

Presented by: COW  
Presented: 11/23/2020  
Drafted by: R. Palmer III

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA**

**Serial No. 2922**

**A Resolution Temporarily Amending Resolution 2862 Related to the Assembly Rules of Procedure and COVID-19.**

WHEREAS, a local emergency disaster was declared due to COVID-19 initially with Resolution 2884; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2887 temporarily provided rules to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and balance the community's needs related to public meetings but Resolution 2887 expires on November 24, 2020; and

WHEREAS, since March, 2020, more than 600 people in the community have had COVID-19, community members have been hospitalized and died due to COVID-19, people are wearing masks and socially distancing to minimize spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Alaska is currently experiencing a second significant wave of COVID-19 positive cases in which multiple communities are in High or Very High alert levels; and

WHEREAS, while public health mitigation measures have helped minimize the spread of COVID-19 and medical care of patients has improved since the SARS-CoV-2 virus was detected earlier this year, vaccine development and distribution is still underway; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 continues to pose an imminent threat to human health, safety, and welfare to the residents of the City and Borough of Juneau; and

WHEREAS, the boards, commissions, and committees of the City and Borough of Juneau normally host multiple public meetings a week; and

WHEREAS, consistent with Resolution 2686 Rule 9, the Assembly Rules of Procedure govern nearly all of the Assembly's advisory boards, commissions, and committees; and

WHEREAS, upon balancing the health risks of COVID-19 and transparent government principles, the Assembly finds it necessary to temporarily change how City and Borough of Juneau public meetings are conducted; and

WHEREAS, public comment opportunities still exist at public meetings, and members of the public are encouraged to submit comments in writing, like by emailing [BoroughAssembly@juneau.org](mailto:BoroughAssembly@juneau.org) or by filling out the online Assembly Contact Form, <https://beta.juneau.org/assembly/assembly-contact-form>; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2862 Rule 16. N. defines telephone or telephonic as “any system of synchronous two-way voice communication,” which could include traditional telephones and internet-based internet audio or video applications.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

**Section 1. Telephonic Participation.** Rule 16 (A. through C.) of Resolution 2862 is amended as follows:

**RULE 16. TELEPHONIC PARTICIPATION.**

- A. Up to nine members may participate via telephone in an Assembly meeting or an Assembly Committee meeting.
- B. Reserved.
- C. Reserved.

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**Section 2. COVID-19 Public Meeting Prevention and Mitigation.** Resolution 2862 is amended by adding a new Rule 18 as follows:

**RULE 18. COVID-19 PUBLIC MEETING PREVENTION AND MITIGATION.**

- A. **Public seating area.** People in a meeting room must comply with all public health requirements including, social distancing, and face covering requirements (e.g., Ordinances 2020-52 and 2020-45). Staff should participate remotely if possible. Members of the public are also encouraged to participate remotely and submit comments in writing.
- B. **Alternative public broadcasting.** This provision applies to public meetings of the City and Borough of Juneau Assembly and its committees, boards, and commissions. In addition to regular Assembly meeting broadcasts, meetings with substantial public interest should be live broadcast in a manner that is reasonably calculated to provide meaningful public observance of the public meeting. The chair of a committee, board, or commission has discretion, unless overruled by majority vote, if and how a meeting should be broadcast. Broadcast can include but is not limited to video conferencing, conference call, listen only conference call, and radio broadcasting.

**Section 3. Sunset Provision.** This resolution shall automatically expire and no longer have effect after May 25, 2021.

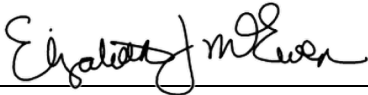
**Section 4. Effective Date.** This resolution shall be effective immediately after its adoption.

Adopted this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of November, 2020.



Beth A. Weldon, Mayor

Attest:



Elizabeth J. McEwen, Municipal Clerk