

RESOLUTION NO. _____

Resolution Finding Need to Conduct Energy and Climate Change Task Force Meeting Electronically

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, Governor Ralph S. Northam issued Executive Order Fifty-One declaring a state of emergency for the Commonwealth of Virginia arising from the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order Fifty-One acknowledged the existence of a public health emergency which constitutes a disaster as defined by Virginia Code § 44-146.16 arising from the public health threat presented by a communicable disease anticipated to spread; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency, beginning March 1, 2020, in response to the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, effective at 5:00 p.m. and extending through June 10, 2020, at 5:00 p.m., or as may be amended by the City Council, the City Manager, in his capacity as Director of Emergency Management, issued a Declaration of Local Emergency applicable throughout the entire City of Alexandria, Virginia (the “City”), pursuant to authority granted pursuant to City Code Section 4-3-5, Virginia Code Sections 44-146.21 and 15.2-1413, which City Declaration was unanimously consented to the by the City Council on March 14, 2020, pursuant to City Resolution No. 2928, as required by applicable law; on June 9, 2020, the City Manager extended such Declaration of Local Emergency through September 30, 2020 which extension was unanimously consented to by the City Council on June 9, 2020; on September 22, 2020, the City Manager extended such Declaration of Local Emergency through March 31, 2021 which extension was unanimously consented to by the City Council on September 22, 2020; on March 23, 2021, the City Manager extended such Declaration of Local Emergency through September 30, 2021 which extension was unanimously consented to by the City Council on March 23, 2021; (the “City Declaration”); and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that COVID-19 constitutes a real and substantial threat to public health and safety and constitutes a “disaster” as defined by Virginia Code § 44-146.16 being a “communicable disease of public health threat;” and

WHEREAS, effective July 1, 2021, the Virginia General Assembly adopted and the Governor signed, Code of Virginia amendments (Virginia Acts of Assembly Chapter 490), to Section 2.2-3708.2, that expressly authorizes “Any public body... may meet by electronic communication means without a quorum of the public body physically assembled at one location when the Governor has declared a state of emergency in accordance with § 44-146.17 or the locality in which the public body is located has declared a local state of emergency pursuant to § 44-146.21, provided that (i) the catastrophic nature of the declared emergency makes it impracticable or

unsafe to assemble a quorum in a single location and (ii) the purpose of the meeting is to address the emergency provide for the continuity of operations of the public body or the discharge of its lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities... and the discharge of its lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities” among other provisions; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Energy and Climate Change Task Force of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, hereby finds that the nature of the declared emergency makes it both impracticable and unsafe for the Energy and Climate Change Task Force to assemble in a single location for its meeting on this date to discuss and transact the business of the City listed on the docket; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Energy and Climate Change Task Force hereby finds that the items on the docket for this date are statutorily required or necessary to continue operations of the public body and the discharge of its lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities.

Adopted: 2/1/2022

Mary Harris, Co-Chair

ATTEST:

Marian Pegram, Co-Chair