



AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY

Meeting Date: May 24, 2022

Subject In-person City Council and Commission meetings

Prepared by: Jon Maginot, Assistant City Manager

Approved by: Gabriel Engeland, City Manager

Attachment(s): None

Initiated by:
City Council

Previous Council Consideration:
None

Fiscal Impact:
None

Environmental Review:
Not applicable

Policy Question(s) for Council Consideration:

- Does the Council wish to resume in person City Council meetings?

Summary:

- The City has held City Council and Commission meetings virtually since March 2020
- Of 14 surrounding jurisdictions, six continue to hold meetings virtually, one has returned to in-person and seven have implemented hybrid meetings

Staff Recommendation:

Provide direction on the return to in-person City Council and Commission meetings

City Manager

GE

Reviewed By:

City Attorney

JH

Finance Director

JE



Subject: In-person City Council and Commission meetings

Purpose

To provide direction on the return to in-person City Council and Commission meetings

Background

On March 17, 2020, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2020-08 ratifying an Emergency Proclamation issued in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. On March 24, 2020, the City Council began holding entirely virtual meetings. Since that date, City Council and Commission meetings have been held virtually according to State Executive Orders and AB 361.

Recently, there has been interest from Council and Commission members to discuss resuming in-person meetings.

Discussion/Analysis

While the rate of vaccination for Santa Clara County is very high (91.2% of all individuals age five or older as of May 4, 2022), and the case and death rates have dropped, there is still cause for concern. The 7-Day Rolling Average of New Cases was significantly higher at the beginning of May 2022 than at the beginning of May 2021 (597 cases vs. 69). Because of the rise in new cases, Santa Clara County has moved from the green zone to yellow zone according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Given this, and that Council has continued to extend the Emergency Declaration, in accordance with AB 361, virtual meetings remain an option for the Council.

There are surrounding agencies that have implemented in-person or hybrid meetings. A review of other agencies within the County, shows that there is a fairly even split between those Councils that are meeting entirely virtually and those that are holding hybrid (in-person and virtual) meetings:

Entirely Virtual	Hybrid	In-Person
Los Gatos Morgan Hill Mountain View Santa Clara County Saratoga Sunnyvale	Campbell Cupertino Los Altos Hills Milpitas Palo Alto San Jose Santa Clara (city)	Gilroy



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Should Council wish to explore in-person or hybrid meetings, Staff recommends continuing with entirely virtual meetings through the July 12, 2022 City Council meeting. This is the last Council meeting before the summer break and would allow for further analysis of whether COVID-19 has truly entered the endemic stage.

Recommendation

The staff recommends provide direction on the return to in-person City Council and Commission meetings.