## RESOLUTION BY THE HIGH POINT CITY COUNCIL REGARDING REOPENING PUBLIC MEETINGS TO ALLOW PUBLIC ATTENDANCE

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, Governor Roy Cooper issued Executive Order No. 116 and declared a State of Emergency to coordinate response and protective actions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 which resulted in the issuance of multiple Executive Orders since that time; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States issued an emergency declaration for all states, tribes, territories, and the District of Columbia, retroactive to March 1, 2020, and the President declared that the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States constitutes a national emergency; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the State of Emergency, restrictions were put into place to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public; and

WHEREAS, soon thereafter, the North Carolina General Assembly enacted legislation (N.C. General Statute § 166A-19.24) regarding Remote meetings during certain declarations of emergency which allowed public bodies to meet remotely while restricting the public from attending these meetings due to the COVID-19 mitigation measures in place; and

**WHEREAS**, this newly enacted legislation permitted public bodies within the emergency area to conduct remote meetings in accordance with this section and Article 33C of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes throughout the duration of that declaration of emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of High Point conducted its meetings remotely in accordance with the provisions as set out in N.C. General Statute § 166A-19.24; live-streamed these meetings; and the public was provided a link to listen to the meetings as they were being live-streamed; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with N.C. General Statute § 166A-19.24, provisions were put into place allowing the public the opportunity to submit written comments on the subject matters on the agenda; and

WHEREAS, on May 14, 2021, Governor Roy Cooper issued Executive Order 215 which lifted many of the restrictions that were in place such as face covering requirements in most settings; capacity restrictions in all settings; social distancing requirements in all settings, etc....; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the recent lifting of these restrictions, the High Point City Council now desires to start meeting in-person, allowing staff and the public to attend the meetings in person as well.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of High Point that effective July 1, 2021, all public meetings will be conducted in-person allowing staff and the public to attend in-person.

Adopted by the High Point City Council this 21st day of June 2021.

Jay W. Wagner, Mayor

Attest:

Lisa B. Vierling, City Clerk