



MEMO FROM COUNCIL OFFICE:

To: Members of the Common Council

From: Lisa Lehner, Council Administrator/Attorney

Date: November 15, 2024

Re: Resolution 2024-24 – A Resolution Revising the Bloomington Common Council Electronic Meetings Policy

Synopsis

Resolution 2024-24, sponsored by Councilmember Stosberg, amends Council’s Electronic Meetings Policy to provide additional requirements for councilmembers to participate in meetings of the Council or any of its committees by electronic means of communication.

Relevant Materials

- Resolution 2024-24

Summary

On April 20, 2021, [Indiana Code 5-14-1.5 et seq.](#), commonly known as the Open Door Law, was amended, adding Section 5-14-1.5-3 entitled “Electronic Meetings of Political Subdivisions”. This Section 5-14-1.5-3 enables a member of a governing body of a public agency who is not present at a meeting 1) to participate in a meeting by certain methods of electronic means of communication and 2) to be considered present for the purposes of quorum, subject to certain requirements.

Section 5-14-1.5-3(d) requires that a governing body adopt “a written policy establishing the procedures that apply to a member’s participation in a meeting by an electronic means of communication.” On May 27, 2021, Council adopted [Resolution 21-17](#), entitled “Electronic Meetings Policy” (the “Policy”). The Policy establishes procedures and requirements that apply to the electronic participation of Councilmembers, the public, and City staff members within meetings of the Council and any of its committees.

Through the adoption of Resolution 2024-24, Council now seeks to amend the Policy by adding additional procedures and requirements in an effort to enhance the understanding of its application and to carry out the intent of the Open Door Law. Additionally, Resolution 2024-24 seeks to clarify the application of [Ordinance 13-05](#), which contemplates meetings of Councilmembers and staff for the purpose of informal discussions (“Work Sessions”). Ordinance 13-05 was adopted prior to 2021 and the Policy.

Contact

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