

**VILLAGE OF WORTH
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-15

“AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A TEMPORARY REMOTE PARTICIPATION
AND PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY FOR THE VILLAGE OF WORTH”

ADOPTED BY THE
VILLAGE BOARD OF THE
VILLAGE OF WORTH
THIS 21 DAY OF APRIL, 2020

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COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

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**AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A TEMPORARY REMOTE PARTICIPATION
AND PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY FOR THE VILLAGE OF WORTH**

WHEREAS, the Village of Worth (“Village”) is an Illinois municipal corporation organized and operating under the Illinois Municipal Code (65 ILCS 5/1, *et seq.*); and

WHEREAS, the Open Meetings Act (5 ICLS 120/1, *et seq.*) (“OMA”) allows members of a public body, including elected officials, to attend meetings of the public body by video or audio conference subject to, among other things: 1) a quorum of the public body being physically present at the meeting; and 2) compliance with the rules adopted by the public body; and

WHEREAS, OMA (5 ILCS 120/2.06) permits any person an opportunity to address public officials during a meeting pursuant to the rules established and recorded by the public body; and

WHEREAS, on or about September 2, 2014, the Village passed Ordinance 2014-31 approving procedures for remote participation in Village meetings in accordance with OMA; and

WHEREAS, on or about August 3, 2016, the Village approved Resolution 2016-07 adopting public comment rules in accordance with OMA; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Governor JB Pritzker (“Governor”) declared all counties in the State of Illinois to be a disaster area (“Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation”) due to the ongoing outbreak of Coronavirus Disease (“COVID-19”); and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order No. 2020-07 suspending OMA’s provisions requiring or relating to in-person attendance by members of a public body during the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation to increase social distancing needed to reduce the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Village President and Trustees of the Village of Worth desire to adopt the Temporary Remote Attendance and Public Comment Policy attached as Exhibit A (“Temporary Rules”) to facilitate access to public meetings while practicing social distancing in accordance with Executive Order No. 2020-07 and such further laws, regulations, and orders that may be implemented during the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, the Village President and Board of Trustees find that adopting the Temporary Rules will promote the public health, safety, and welfare by allowing essential government functions including, without limitation, Village Board meetings, to continue in accordance with the Governor’s Executive Orders, as amended;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Worth, Cook County, Illinois, as follows:

Section 1. RECITALS. The forgoing recitals are hereby incorporated as though fully set forth in this Section 1.

Section 2. RULES APPROVED. The Village Board hereby approves the Temporary Rules attached hereto as Exhibit A. This Ordinance will be automatically and immediately repealed, without need for further action of the Village Board, upon termination of the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation as to Cook County, Illinois.

Section 3. SUPERSEDER. In the event a conflict exists between the terms of this Ordinance and any other ordinance or resolution of the Village, the terms of this Ordinance shall govern.

Section 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication in pamphlet form, in accordance with law.

[Signature page follows]


PASSED this 20 day of April, 2020

AYES: Ryan, Kats, Muersch Jr., Urban, Dziejic, and Packwood (6)

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

Approved by the Village President on April 21, 2020


Mary Werner, Village President

ATTEST:


Bonnie Price, Village Clerk

EXHIBIT A

VILLAGE OF WORTH TEMPORARY REMOTE ATTENDANCE AND PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY

Section 1. Remote Attendance.

- a. For the duration of the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation, as defined in Executive Order 2020-07 and as pertaining to Cook County, Illinois, the provisions of the Remote Participation Policy adopted by Ordinance 2014-31 requiring or relating to in-person attendance by the Village President and Trustees, or any of the Village's subsidiary bodies, boards, commissions, or committees subject to the Open Meetings Act and their subsidiary bodies ("public body") are suspended. Specifically,
 - i. any requirement that a member must be physically present at a meeting is suspended; and
 - ii. a member may be authorized to attend remotely for reasons other than personal illness or disability; employment purposes or the business of the public body; or a family or other emergency.
- b. The public body will seek to postpone consideration of nonessential public business where possible.
- c. When a meeting is necessary, the public body will seek to:
 - i. provide video, audio, and/or telephonic access to meetings to ensure members of the public may monitor the meeting; and
 - ii. update its website and social media feeds to keep the public fully apprised of any modifications to its meeting schedules or the format of its meetings due to COVID-19, as well their activities relating to COVID-19.

Section 2. Public Comment.

- a. For the duration of the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation, as defined in Executive Order 2020-07 and as pertaining to Cook County, Illinois, the provisions of the Public Comment Rules adopted by Resolution 2016-07 are supplemented by the following rules, and, to the extent of any conflict between the following rules and the Public Comment Rules, superseded by the following rules. Public body meetings will remain open and convenient to members of the public for the duration of the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation, while observing the limits on public gatherings and social distancing required by law. The Village of Worth strongly encourages members of the public to attend meetings of its public bodies by video or audio conference. For the safety of the public, elected officials, and staff during meetings, access to Village Hall, including, without limitation, Village Board Chambers, may be limited, or meetings may be held at a location with a larger room, or broadcast in

multiple rooms at a location or locations. The Village will seek to share information about the format of each public body's meetings on the Village's website and social media feeds.

- b. Members of the public may submit public comments by email, voicemail, or by participating in a web conference (*e.g.*, Zoom) the public body uses to conduct that meeting. The agenda for each meeting will include the email address and phone number where public comments can be addressed, and information about any web conference.
- c. Each person may submit one email or voicemail for public comment at each public body meeting, and the Village Clerk will arrange to have the emails read or otherwise delivered into the record for up to five minutes each.
- d. The chair of the meeting may recognize members of the public to submit public comment through any web conference platform used for that meeting. Members of the public will have their microphones muted during the meeting except for the time assigned to them to present public comment. The chair of the meeting will recognize members of the public at the time reserved for public comment.
- e. All previously-adopted public comment rules, including those adopted by Resolution 2016-07, consistent with these rules shall continue to be enforced.