

**CITY OF MARYSVILLE AGENDA BILL**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FOR ACTION**

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATE: 3/23/2020**

<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	
Resolution Authorizing Remote Attendance at Council Meetings	
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR APPROVAL:</b>
Jon Walker	
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	
Legal	
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>	
<b>BUDGET CODE:</b>	<b>AMOUNT:</b>
<b>SUMMARY:</b>	

The COVID-19 public health emergency may affect the ability of City Council Members or the Mayor to attend a council meeting. Public health authorities will issue a quarantine order for an individual who meets certain criteria for possible exposure to COVID-19, although that person may not have contracted the virus or be symptom free. They have also strongly urged anyone with respiratory symptoms to stay away from other members of the public. Consequently, a city council member who would normally attend a council meeting could be quarantined and therefore unable to attend or have mild respiratory symptoms and therefore responsibly choose not to attend, but otherwise be fully capable of participating in the meeting and discharging the duties he or she was elected by Marysville citizens to perform.

It also is possible that four council members could be rendered unable to attend a council meeting in person by these unique circumstances. Accordingly, there would be no possibility of a quorum at that meeting. This would deprive the Council of the ability to conduct the public's business.

This resolution would authorize a council member or the mayor to attend remotely if he or she was quarantined or experiencing respiratory symptoms. It directs the Mayor to arrange for a speakerphone in council chambers so that other members and the public can hear the remotely attending council member(s), which is required by the open public meetings act. It also is intended to be a temporary expedient and is limited in duration to the current public health emergency.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Staff recommend the Council consider adopting the resolution authorizing remote attendance.**

**RECOMMENDED MOTION: I move to adopt Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_.**

CITY OF MARYSVILLE  
Marysville, Washington

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARYSVILLE,  
WASHINGTON, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
MEMBERS TO ATTEND CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS REMOTELY DURING  
THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.**

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services secretary Alex Azar declared a public health emergency for COVID-19, beginning January 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, Washington State Governor Jay Inslee proclaimed a public health emergency for COVID-19, beginning February 29, 2020, and issued an additional proclamation on March 16, 2020, further limiting public gatherings; and

WHEREAS, Snohomish County and the Snohomish Health District have also issued proclamations of emergency and activated their emergency operations centers to deal with this crisis; and

WHEREAS, City of Marysville Mayor Jon Nehring issued a local proclamation of emergency related to COVID-19 for the City of Marysville under MMC 2.12.040 and RCW 38.52.070(2). This authorized necessary actions by the Chief Administrative Officer and city staff to protect public health; and; and

WHEREAS, public health officials have implemented protocols for quarantining individuals who may have been exposed to COVID-19 regardless of whether they are displaying symptoms and for those who have been infected, and further have discouraged anyone with any type of respiratory illness from attending public gatherings to avoid the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, if four city council members were unable to attend a council meeting in person, there would be no quorum and the remaining council members could not attend to public business; and

WHEREAS, authorizing the mayor and city council members to attend council meetings remotely if they do become ill or are quarantined, while maintaining the ability of the public to observe the proceedings, during this public health emergency will enhance public health and help reduce the spread of COVID-19, while ensuring that the City Council will have a quorum to attend to public business.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARYSVILLE that the Mayor or a City Council Member who is quarantined or

experiencing a respiratory illness may notify the Council President, the Mayor, or the City Clerk that he or she desires to attend a specific council meeting telephonically.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARYSVILLE that if a Council Member requests to attend telephonically the Mayor will take steps to provide for a speakerphone to be set up in the City Council Chambers at 1049 State Avenue to permit other Council Members and members of the public to hear the comments and votes of any Council Member attending telephonically and the Mayor will determine if other means of transmitting the meeting to members of the public is technologically practical and implement any such means that he in his sole discretion believes appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARYSVILLE that telephonic attendance at Council Meetings is a temporary expedient to respond to the current public health emergency and is not a permanent policy or procedure of the City Council of Marysville.

ADOPTED by the City Council at an open public meeting this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

CITY OF MARYSVILLE

By \_\_\_\_\_  
JON NEHRING, MAYOR

Attest:

By \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Approved as to form:

By \_\_\_\_\_  
JON WALKER, CITY ATTORNEY