

1 **CITY OF HOMER**  
2 **HOMER, ALASKA**

3 Erickson

4 **ORDINANCE 23-049**

5  
6 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA  
7 STRONGLY ENCOURAGING IN PERSON ATTENDANCE BY BOARD  
8 AND COMMISSION MEMBERS AT THEIR SCHEDULE MEETINGS.  
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10 WHEREAS, Homer City Code (HCC) 2.58.060 addresses telephonic participation by  
11 board and commission members; and  
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13 WHEREAS, HCC 2.58.060(d) directs that the preferred procedure is that all members  
14 make all reasonable effort to be physically present at the designate time, date, and location  
15 within the City for their meeting; and  
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17 WHEREAS, HCC 2.58.060(d) further states that teleconference participation is intended  
18 for good cause which may include, but is not limited to, absences required for work-related  
19 events, family emergencies, medical-related issues, or other good cause. Teleconferencing is  
20 not to be used as a regular means of attendance at meetings except meetings held while an  
21 emergency disaster declaration is in effect and the nature of the disaster significantly impacts  
22 a member's ability to attend a meeting other than by teleconference or other technological  
23 means; and  
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25 WHEREAS, The pandemic is over and people are back at work; and  
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27 WHEREAS, Zoom meetings can create challenges due to connectivity issues, the time  
28 for doing business can take longer, and audio for those participating remotely can be difficult  
29 when mics are not on; and  
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31 WHEREAS, When a majority of the Board and Commission members participate  
32 remotely because of the "convenience" and there are public members in the room, the  
33 engagement with the public is virtually none existent and the long pauses are uncomfortable  
34 and for some irritating; and  
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36 WHEREAS, Honoring each other's time by being present so work can be done in a timely  
37 and effective manner leads to good relationships with all involved.  
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39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Homer, Alaska, strongly  
40 encourages in-person attendance by Board and Commission members at their scheduled  
41 meetings unless telephonic participation is necessary for good cause.  
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43 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 8<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2023.

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CITY OF HOMER

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KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

49 ATTEST:

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52 MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

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54 Fiscal note: N/A

**2.58.060 Teleconferencing.**

- a. This section governs the teleconference participation of board and commission members at all regular meetings, special meetings, and worksessions.
- b. “Teleconference” means remote participation by telephone or web-based format by a member for a meeting of the board or commission which must enable the remote member, for the duration of the meeting, to clearly hear and to be heard by the chairperson, all other members, the staff liaison, the Clerk, and any public in attendance.
- c. “Appointment year” means the 12-month period commencing the first day of the first month after expiration of terms.
- d. The preferred procedure for all meetings is that all members should make all reasonable effort to be physically present at the designated time, date, and location within the City for the meeting. Teleconference participation is intended for good cause which may include, but is not limited to, absences required for work-related events, family emergencies, medical-related issues, or other good cause. Teleconferencing is not to be used as a regular means of attendance at meetings except during events described in subsection (g) of this section. A board or commission member allowed by this section to participate by teleconference shall, while actually on the teleconference, be deemed present at the meeting for all purposes.
- e. Members who cannot be physically present for a meeting shall notify the Clerk in advance no later than two hours prior to the scheduled meeting time of their intent to appear by teleconference.
- f. All members teleconferencing will establish a connection by telephone or web-based format and shall make every effort to participate in the entire meeting. If teleconference participation is interrupted due to poor connectivity and hinders the active participation of a member in the meeting, the chairperson will request a brief recess to allow the member to attempt to reestablish a connection. If the member cannot reestablish a connection after a recess and a quorum remains, the chairperson shall proceed with the meeting and the Clerk shall note in the minutes of the meeting the member’s inability to participate in the meeting due to technical difficulties. If quorum is lost, the chairperson shall adjourn the meeting and any remaining agenda items will carry over to the next regular or special meeting.
- g. Subsection (d) of this section does not apply to meetings held while an emergency disaster declaration is in effect and the nature of the disaster significantly impacts a member’s ability to attend a meeting other than by teleconference or other technological means. [Ord. 21-50(S)(A) § 2, 2021].