

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
July 20, 2026

A **Committee of the Whole meeting** was held on July 20, 2026, at Livonia City Hall in the Auditorium.

Committee Members Present: Kayleigh Reid, City Council President
Patrick Brockway, City Council Vice President
Carrie Budzinski, Councilmember
Robin Persiconi, Councilmember
Eileen McDonnell, Councilmember
Martha Ptashnik, Councilmember
Brandon McCullough, Councilmember

Committee Members Absent: None

City Officials and Others Present: Eric Goldstein, City Attorney
Casey O'Neil, Director of IS
Aarica Smith, Director of Government Relations
Kristin Houchins, Director of Communications
Dave Varga, Chief of Staff
Lori Miller, City Clerk

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| 1. The subject matter of conducting Council meetings via Zoom to allow Council meetings, and other meetings under the Open Meetings Act, to be conducted in person in conjunction with a virtual option. (CR 47-26) |
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The meeting was called to order by Council President Kayleigh Reid at 7 pm.

Council President Kayleigh Reid gave a summary of the background of the council's request to the administration to investigate the use of virtual meeting attendance at council meetings. President Reid provided the questions that were sent to the administration in January:

1. What equipment do we need to have zoom meetings? How much would it cost to buy if we do not already have the equipment?
2. Do we need to have an additional staff member present to oversee the zoom?
3. Do zoom meetings interfere with our current live broadcast?
4. Is zoom the best option or have we investigated teams, etc.?
5. Do residents need to notify the city prior to meetings to request zooms or is it feasible to have them every meeting?
6. How are our neighboring communities handling this?
7. What is the cost difference of having zoom only for regular/study's vs regular/study's and committees?
8. Can we have all committee meetings in the auditorium to allow us to use zoom for all of them? (not closed COWs)
9. Can we get a general synopsis of how the zoom meetings went during the pandemic?
10. How much does it cost to have a sign language interpreter at regular and study meetings?
11. Legal - can we limit the use of zoom for those seeking access based on accessibility need but require petitioning businesses and similar corporate entities/ reps to be in person?
12. Legal - hypothetical, if there are limitations (staff, funding, etc), can we legally offer zoom (or similar service) for the Regular meeting but not the Study meeting? Essentially, does it have to be all or nothing?

City Attorney Eric Goldstein responded to the questions and gave an overview of what they recommend. Currently, the city is within compliance of ADA regulations, however, if we did want to offer virtual attendance options, he recommends city council follow the Ann Arbor model. Currently, the city works with accommodation requests and up until the meeting, had not received a formal request for virtual attendance.

Mr. Goldstein spoke about the cost of equipment that is needed to properly run the virtual meeting option, and it is estimated to cost \$40,000 for a tri-caster that will allow uninterrupted attendance by those that are virtual.

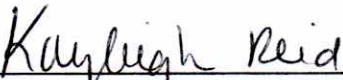
Councilwoman Persiconi put forward a resolution for the law department to start drafting an ordinance that would allow virtual attendance to regular and study council meetings following the Ann Arbor model.

The committee recommends:

1. Start with regular and study council meetings, follow the Ann Arbor model, allowing audience to virtually participate for audience communication only
2. Request upgraded equipment be purchased to allow seamless participation

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Kayleigh Reid, City Council President

cc: City Attorney