Holly Licht

From: Matthew Dregne <MDREGNE@staffordlaw.com>
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2020 7:06 PM
To: Tim Swadley
Cc: Rodney J. Scheel; Holly Licht; Jamin Friedl
Subject: Virtual Meetings post COVID

Hi Tim,

In my opinion, which is shared by my municipal law colleagues (and the League of Wisconsin Municipalities), virtual meetings are lawful under Wisconsin's Open Meetings Law, so long as they are accessible to the public and otherwise comply with the Open Meetings Law. In addition, it is also lawful to hold an in-person meeting, and allow one or more members of the body (or the public) to appear virtually. The details should be addressed in the City's local rules of procedure. It is likely that we will need to update the Common Council's rules of procedure on this point.

As an aside, I have heard many comments indicating that virtual meetings have made meetings more accessible to the public, rather than less accessible.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Matt

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