

ORDINANCE NO. 2686

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE CONCERNING PUBLIC MEETINGS AND HEARINGS OF CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

WHEREAS, S.C. Code section 5-7-250(d) authorizes Council to adopt emergency ordinances (with certain limitations not applicable to this Ordinance) for a limited period of up to sixty days; and

WHEREAS, the current coronavirus pandemic has created a public health emergency for our City, our State, and our Nation, such that the Council, in the exercise of its statutory authority and in the public interest, previously enacted Ordinance No. 2665 as an emergency ordinance to, among other things, postpone meetings and hearings of boards and commissions; and

WHEREAS, the Council amended that Ordinance, on April 21, 2020, by enactment of Ordinance No. 2672 to extend the expiration date; and

WHEREAS, the Council now believes that, although the public health emergency presented by the pandemic is continuing, it is in the public interest to provide, on a transitional basis, for an alternative to suspension of public meetings and hearings of City Boards and Commissions by allowing for such public meetings and hearings at which the members and the public are physically present so long as public health concerns are reasonably addressed and reasonable social distancing practices are available and followed; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes that it would be appropriate that the determination as to whether this alternative for public meetings and hearings should be implemented be made as an administrative determination by the City Manager on advice of City staff for the boards and commissions,

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:

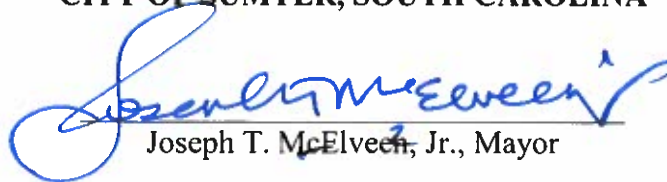
1. Due to public health concerns occasioned by the pandemic emergency, public meetings and hearings of City Boards and Commissions, except as provided in section 2 of this Ordinance, are postponed through August 15, 2020, and until further notice, and are to be rescheduled, if and as needed, to a date and time to be determined and appropriately noticed. Unless the County, by formal action, objects, this provision also shall apply to all joint boards and commissions of the City and County.

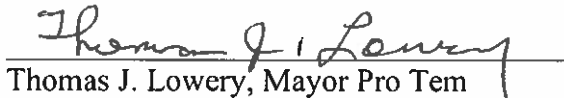
2. As an alternative to postponement and rescheduling, public meetings and hearings of City Boards and Commissions may be held with members and the public physically present if it is determined administratively by the City Manager, in his discretion and on advice of City staff for its boards and commissions, that public health concerns can be reasonably addressed and reasonable social distancing practices are available and followed at the public meeting and hearing. Unless the County, by formal action, objects, this provision also shall apply to all joint boards and commissions of the City and County.

This Ordinance, as an emergency ordinance, shall become effective immediately upon Council approval on one reading, and shall expire automatically on August 16, 2020, unless earlier amended, extended or repealed by action of Council.

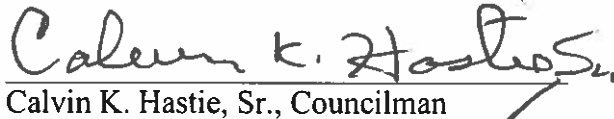
DONE, RATIFIED AND ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA, ON THIS 16TH DAY OF JUNE 2020.

CITY OF SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA


Joseph T. McElvech, Jr., Mayor


Thomas J. Lowery, Mayor Pro Tem


Ione J. Dwyer, Councilwoman


Calvin K. Hastie, Sr., Councilman


David P. Merchant, Councilman


Steven H. Corley, Councilman


Colin C. Davis, Councilman

ATTEST:


Linda D. Hammett, City Clerk

Date of Reading: June 16, 2020