

**CITY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
OFFICIAL AGENDA
April 2, 2020
6:00 p.m.**

This meeting will be conducted via teleconference

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 20-69, issued by the Office of Governor Ron Desantis on March 20, 2020, municipalities may conduct meetings of their governing boards without having a quorum of its members present physically or at any specific location, and utilizing communications media technology such as telephonic or video conferencing, as provided by Section 120.54(5)(b)2, Florida Statutes.

The City of Lake Wales will hold all virtual public meetings using the GoToMeeting Web/Teleconference service. This will allow Commissioners and City staff to attend public meetings remotely. Virtual public meetings will continue to be broadcast live, locally, on Comcast channel 6 and on the City's web site. A link to the live stream can be found in the left-most menu of the City's home page and is labeled "Live Meeting Stream".

The direct link is: http://lakewales.granicus.com/player/camera/3?publish_id=2

Public Comments will be accepted at

www.lakewalesfl.gov/comments

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. AGENDA ITEM
 - 3.I. COVID-19 Update
 - 3.II. Resolution 2020-10 Conducting Virtual Meetings

Resolution 2020-10 provides guidelines for conducting virtual Commission and board meetings during the current emergency to protect the right of the public to participate.

Documents:

[MEMO RESOLUTION 2020-10.PDF](#)
[RESOLUTION 2020-10 PUBLIC MEETINGS.PDF](#)

4. COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS
 - 4.I. Public Comments And Questions

Comments and Questions from the viewing public can be submitted at this link

WWW.LAKEWALESFL.GOV/COMMENTS

Comments and Questions will be read aloud into the record by the City Clerk.

5. CITY ATTORNEY
6. CITY MANAGER
7. CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS
8. MAYOR COMMENTS
9. ADJOURNMENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 1, 2020
TO: Honorable Mayor and City Commission
VIA: Kenneth Fields, City Manager
FROM: Jennifer Nanek, City Clerk
REGARDING: Resolution 2020-10 Conducting Virtual Meetings

SYNOPSIS:

Resolution 2020-10 provides guidelines for conducting virtual Commission and board meetings during the current emergency to protect the right of the public to participate.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of Resolution 2020-10.

BACKGROUND

As the State of Florida is currently under a declared state of emergency due to the threat of COVID-19 Governor Desantis has issued an Executive Order 20-69 allowing for virtual meetings with the requirement that they continue to operate in the sunshine. Resolution 2020-10 sets forth guidelines to conduct virtual meetings within the City of Lake Wales that will protect the right of the public to participate.

OTHER OPTIONS

Do not approve Resolution 2020-10

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to the resolution itself although there will be equipment and staff costs related to hosting virtual meetings.

ATTACHMENTS

Resolution 2020-10.

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 20th and 27th 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 2nd day of April, 2020.

CITY OF LAKE WALES

Eugene L. Fultz, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jennifer Nanek, City Clerk