

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA



Agenda Date:	June 6, 2022
Action Required:	<b>Motion to Authorize Hybrid Meetings of PC and BAR</b>
Presenter:	Michael Rogers, Interim City Manager
Staff Contact:	Sam Sanders, Deputy City Manager James Freas, Director of NDS
Title:	<b>Authorization for Regular Meetings of PC and BAR to be held in hybrid format</b>

**Background**

On March 12, 2020 the Charlottesville City Council authorized the City Manager, as its Director of Emergency Management, to declare a local state of emergency due to COVID. This locally-declared state of emergency commenced on March 12, 2020, and continues in effect. (Although the City Manager declares the state of emergency with Council’s authorization, only City Council can *end* the local declaration. (According to Va. Code §44-146.21(A): “*The governing body, when in its judgment all emergency actions have been taken, shall take appropriate action to end the declared emergency.*”)

Because the locally-declared state of emergency remains in effect: on March 7, 2022 City Council unanimously approved Ordinance #O-22-029, to amend and re-enact the City’s Continuity of Government (COG) Ordinance, for a six month period beginning March 8, 2022 (“Revised COG Ordinance”).

The Revised COG Ordinance, within ¶2 directs that all meetings of the City Council, and all of the City’s boards and commissions will continue to be held only by electronic means. The Revised COG Ordinance provides only two exceptions to the electronic meetings requirement (see ¶3):

- City Council itself may physically assemble for a meeting, or a hybrid electronic/ in-person meeting, subject to a safety plan approved in advance of the meeting by the Mayor and City Manager, or
- ***By motion*** City Council may authorize another public body (a board or commission) to physically assemble for a meeting in a specific location, or a hybrid electronic/ in-person meeting, subject to a safety plan approved by the Mayor and City Manager in advance of the approved meeting.

**Discussion**

The board of architectural review (BAR) and the City Planning Commission (“Commission”) desire to have hybrid electronic/ in-person meetings for the duration of the locally-declared state of emergency. The hybrid meetings will take place in City Space and by electronic meeting (Zoom), with members of the BAR and Commission, and necessary staff, physically assembled in

City Space, with a limited number of members of the public attending in person and the opportunity for others to participate electronically by registering in advance.

The City Manager and the Mayor have already approved Safety Plans for these meetings.

**Budgetary Impact**

None

**Alignment with Council Vision Areas and Strategic Plan**

Yes

**City Manager Recommendation**

The City Manager recommends approval.

*Suggested Motion: “I move to approve meetings of the City’s BAR and Planning Commission taking place during the six-month period beginning March 8, 2022, in a format that combines in-person attendance and electronic means, in accordance with Paragraph 3 of City Council Ordinance Number O-22-029.”*

**Community Engagement**

N/A

**Attachments**

None