

## **RESOLUTION 2020-10**

### **RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAKE WALES REGARDING THE CONDUCT OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETINGS**

**WHEREAS**, on March 9, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order No. 20-52, declaring a state of emergency in the State of Florida for COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the Mayor of the City of Lake Wales declared a State of Emergency which was extended on March 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> due to COVID-19 which constitutes a potential life threatening situation for the citizens and visitors to the City for an undefined period of time; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 16, 2020, the White House issued a new nationwide guideline calling all people to avoid gatherings of more than 10 people; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 20, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order No. 20-69 which suspended any Florida Statute that requires a quorum to be present in person or requires a local government body to meet at a specific public place and authorized local government bodies to utilize communications media technology, such as telephonic and video conferencing;

**WHEREAS**, Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, authorizes the City of Lake Wales to take whatever prudent action is necessary to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the staff and the community during a declared emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 16, 2020, the City Manager of the City of Lake Wales closed all City buildings to the public as of March 17, 2020 until further notice; and

**WHEREAS**, in light of the imminent threat posed by COVID-19 due to close social interaction, the City must temporarily revise its public notice and public meeting procedures for the City Commission and all Citizen boards to enable City business to effectively continue.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED**, by the City Commission of the City of Lake Wales in accordance with the provisions of the State of Florida Office of the Governor Executive Order No. 20-52, Chapter 252.38, Florida Statutes, and Executive Order No. 2020-01, to hereby order the following:

1. Any and all requirements within the City's Charter, Code of Ordinances,

Resolutions or a policy requiring a quorum to be present in person or requiring a meeting at a specific public place are hereby waived to the extent necessary to afford the City the ability to use telephonic and video conferencing for public meetings (hereinafter "virtual meeting(s)") in accordance with Governor DeSantis' Executive Order No. 20-69. Nothing herein shall be construed to waive the City's obligation to comply with all other applicable requirements of the Sunshine Law, Chapter 286, Florida Statutes.

2. During the effectiveness of the State of Emergency which has led to the closure of all City buildings to the public, all public meeting notices traditionally posted within the City Administration Building shall be instead posted on the City's website. All public meeting notices for virtual meetings shall provide the following: how an interested person may attend, including the date, time, and means of electronic access; the contact information for a City employee an interested person may write or call for additional information; and the contact information for a City employee to whom an interested person may submit written or physical evidence or testimony.
3. All virtual meetings shall retain the ability of the public to participate to the greatest extent feasible and practicable. Public comment opportunities shall continue to be provided during all virtual meetings. Instructions for submitting public comment shall, at a minimum, be attached to each virtual meeting agenda.
4. If during the course of a virtual meeting technical problems develop that prevent interested persons from attending, the City shall terminate the meeting until the problems have been corrected.
5. This Resolution shall expire upon the expiration of Governor DeSantis' Executive Order No. 20-52, including any extension thereof, unless terminated earlier by further action by the City Commission.

Approved this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2020.

CITY OF LAKE WALES

  
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Eugene L. Fultz, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Jennifer Nanek, City Clerk