

RESOLUTION NO. 20211014-046

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, in order to help governmental entities address the health risks of COVID-19, Governor Abbott suspended certain sections of the Open Meetings Act, allowing governing bodies to conduct their meetings entirely virtually; this suspension ended in September 2021; and

WHEREAS, Austin City Council conducted Council meetings virtually starting March 2020, allowing all Council Members and the Mayor to attend the meetings virtually, and

WHEREAS, starting in March 2020 City Council meeting testimony was conducted via telephone; and

WHEREAS, during the same time period, the over 70 Boards and Commissions and their established Committees (Subcommittees) also met virtually; and

WHEREAS, offering a phone option for speakers allows for more equitable and accessible opportunities for participation at City Council meetings, Board and Commission meetings, and Subcommittee meetings; and

WHEREAS, the virtual meetings, with a remote option for speakers, have required significant staff time and resources; and

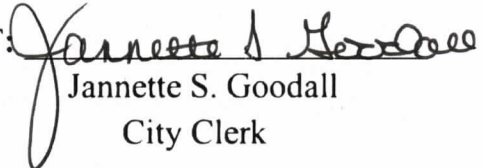
WHEREAS, the City Clerk issued two memos on September 10, 2021, that outlined the resources needed to continue with virtual options for Council meetings, Board and Commission meetings, and Subcommittee meetings; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to bring a budget amendment to Council by November 4, 2021 for the required resources, which may include those outlined in the September 10, 2021 memos from the City Clerk, to accommodate the resources and staff needed to continue virtual testimony and hybrid participation of Council Members, Board and Commission Members, and Subcommittee members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Clerk is directed to bring any necessary Code Amendments to Chapter 2-1 by November 4, 2021 that help allow for hybrid participation at meetings of Boards and Commissions and their Subcommittees, including waiving requirements that a quorum must be physically present at a meeting to conduct business; the Open Meetings Act shall still apply to Boards and Commissions and to their Subcommittees.

ADOPTED: October 14, 2021 **ATTEST:** 
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk