

No. \_\_\_\_\_

**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE****TO MAINTAIN A TEMPORARILY SUSPENSION OF THE REGULAR OPERATING RULES OF COUNTY COUNCIL MEETINGS TO PROVIDE FOR COUNTY COUNCIL AND OTHER COUNTY RELATED MEETINGS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.**

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a state of emergency to address the existing public health emergency associated with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19); and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the Governor of the State of South Carolina declared a state of emergency in South Carolina pertaining to the COVID-19 public health emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to declaring an initial state of emergency on March 13, 2020, the Governor of the State of South Carolina has issued various Executive Orders initiating, directing, and modifying further extraordinary measures designed to address the significant public health, economic, and other impacts associated with COVID-19 and to mitigate the resulting burdens on healthcare providers, individuals, and businesses in the State of South Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, certain provisions of the Governor's various Executive Orders have been extended by subsequent and distinct emergency declarations set forth in Executive Order Nos. 2020-15, 2020-23, 2020-29, 2020-35, 2020-38, 2020-40, 2020-42, and most recently on July 11, 2020 in Executive Order No. 2020-44; and

**WHEREAS**, the County has been operating under its Emergency Operations Plan since March 17, 2020, when a local state of emergency in Greenville County was declared to address the public health emergency associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and implementation of the Plan was authorized; and

**WHEREAS**, federal and state guidance to mitigate the spread of the virus continue to recommend that in-person events should limit the numbers of persons and continue be conducted with distancing guidelines; and

**WHEREAS**, while it is imperative for local government to operate during States of Emergency, it is equally imperative that local governments continue to take steps to minimize the need for large gatherings in order to protect public health and safety and the health and safety of local government officials and staff; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the National, State and Local States of Emergency related to COVID-19, this Council adopted Emergency Ordinances on April 2, 2020 and June 2, 2020, and Council finds that a public emergency affecting life, health, and safety continues to exist requiring a continuation of remote meeting practices on an as needed basis.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL:**

**Section 1. Temporary Suspension of Certain Council Operating Rules.** County Council Members are permitted to attend County Council meetings, and all County Council Standing Committee meetings, electronically (telephonically or by video conference or other virtual means) in accordance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act. With respect to any electronic meeting, the appearance portion of regular meeting agendas for items not appearing on the agenda provided for by Council Rules is hereby suspended. Citizens may submit written public comments to the Clerk to Council which shall be distributed to the members of County Council.

**Section 2. Greenville County Boards and Commissions Meetings.** County Council further authorizes boards and commissions which County Council has the legal responsibility to either fill or make recommendations to be filled to meet electronically (telephonically or by video conference or other virtual means) in accordance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

**Section 3. Suspension of Conflicting Rules.** During the period of effectiveness of this Emergency Ordinance, any County Council Rules, ordinances, resolutions or policies that conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are suspended and shall be superseded by this Ordinance.

**Section 4. Effective Date; Expiration.** This Ordinance shall be effective upon a single reading and two-thirds vote of County Council, and shall expire on September 20, 2020.

**DONE IN REGULAR MEETING THIS 21<sup>st</sup> DAY OF JULY, 2020.**

**GREENVILLE COUNTY**

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Herman G. Kirven, Jr., Chairman  
County Council

ATTEST:

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Regina McCaskill  
Clerk to Council

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Joseph M. Kernell  
County Administrator