ORDINANCE NO. 2722

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2 ("ADMINISTRATION") OF THE CITY CODE CONCERNING MEETINGS OF CITY COUNCIL SO AS TO AUTHORIZE ELECTRONIC MEETINGS UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES

WHEREAS, the City Council, on several occasions in 2020, enacted Emergency Ordinances of statutorily limited time periods, to allow electronic meetings of Council by which the Council could conduct City business during the public health emergency created by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes it to be in the public interest, and in the interest of effective and efficient operation of the City Council and City government, to amend the City Code to provide the Council with the alternative and ability to meet and act by electronic means when necessary and without adoption of emergency ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the Council wishes to amend Chapter 2, Article II, Division 2 of the City Code concerning meetings of City Council, so as to authorize electronic meetings of Council under certain circumstances,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA, IN MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED AND BY THE AUTHORITY THEREOF, THAT:

Division 2 ("Rules of Order and Procedure") of Article II ("City Council") of Chapter 2 ("Administration") of the City Code is hereby amended in Section 2-56 ("Meetings of the council"), to add new subsections (d) and (e) to read as follows:

(d) Upon notice in accord with the notice required for meetings pursuant to the State Freedom of Information Act, the Mayor, upon advice of the City Manager, may designate that, due to emergency or other similar circumstances rendering unsafe or impractical a meeting with all members physically present, a meeting of Council will be held as an electronic meeting with the public and staff allowed to attend, and the Council members allowed to attend, participate and vote, by electronic means (defined as telephonic, broadcast video, computer-based, or other electronic media, or any combination thereof).

(e) The word "present" as used in this Chapter of the Code in the context of the attendance of City Council members, for purposes of constituting a meeting, determining a quorum, or voting, shall include Council members attending electronically in accord with subsection (d).

This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon Council approval on Second Reading.

DONE, RATIFIED AND ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA, ON THIS 19TH DAY OF JANUARY 2021.

CITY OF SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA

David P. Merchant, Mayor

Thomas J. Lowery, Mayor Pro Tem

Calvin K. Hastie, Sr., Councilman

Steven H. Corley, Councilman

Colin C. Davis, Councilman

James B. Blassingame, Councilman

Gifford M. Shaw, Councilman

ATTEST:

Linda D. Hammett, City Clerk

First Reading: January 5, 2021

Second/Final Reading: January 19, 2021