MEMORANDUM

FROM: Mayor Ron Bigelow    *Ron Bigelow*
TO: West Valley City Council, City Manager, and Executive Staff
DATE: September 20, 2020
RE: Electronic Meetings of the West Valley City Council

In accordance with Section 52-4-207 of the Open and Public Meetings Act, and acting as the chairman of the City Council, I hereby authorize the City Council to conduct electronic meetings without establishing an anchor location. This authorization is based on the finding that conducting electronic meetings with an anchor location would present a substantial risk to the health and safety of those who would be present at the anchor location. This determination is based on facts including, but not limited to, the following:

1) The state of Utah continues to experience significant spread of COVID-19. Hundreds of additional cases are reported each day.
2) Salt Lake County Health Department small area statistics show that West Valley City is particularly impacted by COVID-19, with prevalence of COVID-19 substantially higher than in other small areas in the County.
3) Many participants in City Council meetings, including but not limited to elected officials and staff, are at elevated risk for severe complications from COVID-19. Current state guidance recommends electronic participation for all such individuals.
4) Participation at an anchor location would require several members of the public to use the same equipment to participate in the full meeting, which would require sanitizing between speakers, as well as social distancing measures that would limit the capacity for onsite participation. By contrast, the electronic meeting is much better suited to handle larger numbers of observers and participants without risk to those involved.

This determination shall remain effective for thirty days following the date of this memorandum. During that time, this memorandum and information concerning public participation shall be made available to the public in accordance with the requirements of the Open and Public Meetings Act.