



CITY OF CLEARLAKE

City Council

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Continuation of Authorization to Implement and Utilize Teleconference Accessibility to Conduct Public Meetings Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361

SUBMITTED BY: Melissa Swanson, Administrative Services Director/City Clerk

PURPOSE OF REPORT: ☐ Information only ☐ Discussion ☒ Action Item

WHAT IS BEING ASKED OF THE CITY COUNCIL/BOARD:

The City Council is being asked to authorize the City Clerk to implement and utilize teleconference accessibility to conduct public meetings pursuant to Assembly Bill 361 (Stats. 2021, ch. 165).

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

On Friday, September 17, 2021, the Governor signed AB 361. Because the bill contained urgency findings, the law is now in effect. AB 361 allows local agencies to continue to conduct remote ("Zoom") meetings during a declared state of emergency, provided local agencies comply with specified requirements. Absent this legislation, local agencies would have had to return to traditional meetings beginning on October 1, 2021.

Starting October 1, and running through the end of 2023, to participate in remote meetings, public agencies must comply with the requirements of new subsection (e) of Government Code section 54953.

The Council passed Resolution No. 2021-48 on October 7, 2021, which made the necessary findings for all subordinate legislative bodies of the City, such as the Planning Commission, so these bodies can also continue to meet remotely.

Subsequent Remote Meetings

Any time after the first remote meeting of the legislative body, it can meet remotely if both of the following apply:

1. State/local emergency/social distancing. Either:
 - a. "a state of emergency remains active" or
 - b. "state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing" and
2. 30 days. Within the last 30 days (which vote may occur at that meeting) the legislative body has made the following findings by majority vote "(A) The legislative body has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency. (B) Any of the following circumstances exist (i) The state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person. (ii) State or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing."

OPTIONS:

1. Move to adopt the attached resolution to allow ongoing teleconferencing of public meetings
2. Other direction

FISCAL IMPACT:

☒ None ☐ \$ Budgeted Item? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Budget Adjustment Needed? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, amount of appropriation increase: \$

Affected fund(s): ☐ General Fund ☐ Measure P Fund ☐ Measure V Fund ☐ Other:

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT:

- ☐ Goal #1: Make Clearlake a Visibly Cleaner City
- ☐ Goal #2: Make Clearlake a Statistically Safer City
- ☐ Goal #3: Improve the Quality of Life in Clearlake with Improved Public Facilities
- ☐ Goal #4: Improve the Image of Clearlake
- ☐ Goal #5: Ensure Fiscal Sustainability of City
- ☒ Goal #6: Update Policies and Procedures to Current Government Standards
- ☐ Goal #7: Support Economic Development

SUGGESTED ACTIONS:

1. Adopt Resolution making the necessary findings to continue to hold remote meetings as required by AB 361.

☒ **Attachments:** 1) Resolution No. 2021-57