

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: October 18, 2021

Reviewed by: NA

SUBJECT: Resolution of the Albany City Council Allowing for Video and Teleconference Meetings during the COVID-19 State of Emergency under California Assembly Bill (AB 361).

REPORT BY: Anne Hsu, City Clerk

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Council adopt Resolution No. 2021-103, allowing for video and teleconference meetings during the COVID-19 state of emergency under AB 361.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

AB 361 was recently passed by the State Legislature and signed by Governor Newsom and went into effect immediately. AB 361 continues many of the provisions related to the Brown Act that were in place under Executive Orders, which expired September 30, 2021 that allowed for video and teleconferencing during the state of emergency. Since AB 361 has been signed into law, the City Council can continue to meet virtually until such time as the Governor declares the state of emergency due to COVID-19 over and measures to promote social distancing are no longer recommended, or could return to in-person meetings sooner, if desired.

On September 23, 2021, the Director of the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency recommended social distancing measures for safely holding public meetings based on the continued threat of COVID-19 to the community and the continued increased safety protection that social distancing provides as one method to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. The proposed resolution provides that the City Council and all subsidiary City advisory bodies with the option to continue to hold video and teleconference meetings while the state of emergency is still in effect and social distancing is recommended.

In order to continue to hold video and teleconference meetings, the City Council will need to review and make findings every thirty days that the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person and that state or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

None.

Attachments

1. Resolution No. 2021-103
2. California Assembly Bill (AB361)