

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COACHELLA, CALIFORNIA, MAKING FINDINGS AND DETERMINATIONS UNDER AB 361 FOR CONTINUED VIRTUAL MEETINGS

WHEREAS, the Ralph M. Brown Act (Gov. Code § 54950 et seq.) generally requires local agencies meeting via teleconference, including through other virtual or electronic means, to provide public access at each location in which members of the legislative body are teleconferencing; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature recently enacted Assembly Bill 361 (AB 361), which amended Government Code section 54953 to allow local agencies to meet fully virtually during a proclaimed state of emergency if state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the Governor issued a proclamation declaring a state of emergency on March 4, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, pursuant to section 8625 of the California Emergency Services Act; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency and finds that state or local officials continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires that the City of Coachella, including all commissions, committees, and other Brown Act bodies shall continue to hold virtual meetings pursuant to AB 361 and Government Code section 54953(e).

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COACHELLA DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AND FIND AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Recitals set forth above are true and correct and are incorporated into this Resolution by this reference.

Section 2. The City Council and all other commissions, committees or other Brown Act bodies of the City shall be authorized to continue to meet virtually in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e) and without compliance with section 54953(b)(3).

Section 3. This Resolution does not prevent or prohibit the City Council or any commission, committee or other Brown Act body of the City from holding hybrid meetings (containing both virtual and in-person components) or from meeting in-person, provided such meetings comply with AB 361 and with all state and local health orders. Commissions, committees and other Brown Act bodies shall comply with all rules established by the City Council and/or City Manager for attendance at meetings.

Section 4. The City Council shall take action to renew this Resolution every thirty days for as long as any state or local officials continue to recommend any measures to promote social

distancing, but the City Council may terminate the Resolution at any time. In the event that more than 30 days pass between regular City Council meetings, the City Council shall take action to renew this Resolution prior to taking any action or engaging in any deliberation or discussion in a virtual meeting; renewal of this Resolution may occur either at the beginning of the next regular meeting or at a special meeting called for such purposes. In the event this Resolution has lapsed, and the City Council has not terminated it, any commission, committee or other Brown Act board of the City shall be authorized to, and shall, make any required findings in order to meet virtually under AB 361.

Section 5. **Severability.** If any provision of this Resolution or the application of any such provision to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Resolution that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Resolution are severable. The City Council declares that the City Council would have adopted this Resolution irrespective of the invalidity of any particular portion of this Resolution.

Section 6. **Effective Date.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 14th day of December 2022.

Steven A. Hernandez
Mayor

ATTEST:

Angela M. Zepeda
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Carlos Campos
City Attorney