



City of Charleston

South Carolina

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE

TO ESTABLISH IN FURTHERANCE OF HEALTH, PUBLIC SAFETY AND WELFARE, AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING THE REQUIREMENTS OF CITY CODE SECTION 2-23(f) REQUIRING THE PHYSICAL PRESENCE OF COUNCILMEMBERS AT CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS TO PERMIT PARTICIPATION AT THESE EVENTS TELEPHONICALLY OR BY VIDEO CONFERENCING OR OTHER VIRTUAL MEANS TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF COVID-19.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON, ASSEMBLED:

Section 1: The City Council of the City of Charleston does hereby make the following findings of fact:

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a state of emergency to address the existing public health emergency associated with the coronavirus (COVID-19); and,

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Governor of the State of South Carolina declared a state of emergency in South Carolina pertaining to the COVID-19 public health emergency and on March 15, 2020 issued an order closing all schools in the State of South Carolina; and,

WHEREAS, the CDC has issued guidelines to mitigate the spread of the virus, including recommending on March 15, 2020 that for the next eight (8) weeks, in-person events that consist of 50 people or more throughout the United States be postponed or cancelled; and,

WHEREAS, Public Health officials and experts including those in the Charleston area have determined that the coronavirus is an imminent threat to the region; and,

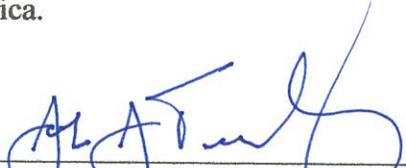
WHEREAS, with 28 positive cases in South Carolina and an additional seven cases being monitored by DHEC as of March 15, 2020 the possible increased threat from COVID-19 constitutes a threat of an imminent disaster to the health and welfare of the citizens of the City of Charleston and surrounding areas; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Charleston is implementing measures to reduce the increased risk of exposure to the coronavirus, including urging social distancing and limits on gatherings in public indoor places where the public gathers.

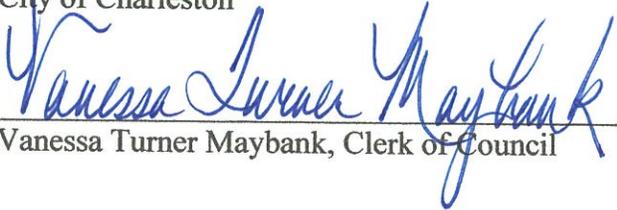
Section 2: Section 2-23(f) of the Code of the City of Charleston is temporarily suspended, and City Councilmembers are permitted to attend City Council meetings, Ways and Means Committee meetings, and all City Council Standing Committee meetings telephonically or by video conference or other virtual means in accordance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

SECTION 3: This Ordinance shall become effective immediately and shall expire sixty (60) days after the date hereof or upon the termination of the state of emergency as declared by the Mayor, whichever is earlier.

Ratified in City Council this 16th day of March in the Year of our Lord 2020, and in the 244th Year of the Independence of the United States of America.



John J. Fecklenburg Mayor
City of Charleston



Vanessa Turner Maybank, Clerk of Council