

RESOLUTION NO. 146-2020

TITLE: EXTEND HOUSE BILL 197

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, there has been a sharp spike in COVID-19 cases throughout the State of Ohio and as of November 10, 2020, 56 counties out of the 88 counties in the State of Ohio are at Level 3 – Very High Risk of exposure; 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, the State of Ohio, the County of Summit and the City of Barberton remain in a State of Emergency due to the pandemic; 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 ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Barberton, State of Ohio:

SECTION 1. That the Council and Mayor hereby urges 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.

SECTION 2. That it is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this ordinance were taken in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were meetings open to the public in compliance with the law.

SECTION 3. That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, convenience and welfare of the City of Barberton and the inhabitants thereof, for the reason that time is of the essence, and provided it receives the necessary votes required by the City Charter, shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval; otherwise to be in full force and effect from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

Passed _____ 2020

Clerk of Council

President of Council

Approved _____ 2020

Mayor