



**DISCUSSION ITEM**

**Agenda Item # 6**

**AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY**

**Meeting Date:** September 21, 2021

**Subject:** Response to AB 361 – City Council and Commission meetings

**Prepared by:** Jon Maginot, Deputy City Manager

**Approved by:** Gabe Engeland, City Manager

**Attachment(s):**

1. None

**Initiated by:**

Staff

**Previous Council Consideration:**

None

**Fiscal Impact:**

None

**Environmental Review:**

Not applicable

**Policy Question(s) for Council Consideration:**

- Does the City Council wish to continue virtual Council and Commission meetings or resume in-person meetings?

**Summary:**

- AB 361 was signed into law on September 15, 2021 and allows agencies under an emergency declaration to continue holding virtual meetings
- The City remains under an emergency declaration due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Provide direction to staff on the holding of City Council and Commission meetings

---

City Manager

GE

**Reviewed**

City Attorney

JH

Finance Director

JM

---



**Subject:** Response to AB 361 – City Council and Commission meetings

---

**Purpose**

To provide direction on City Council and Commission meetings

**Background**

On August 24, 2021, the City Council voted unanimously that upon expiration of State Executive Orders pertaining to virtual meetings, the City Council would hold Council meetings in the new Community Center until the City Council Chambers are completed. This action was in response to the pending expiration of Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20. These orders suspended certain elements of the Brown Act and specifically allow for Legislative Bodies (City Council, Commissions, Committees, etc.) to hold meetings entirely electronically with no physical meeting place.

On June 11, 2021, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-08-21 which states that the provisions in Executive Order N-29-20 suspending certain elements of the Brown Act will continue to apply through September 30, 2021. Based on this the City Council took the action noted on August 24, 2021.

**Discussion/Analysis**

On September 15, 2021, Governor Newsom signed AB 361 into law. This bill leaves existing Brown Act teleconferencing rules in place, but would except an agency from complying with teleconferencing rules during a declared state of emergency or local emergency. The City of Los Altos is currently under a state of emergency proclamation due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under AB 361, the City has the option to continue holding virtual meetings as has been done for the past 18 months. AB 361 does sunset on January 31, 2022.

Based on the passage of AB 361, staff is requesting direction from Council on whether to continue holding virtual meetings or to begin holding in-person meetings in the new community center.

**Alternatives**

- 1) Continue holding City Council meetings virtually
- 2) Hold in-person City Council meetings in the new Community Center

**Recommendation**

The staff recommends Council discuss the alternatives and provide direction on the holding of City Council meetings.