CITY OF NEW BALTIMORE  
MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN  

RESOLUTION NO. 925  

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR VIRTUAL AND HYBRID MEETINGS  

At the regular meeting of the City Council for the City of New Baltimore held in the Council Chambers at 36535 Green Street, City of New Baltimore, Macomb County, Michigan, 48047, on the 19th day of October, 2020, commencing at 6:00 p.m. 

Present:  

Absent:  

WHEREAS, On October 23, 2020, Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed Senate Bill 1108 into law. This bill allows for remote meetings for any reason through December 31, 2020. Between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021, remote meetings and hybrid meeting are allowed under specific circumstances as outlined in SB 1108; and  

WHEREAS, Michigan’s Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.261 et seq., took effect in 1977, part of a nationwide movement to guaranteed public access to government, particularly public policy decisions, to promote a better informed citizenry; and  

WHEREAS, the OMA was amended by adding section 3a. to include the following:  

• Require a public body to establish procedures to accommodate the absence of a member due to a medical condition or a statewide or locally declared state of emergency that would risk the health and safety of members or the public;  

• Allow a meeting of a public body to be held electronically and specify that a meeting held in that manner would be subject to the same requirements as an in-person meeting;  

• Require an electronically held meeting to be conducted in a manner that permitted two-way communication between members and participants;
• Prescribe notice requirements for meetings held electronically;

• Prohibit a public body from requiring a person to register or provide his or her name as a condition of participating in an electronic meeting; and

• Require members of the public to be excluded from participating in a closed session of a public body held electronically, if that session complied with the Act; and

RESOLVED, that in accordance with the amendment to the OMA, the City of New Baltimore adopts the following procedures:

• Until December 31, 2020, the City of New Baltimore will hold virtual and/or hybrid meetings of the City Council and City Boards and Commissions.

• For each meeting, the City will utilize Zoom to allow for two-way communications.

• All discussion and deliberation during the virtual meeting shall be done in public. Members are prohibited from other means of communication to discuss issues during the meeting (texting, email, etc.)

• The City will continue to post all meetings 18 hours in advance and the Zoom information will be posted and available to the public for their participation.

• As with past practice, the public will have an opportunity for public participation. The public will need to be recognized by the Mayor or Chairperson and may be limited to three minutes. The public will need to identify themselves with their name and address.

• During the course of all virtual meetings, the public will conduct itself appropriately so as not to rise to the level of being disorderly or disruptive. Any person speaking out of turn, using foul language, or otherwise being disorderly or disruptive will be ruled out of order and not permitted to participate.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of New Baltimore adopts the policies and procedures contained in this resolution for all virtual and hybrid meetings of the City Council and the various boards and commissions.

All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution, be and the same are hereby rescinded.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:
RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

___________________________________
John Dupray, Mayor

___________________________________
Marcella Shinska, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION OF CLERK

I hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a Resolution adopted by the Council of the City of New Baltimore, County of Macomb, State of Michigan, at a regular meeting held on October 19, 2020 and that public notice of said meeting was given as required by Act 267, Public Acts of 1976, as amended.

___________________________________
Marcella Shinska, City Clerk