



March 20, 2020

Re: Determination that In-Person Meetings are not Practical or Prudent Because of a Health Pandemic or Emergency

To: All Interested Parties:

The coronavirus (COVID-19) has been declared a health pandemic and national and state emergencies have been declared. As a result, as the Presiding Officer, I am declaring that it is not practical or prudent to hold City Council meetings in person until such time as the State of Minnesota is determined to no longer be in a state of emergency or this determination is terminated sooner by action on behalf of the City. The basis for this determination is as follows:

- On January 31, 2020, the Secretary of the U.S. Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency in response to COVID-19;
- On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) recognized the global outbreak COVID-19 as a pandemic;
- On March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump proclaimed the outbreak of COVID-19 in the United States a national emergency; and
- On March 20, 2020, Governor Timothy J. Walz issued Executive Order 20-01 under Minn. Stat. Ch. 12 declaring the outbreak of COVID-19 in Minnesota a peacetime emergency. On March 16, 2020, the Minnesota Executive Council extended Executive Order 20-01 for 30 days.

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.021, meetings of a public body subject to Minnesota's Open Meeting Law may be conducted by telephone or other electronic means if the Commission's "presiding officer, chief legal counsel, or chief administrative officer . . . determines that an in-person meeting or a meeting conducted under [Minn. Stat. §] 13D.02 is not practical or prudent because of a health pandemic or an emergency declared under [Minn. Stat. Ch.] 12." While this determination is effective, all City Council meetings may be conducted by telephone or other electronic means.

Sincerely,

David Grant
Mayor, City of Arden Hills