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News Release

Commission meeting to be conducted by virtual teleconference

Virtual meeting planned due to health concerns; public can log in to view it

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. (March 17, 2020) — Due to the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Tuesday night's City Commission meeting also will be available to view online as a virtual teleconference.

The meeting still will occur as scheduled at **5:30 p.m. today** in the commission room at City Hall, located at 118 W. Central Ave. However, multiple personnel will be logging in remotely to participate.

Citizens and the media also may log in to observe the meeting on a computer, tablet or smartphone by going to <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/472549661>.

Alternatively, they also can dial in using a telephone by calling [\(786\) 535-3211](tel:(786)535-3211). They will need to enter the meeting access code — **472-549-661** — followed by the pound (#) sign.

In times of crisis, there is no provision to suspend the Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA), which the Kansas Attorney General's Office reaffirmed this week. The City of Arkansas City remains fully committed to transparency and public participation in all of its Governing Body meetings and decisions.

Meetings of the City Commission must be open to the public. However, a meeting still can meet the requirements of KOMA without all of the members of the City Commission being in the same room.

If there is a legitimate public health reason for a remote meeting, the meeting must be composed of a majority of the City Commission. Each member must be able to interact with and hear the other members at all times, and the public must be able to have access to the meeting.

If developing events dictate that any future meetings need to be held entirely in this online digital format, the City will strive to provide sufficient public notice of this fact. Please monitor local media and the City's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/arkcity) for updates should this need to occur later.

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For immediate release