By Supervisors Nicholson and Czarnezki File No. 20-570

**A RESOLUTION/ORDINANCE**

Amending Chapter 1 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances to modernize the County Board of Supervisors with the use of remote meetings and updating other rule terminology to reflect current practice

WHEREAS, Chapter 1 of the Milwaukee County General Ordinances (MCGO) outlines the rules of the County Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, since March 18, 2020, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors has conducted all committee and board meetings through video conference as the COVID-19 pandemic has prohibited in-person meetings; and

WHEREAS, in a memo dated March 13, 2020, and hereto attached to this file, the Office of the Corporation Counsel opined that the County Board and its standing committees “…can legally convene remotely via telephone conference or video conference during this declared public health emergency”; and

WHEREAS, this authority to meet via telephone or video conference also extends to periods when there may not be a public health emergency based on an Attorney General Opinion cited in the memo; and

WHEREAS, the Milwaukee County Board is taking steps to enhance the video conference experience for those participating in the meeting, watching online, or for potential in-person attendance; and

WHEREAS, the MCGO should be updated to allow officials to attend public meetings remotely provided that the meeting is live-streamed, televised live, or otherwise broadcast live to the public; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 1 of the MCGO – Rules of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, also has some incorrect naming or process issues that have come to light that are corrected as part of the proposed ordinance amendments; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors hereby amends Chapter 1 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances by adopting the following:

**AN ORDINANCE**

The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors does ordain as follows:

**Section 1. Chapter 1.01 of the Milwaukee County Ordinances is amended to create Section 1.01(d) as follows:**

1.01. - Meetings.

(a)  *Annual meeting.* The statutory or annual meeting of the county board shall be convened on the Monday next succeeding the regularly scheduled monthly meeting on the first Thursday in November for the purpose of considering reports of the committee on finance on new positions for the next fiscal year as well as recommendations for amendments to the executive's budget.

(b)  *[Regular meetings.]* Regular meetings of the county board shall convene at 9:30 a.m. unless otherwise designated. In order to provide an advanced schedule of regular meeting dates, a regular meeting of the county board shall be scheduled generally on a Thursday within each month, except when otherwise designated by the county board meeting schedule, these rules or by action of the county board. August will not have a regularly scheduled meeting of the county board. November will have a regularly scheduled monthly meeting on the first Thursday preceding the annual meeting. The county board chairperson shall provide to the county board, following the first meeting of the board after the election of supervisors, a schedule of county board meetings for the remainder of the year and, by September 15, a schedule of county board meetings for the remainder of the term, up to and including the first (organizational) meeting of the next term. The digest (agenda) for each county board meeting shall be established by the county board chairperson or, in his or her absence, by the first vice chairperson or the second vice chairperson.

(c)  *Special meetings.* A special meeting shall be held only when requested by a majority of the members of the county board, such request to be in writing, addressed and delivered to the county clerk, who shall note the time of such delivery to him/her on such request. Such request shall specify the time and place of such meeting, which shall not be less than forty-eight (48) hours after the delivery of such notice to the county clerk. The request shall identify the purpose of such meeting and shall include reference to such other items as may be required by law, ordinance or board action. Upon receiving such request, the county clerk shall forthwith give notice of the time and place of such meeting by mail to each member of the county board. If the request is delivered to the county clerk less than seventy-two (72) hours before the time of such meeting, the county clerk, in addition to the mailing hereinbefore referred to, shall telephone each supervisor; if any supervisor is not contacted by telephone, the county clerk shall furnish to the sheriff of the county a copy of such notice of time and place of meeting for delivery to unnoticed members of the county board. The sheriff shall thereafter furnish to the county clerk an affidavit of delivery of such notice. The inability of the sheriff to deliver such notice to a supervisor shall not be deemed a defect to the notice requirement under this subsection. Any special meeting may be adjourned from time to time by a vote of a majority of all members of the county board.

(d) *Remote meetings.* The County Board may convene and meet to conduct business remotely via telephone conference, video conference or other electronic communication provided that the meeting is live-streamed, televised live or otherwise broadcast live to the public.

