

BOROUGH OF COALDALE

RESOLUTION NO. 2017- 11

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF COALDALE, SCHUYLKILL COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING PRIOR RESOLUTIONS AND ESTABLISHING A POLICY REGARDING COUNCIL MEMBER TELEPHONIC PARTICIPATION IN COALDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL VOTING MEETINGS

WHEREAS, the Coaldale Borough Council believes it necessary to establish a policy regarding council member participation in Borough Council voting meetings to permit council members who are unable to attend a voting meeting to participate therein via telephone

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved and enacted by the Coaldale Borough Council that any prior Resolutions establishing a telephone participation Policy for Borough Council

Members be and is hereby amended as follows:

1- Participation in Voting Meetings by council members will only be permitted if at least four council members are physically present at the Voting Meeting. If there are not at least four council members present, it will be deemed not to be a quorum and no business requiring a quorum may take place.

2- Participation telephonically may be used only when a council member knows that he/she will be out of town on business or vacation or otherwise will have a legitimate reason for not being able to attend a Voting Meeting in person.

3- While as much advance notice as possible of the desire of the council member to participate in a Voting Meeting is encouraged, the council recognizes that it is not always possible to provide an extensive amount of advance notice. However, due to the special technology set up requirements for such telephonic participation, at least twenty-four hours prior notice of such a request to participate telephonically must be given. Such a request should be given either to the Council President or the Borough Secretary.

4- Assuming that the appropriate amount of advance notice has been provided, participation telephonically may only be used if the equipment to enable such participation will be available for use during the Voting Meeting and can be set up to

enable the other council members and the public to hear the phone participant and for the council member on the phone to hear all proceedings at the meeting.

5- Participation telephonically only may be used if every council member desiring to use it for that particular Voting Meeting (and who has followed these procedures) is allowed to do so.

6- A Council member participating by telephone may vote on a matter before the council only if such council member has listened to all council deliberations on the telephone prior to casting his/her vote. The chair of the meeting must inquire whether or not each council member participating by telephone was able to hear all such deliberations before allowing each such council member to cast his/her vote. If, in the reasonable opinion of the chair of the meeting, a council member participating via the telephone could not be heard or could not hear the council's deliberations on an issue, that council member may not cast a vote.

7- If a council member participating by telephone must terminate the telephone connection prior to the end of the Voting meeting but later calls back in and is reconnected to the Voting meeting, that council member may not cast a vote on the issue for which he/she did not hear the entire deliberation, but all votes cast prior to the termination of the telephone connection shall count. Once reconnected to the meeting the council member may then participate in the vote on all matters for which he/she is able to hear and participate in all deliberations.

8- The right to participate telephonically may be used by a council member no more than four (4) times per each calendar year.

9. This policy shall be available for review at the Borough office.

RESOLVED and **ADOPTED** this 13 day of June, 2017 by

a vote of the Coaldale Borough Council at a regular monthly meeting held this date.

COALDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

by Angela Krapp
President

ATTEST: Suzanne Whalder
Secretary