event is provided as described in paragraph 1.
3. To decide whether a meeting or work session shall be conducted remotely in accordance with paragraph 1 or the public excluded from attending in accordance with paragraph 2, Council members may engage in polling through the Council Administrator sufficiently in advance of the event that public notice may be provided in accordance with those paragraphs and stated in the published agenda for the event. At the start of event, the presiding member shall announce, if such is the case, that a majority of the responding members support conducting the event by remote participation or excluding the public from attending the event if it is conducted at a single location and explain how the public may obtain live access to the event.

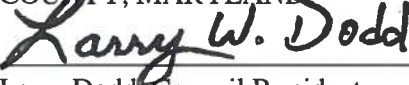
4. At any meeting or work session the Council by motion may suspend the live presentation of public comments and a public hearing pertaining to proposed legislative action by Council. With or without motion, Council may provide for written public comments or statements pertaining to proposed legislative action that have been submitted to Council to be read during the meeting by the Council's staff.
5. PROMPTLY AFTER EACH SUCH EVENT, THE COUNCIL ADMINISTRATOR SHALL PROVIDE TO EACH MEMBER WHO PARTICIPATED FROM A REMOTE LOCATION A WRITTEN SYNOPSIS OF EACH MATTER (INCLUDING AMENDMENTS) THAT WAS PASSED OR FAILED TO PASS, INDICATING HOW HE OR SHE VOTED (OR ABSTAINED), WHICH THE MEMBER SHALL REVIEW AND CORRECT AS MAY BE APPROPRIATE AND SIGN AND RETURN TO THE COUNCIL ADMINISTRATOR, INCLUDING BY EMAIL, FOR ATTACHMENT TO THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING.

DONE at Salisbury, Maryland this 7th day of April, 2020.

ATTEST:



Laura Hurley, Council Administrator

COUNTY COUNCIL OF WICOMICO
COUNTY, MARYLAND
 (SEAL)

Larry Dodd, Council President

CERTIFICATION

THIS RESOLUTION was Adopted _____, Adopted with Amendments _____, Failed _____,
Withdrawn _____ by the County Council on _____, 2020.

Certified By 

Laura Hurley, Council Administrator