

**ROCHELLE CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM MEMO
REGULAR MEETING**

SUBJECT: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 2, Article I, Section 2, Relating to Remote Attendance

Staff Contact: City Clerk, Rose Huéramo

Summary: On May 27, 2008, Ordinance 08-3682, as Chapter 2, Article I, Section 2 of the Rochelle Municipal Code. The proposed amendment aims to align our local ordinance with current statutory provisions, allowing for remote attendance when a member has an unexpected childcare obligation. The revised ordinance will enhance flexibility and ensure that City officials can fulfill their duties without compromising family responsibilities. This rule applies to all official council meetings, including regular, special, and committee meetings.

5 ILCS 120/7 is a section of the Illinois Open Meetings Act that addresses attendance at public meetings by means other than physical presence. Here are the key points of subsections (a) and (c):

5 ILCS 120/7(a) This subsection allows a member of a public body to attend a meeting by video or audio conference if a quorum is physically present, and the member is unable to attend due to:

- Personal illness or disability
- Employment purposes or the business of the public body
- A family or other emergency
- ***Unexpected childcare obligations***

A majority of the public body must approve this remote attendance.

Councilmembers wishing to attend a meeting electronically must notify the City Clerk and/or the City Manager at least 24 hours in advance. The notification should include the reason for remote attendance. Councilmembers attending remotely must ensure they have access to the required technology and a stable connection to participate effectively. Councilmembers attending remotely will be counted towards the quorum and will have the same participation rights as those physically present. The City Clerk will document the names of Councilmembers attending remotely and the reasons for their remote attendance in the meeting minutes. Meetings conducted with remote participation will continue to comply with all other applicable Open Meetings Act requirements to maintain transparency and public access.

Recommendation: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 2, Article I, Section 2, Relating to Remote Attendance