

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-17

A RESOLUTION TO URGE GOVERNOR DEWINE AND THE OHIO LEGISLATURE TO EXTEND THE DEADLINE FOR OPERATING PUBLIC MEETINGS ELECTRONICALLY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2020, the Ohio Legislature passed House Bill 197, which includes a provision to: allow state boards & commissions, local & county governments, and higher education boards to operate meetings electronically during the declared emergency but not beyond December 1, 2020, so long as the public is aware and can participate electronically; and

WHEREAS, Ohio has experienced a large spike of positive COVID-19 cases recently; and

WHEREAS, on Oct. 20, 2020, Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine called the virus a "red tide going all the way across Ohio", with approximately 29 Counties in Ohio currently at Level 3 - Very High Risk of exposure; and

WHEREAS, with the increase of the COVID-19 cases and the deadline of December 01, 2020 quickly approaching there is an immediate need to address the safety and security of our Ohio communities by extending this deadline; and

WHEREAS, it has been announced that Senator Fedor has introduced SB 365 to extend this deadline, which is a step in the right direction to preserve the health, safety and general welfare of all Ohioans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Mason, Ohio, six members elected thereto concurring:

Section 1. That this Council hereby urges Governor Mike DeWine and the Ohio Legislature to approve an extension of the operation of public meetings to take place in an electronic setting until the Emergency is lifted.

Section 2. That this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and general welfare and shall be effective immediately upon its adoption. The reason for said declaration of emergency is the need to extend the operation of public meetings to take place in an electronic setting prior to the expiration of December 1, 2020.

Passed this 9th day of November, 2020.

Mayor

Attest:

Clerk of Council