

VILLAGE OF GEORGETOWN, OHIO

ORDINANCE NO. 1279

**AN ORDINANCE TO ALLOW FOR OPEN MEETINGS BY ELECTRONIC,
TELECONFERENCE, WEB, OR VIDEO MEANS AND
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, as a charter village and under its Home Rule authority, the Village of Georgetown can make rules governing the manner in which it conducts business since this has been held to be a power of local self-government; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the Village of Georgetown ("Council") deems it necessary to ensure the continuity of government during an emergency to provide for a means of holding an open meeting other than in person.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Village of Georgetown, Brown County, Ohio, a majority of all members thereof concurring as follows:

SECTION 1: Under its home rule authority, Council deems it necessary to ensure the continuity of government during an emergency to provide a means for holding an open meeting other than in person.

SECTION 2: Council, as well as any Village committees, boards and commissions shall meet in person at any location so designated within the Village unless meeting by electronic, teleconference, web or video means during a declared emergency, or as otherwise permitted by the Charter or under Ohio law.

SECTION 3. A quorum as defined in Section 3.02 of the Village Charter shall include Council members present in person at a meeting or those attending by electronic, teleconference, web or video means during a declared emergency, or as otherwise permitted by the Charter or under Ohio law.

SECTION 4. When Council is holding a meeting by electronic, teleconference, web or video means during a declared emergency, the Mayor or chair of any committee, board or commission may establish or provide an alternative means by which the public can submit questions to, or address the participants of the meeting, in order to comply with Section 3.09 of the Village Charter related to public participation.

SECTION 5. When holding a meeting by electronic, teleconference, web, or video means during an emergency, the Village must do so in such a manner that allows the public to hear and observe the proceeding as it takes place with reasonable notice to the public of the time, place, purpose and means by which the electronic, teleconference, web, or video meeting will occur. Reasonable notice of an electronic, teleconference, web, or video meeting shall be determined by the Clerk of Council as required by the Charter and other legislation of this Council.

SECTION 6: That this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety and general welfare and shall be effective immediately upon its passage. The reason for said declaration of

emergency is to ensure the continuity of government and allow Council to continue to meet during the ongoing public health crisis related to the COVID-19 pandemic and other such emergency situations in the future.

SECTION 7: That the Council hereby finds and determines that all formal actions relative to the passage of this ordinance were taken in an open meeting of the Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of its Committees, if any, which resulted in formal action, were taken in meetings open to the public, in full compliance with applicable legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

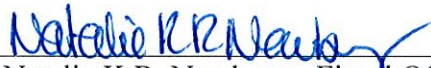
SECTION 8: That this ordinance shall take effect from and after the earliest time allowed by law.

Passed and adopted at a legally convened meeting of Council held on the 14th day of January, 2021.



Dale E. Cahall, Mayor

ATTEST:



Natalie K.R. Newberry, Fiscal Officer