

THE CITY OF NEWPORT

**RESOLUTION**

**OF THE**

**COUNCIL**

**No.**

WHEREAS, the Governor has allowed the executive order allowing virtual meetings of public meetings to expire and all public meetings are now required to be in person based on the Open Meetings Act, and

WHEREAS, City Hall is now open to visitors, the Rhode Island General Assembly is returning to in-person meetings, and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic forced the business of government to move online, and the public has come to expect the ability to view and participate in public meetings virtually, and

WHEREAS, the Attorney General has clearly stated that virtual public participation in government meetings is permitted under the Open Meetings Act, and

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the City Council to make our work as transparent and accessible as possible, which includes meeting people where they are and ensuring our residents' voices are heard, and

WHEREAS, we are facing yet another spike in the pandemic with positive COVID-10 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths are increasing, and

WHEREAS, the American Rescue Plan has allocated millions of dollars in funding to Newport, some of which is eligible to be spent on Capital Projects, NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the City Manager will investigate options for live streaming and virtual public participation of all public City meetings, including the City Council and Boards and Commissions. The City Manager should report the feasible options to the City Council, along with

the potential costs, so that the Council can make  
a determination on how to move forward.

JAMIE BOVA  
CHARLIE HOLDER

IN COUNCIL  
READ AND PASSED

---

SULPICIO C. ALAAN III  
DEPUTY CITY CLERK