

RESOLUTION NO. R-25-20

**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, on November 6, 2020, the number of "red counties" (Level 3 – Very High Risk of exposure) included 56 of the 88 Ohio counties with daily increases in the number of COVID-19 cases being reported; 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 AVON,
COUNTY OF LORAIN AND STATE OF OHIO:**

Section 1 - This Council and the Mayor hereby urges Governor Mike DeWine and the Ohio Legislature to approve an extension of the law making it permissible to conduct public meetings in an electronic setting until the Emergency is lifted.

Section 2 - That it is found and determined that all formal actions of the Council of the City of Avon concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were taken in an open meeting of the Council of the City of Avon and that all deliberations of this City's Council and any of its committees that resulted in those formal actions were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 3 - That this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Avon, the immediate emergency being the necessity to urge 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; therefore, this Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its passage by this Council and approval by the Mayor.

PASSED: _____

DATE SIGNED: _____

BY: _____
Brian Fischer Council President

DATE APPROVED BY THE MAYOR: _____

Bryan K. Jensen, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

John A. Gasior, Law Director

ATTEST:

Barbara J. Brooks
Clerk of Council

POSTED: _____
In five places as
provided by Council

Prepared By:
John A. Gasior, Esq.
Law Director