

RESOLUTION NO. 100-20

A RESOLUTION of the City of Richland establishing virtual meeting locations for municipal meetings consistent with *Safe Start – Washington’s Phased Reopening Plan*.

WHEREAS, the City of Richland is a first class charter city organized under Article XI, Section 10 of the Washington State Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) Section 38.52.070 authorizes all political subdivisions of this State to exercise emergency powers within their own jurisdictions under defined circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a respiratory disease that may result in serious illness or death for certain vulnerable members of Richland’s population, and is transmissible from person-to-person; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Public Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public emergency for the novel coronavirus beginning on January 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee declared that a state of emergency exists in all counties in the State of Washington due to the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the State; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Governor Inslee directed closure of all Washington K-12 schools beginning March 17, 2020 to and through April 24, 2020 in an effort to limit the spread of COVID-19. This closure was later extended through the rest of the 2019-2020 school year; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, Richland Mayor Ryan Lukson signed a Proclamation of the City of Richland declaring that a state of emergency exists within the City due to the impacts of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2020, Governor Inslee issued Proclamation No. 20-25, referred to as the *Stay Home – Stay Healthy* order, which directed all people in the State of Washington to cease leaving their homes except for essential activities; and

WHEREAS, also on March 24, 2020, Governor Inslee signed Proclamation No. 20-28, temporarily suspending in-person meetings under the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) as a means by which to slow the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2020, Governor Inslee’s Proclamation No. 20-25.4, which provides a county-by-county phased reopening plan referred to as *Safe Start – Washington’s Phased Reopening Plan*, superseded the governor’s previously issued *Stay Home – Stay Healthy* directive; and

WHEREAS, Benton County is currently in Phase 1 of the *Safe Start* reopening plan, and Governor Inslee's phased reopening approach does not allow public buildings to open until later phases of the plan, currently anticipated to occur in Phase 3; and

WHEREAS, with Proclamation No. 20-28 expected to sunset on July 1, 2020, and given the limitations of the various phases of Governor Inslee's *Safe Start* reopening plan, the City has need to temporarily adjust its meeting locations to accommodate virtual meeting environments until public buildings are allowed to open and gatherings of citizens are authorized; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety and welfare of Richland residents, businesses, visitors and staff is of utmost importance to the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Richland that established meeting locations for municipal meetings held by the City of Richland are hereby replaced by reference to virtual locations until Benton County moves into a phase of the *Safe Start* reopening plan that authorizes public gatherings and the opening of public facilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that nothing herein is intended to limit or otherwise modify, at any time, the ability of one or more members of a Richland board, commission, committee or council from participating remotely in a municipal meeting, so long as such attendance is consistent with the City's policy for remote meeting attendance.

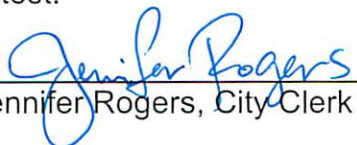
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this temporary designation of virtual locations for municipal meetings shall expire once Benton County moves into a phase of the *Safe Start* reopening plan that authorizes public gatherings and the opening of public facilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

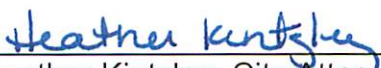
ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Richland, Washington, at a regular meeting on the 7th day of July, 2020.


Ryan Lukson, Mayor

Attest:


Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

Approved as to form:


Heather Kintzley, City Attorney