

held without having provided twenty-four hours' notice of such meeting; and

WHEREAS, South Carolina law provides that cities and counties may enact emergency ordinances to meet public emergencies affecting life, health, safety or the property of the people upon a single reading, provided that such ordinance does not levy taxes, grant, renew or extend a franchise or impose or change a service rate, upon the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the city or county council present, and provided that such emergency ordinance shall expire automatically on the sixty-first day following its enactment; and

WHEREAS, Lancaster County Council enacted Emergency Ordinance 2020-1653 at its duly assembled meeting on March 23, 2020, declaring a public health emergency in response to the public safety threat of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, it is hereby determined that there exists a public emergency affecting life, health, and safety of the citizens of Lancaster County, and therefore, it is appropriate and necessary to conduct an emergency meeting in order to enact this Emergency Ordinance providing for the ability to conduct electronic meetings for all Lancaster County Council Meetings, and all other meetings of Lancaster County Boards and Commissions, should said meetings not be cancelled.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED:

Section 1. Standards for Electronic Meetings. The Governing Body and all Lancaster County Boards and Commissions (collectively referred to throughout as "the Governing Body") is hereby authorized to conduct public meetings exclusively in electronic form, provided the medium for such meeting, whether telephonic, broadcast video, computer-based, or other electronic media, or any combination of these, and the conduct of the electronic meeting, allows for the following standards and practices to be met:

(a) At the beginning of any electronic meeting, the presiding officer shall poll the members of the Governing Body to confirm attendance, and any member of the Governing Body attending by way of electronic media shall be considered present for the purposes of constituting a quorum.

(b) Throughout the duration of the electronic meeting, all members of the Governing Body, as well as any officials or staff required to speak at such meeting, must have the capability to be heard at all times by any other member of the governing body and by the general public.

(c) Any vote of the Governing Body must be conducted by individual voice vote of the members of the Governing Body, who shall verbally indicate their vote on any matter by stating "yay" or "nay." All individual votes shall be recorded by the clerk, secretary, or presiding officers, as appropriate.

(d) Meetings shall be recorded or minutes kept in the same manner as an in-person meeting as required by the Act; provided, however, any digital broadcast of the meeting is not required to be kept as a record by the Governing Body.

(e) All members of the governing body, officials, staff, and presenters should identify themselves and be recognized prior to speaking. Members of the Governing Body shall strictly comply with the rules of the Governing Body as they relate to procedural matters in order to preserve order and allow for the effectiveness of electronic meetings.

(f) Electronic executive sessions shall be permitted in accordance with the provisions of the Act and the Governing Body shall properly announce its reason for going into any executive session in conformance with Section 30-4-70 of the Act. Upon the entry into any electronic executive session, meeting minutes need not be kept and the electronic meeting utilized for such executive session may be held by (i) a separate telephonic, broadcast video, computer-based, or other electronic media, or any combination of these wherein the public shall not be permitted to participate, or (ii) on the initial telephonic, broadcast video, computer-based, or other electronic media, or any combination of these, with the implementation of necessary participation or listening restrictions, provided that in either instance all members of the Governing Body must have the capability to be heard at all times.

(g) With respect to any electronic meeting, any public comment periods provided for by local ordinance, resolution, policy, or bylaws are hereby suspended. Members of the public may submit written public comments to the Clerk to Council by mail or email which shall be distributed to the members of the Governing Body.

Section 2. Suspension of Local Provisions. During the period of effectiveness of this Ordinance, any ordinance, resolution, policy, or bylaw of the Governing Body that conflicts with the provisions hereof is suspended and shall be superseded hereby.

Section 3. Effective Date; Expiration. This ordinance will remain in effect for the duration of the Governor's Emergency Declaration or any subsequent extensions thereof unless terminated sooner by Lancaster County Council, or upon the sixty-first (61st) day after the effective date of this Emergency Ordinance in accordance with South Carolina Code of Laws Section 4-9-130.

Effective the 9th day of APRIL, 2020, in the County of Lancaster, South Carolina.

SIGNATURES FOLLOW ON NEXT PAGE.

LANCASTER, SOUTH CAROLINA

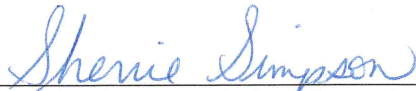
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Harper", written over a horizontal line.

Steve Harper, Chair, County Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Larry Honeycutt", written over a horizontal line.

Larry Honeycutt, Secretary, County Council

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sherrie Simpson", written over a horizontal line.

Sherrie Simpson, Clerk to Council

Approved as to form

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John DuBose", written over a horizontal line.

John DuBose, County Attorney