

**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE**

**TO TEMPORARILY SUSPEND THE REGULAR OPERATING RULES OF COUNTY COUNCIL MEETINGS TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONTINUATION OF COUNCIL AND COUNTY RELATED MEETINGS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC; AND TO MAINTAIN THE CURRENT DECLARATION OF A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY.**

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a state of emergency to address the existing public health emergency associated with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19); and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the Governor of the State of South Carolina declared a state of emergency in South Carolina pertaining to the COVID-19 public health emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, the CDC has issued guidelines to mitigate the spread of the virus, including recommending on March 15, 2020 that for the next eight (8) weeks, in-person events that consist of 50 people or more throughout the United States be postponed or cancelled; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 17, 2020, pursuant to the County's Emergency Operations Plan, the Chairman of County Council declared a local state of emergency in Greenville County to address the existing public health emergency associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and authorized the implementation of the County's Emergency Operations Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, while it is imperative for local government to continue to operate during States of Emergency, it is equally imperative for local governments to take steps to minimize the need for large gatherings in order to protect public health and safety and the health and safety of local government officials and staff; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the National, State and Local States of Emergency related to COVID-19, it is hereby determined that a public emergency affecting life, health, and safety does exist, and therefore, it is appropriate and necessary to conduct a meeting in order to adopt this Emergency Ordinance.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL:**

**Section 1. Temporary Suspension of Certain Council Operating Rules.** County Council Members are permitted to attend County Council meetings, and all County Council Standing Committee meetings, electronically (telephonically or by video conference or other virtual means) in accordance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act. In order to ensure continuity of committee functions, committee chairmen may temporarily assign their duties to other Council members. With respect to any electronic meeting, the appearance portion of regular meeting agendas (but not any public hearings) provided for by Council Rules is hereby suspended. By April 15, provisions shall be made for speakers via electronic means to address Council on regular meeting agenda items that have not already had a public hearing. Citizens may submit written public comments to the Clerk to Council which shall be distributed to the members of County Council.

**Section 2. Greenville County Boards and Commissions Meetings.** County Council further authorizes boards and commissions which County Council has the legal responsibility to either fill or make recommendations to be filled to meet electronically (telephonically or by video conference or other virtual means) in accordance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

**Section 3. Suspension of Conflicting Rules.** During the period of effectiveness of this Emergency Ordinance, any County Council Rules, ordinances, resolutions or policies that conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are suspended and shall be superseded by this Ordinance.

**Section 4. Emergency Declaration.** The March 17, 2020 Declaration of a Local State of Emergency existing in the County of Greenville is hereby recognized and continued by this Ordinance for the duration of the state of emergency. The Declaration, as restated herein, directs that:

1. The local Emergency Operations Plan shall be fully executed; and
2. The Director of Emergency Management shall direct the Emergency Management Office to provide such assistance as can be delivered from available local resources and shall coordinate all agencies of local government to provide assistance to Greenville County; and
3. All agencies of Greenville County shall cooperate to the fullest extent with Greenville County Office of Emergency Management and shall provide such assistance as may be required for response this emergency.

**Section 5. Effective Date; Expiration.** This Ordinance shall be effective upon a single reading and two-thirds vote of County Council, and shall expire on the sixty-first day following the effective date.

**DONE IN EMERGENCY MEETING THIS \_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.**

**GREENVILLE COUNTY**

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Herman G. Kirven, Jr., Chairman  
County Council

ATTEST:

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Regina McCaskill  
Clerk to Council

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Joseph M. Kernell  
County Administrator