**Section 2. Chapter 1.02(c) of the Milwaukee County Ordinances is amended as follows:**

(c)  *Sergeant at arms; duties.*

(1)  The chairperson of the county board shall request the sheriff ~~designate~~ provide for each meeting a ~~staff member(s)~~ sheriff deputy to serve as sergeant at arms. The designated sergeant at arms shall attend meetings of the county board and~~, under direction of the chairperson,~~ preserve order and decorum. ~~The chairperson of the county board may request the sheriff to detail a deputy sheriff to act as sergeant at arms when, in the discretion of the chairperson, such action is deemed appropriate.~~

(2)  It shall be the duty of the chairperson or the sergeant at arms to exclude from within the bench of the county board room, during its sessions, all persons except the county clerk, county clerk staff, research services staff, county board staff, corporation counsel, or designees of such persons, former members, and reporters, photographers and camera operators for the public press, radio and television, provided they observe general rules of decorum, unless such persons receive permission to be on the floor by the chairperson. However, none of those persons so designated shall have the privilege of the floor or the hall area immediately behind the county board room if registered as a lobbyist or directly or indirectly engaged in defeating or promoting any legislation before the county board. Sitting on the railing in the county board room or placing items on the railing is not permitted (except the placement of county board digests, amendments, or other pertinent information as permitted by the county board chairperson) during county board meetings and any persons engaging in such conduct shall be asked to cease such action or be removed from the county board room by the chairperson or the sergeant at arms.

**Section 3. Chapter 1.03(c) of the Milwaukee County Ordinances is amended as follows:**

**1.03 – Opening of meeting.**

(c)  *Order of business.* The order of business shall be as follows:

(1)  Roll call

(2)  Presentations by supervisors

(3)  Presentation of petitions and communications

(4)  Required appearance of county employees or officers, including the county executive, to answer questions of the county board of supervisors

(5)  Notice of claims

(6)  Files referred to standing committees

(7)  Correction and approval of the Journal of Proceedings

(8)  Unfinished business

(9)  Reports of county officers

(10)  Resolutions and ordinances by and from standing committees

(11)  Resolutions and ordinances by and from select committees

(12)  County board citations ~~and certificates~~

(13)  Resolutions and ordinances presented under suspension of the rules

(14)  Files not referred to standing committees

(15)  Announcements and remarks under special privilege

(16)  Adjournment

**Section 4. Chapter 1.04(c)** **of the Milwaukee County Ordinances is amended as follows:**

1.04 – Voting.

(c)  *Roll call votes obligatory; when.* When a roll call is ordered by the chairperson, the county clerk shall call the roll in alphabetical order, with the chairperson voting last, and give to the chairperson the final number of those voting on each side. Debate shall be closed with the commencement of the roll call and no motion shall be received until after the result of the voting is announced by the chairperson. All members shall be in the board room when voting, or present if appearing remotely per 1.01(d) or 1.13(e). A roll call vote must be taken on:

(1)  Each committee report, and any proposed amendment(s) thereto. A motion to place on file may be by voice vote by unanimous consent;

(2)  Any action under suspension of rules;

(3)  Any action to suspend the rules, unless unanimous consent be granted;

(4)  Elections to offices and positions to be filled by the county board unless otherwise provided by law.

**Section 5. Chapter 1.05(a) of the Milwaukee County Ordinances is amended as follows:**

1.05. - Speaking at meetings.

(a)  *Recognition before speaking.* When any member is about to speak in debate or present any document to the county board, he/she shall rise in his/her place and respectfully address the chairperson. Upon being recognized, such member shall not be interrupted except by a call to order. If called to order by the chairperson, he/she shall take his/her seat and shall not proceed without leave of the chairperson, unless granted leave by appeal from the decision of the chairperson, sustained by the county board. When more than one (1) member desires to speak in debate or make any motion, the first member to rise shall be recognized by the chairperson. If a member is called to order at any time and refuses to take his/her seat after a request by the chairperson, or after being seated, engages in offensive or disruptive conduct, any other member may move to have him/her ejected from the county board room until such time as he/she complies with the rules of the county board and if such motion be adopted, he/she shall be removed by the sergeant at arms. The motion to eject shall be decided without debate. If a member or meeting participant is appearing remotely per 1.01(d) or 1.13(e), the chairperson shall promulgate the method to be recognized based on the technology being used. The chairperson shall also fulfill the duties of the sergeant at arms for any matter related to a member or meeting participant appearing remotely.

**Section 6. Chapter 1.06** **of the Milwaukee County Ordinances is amended as follows:**

1.06. - Departure from meeting.

No member present at any meeting of the county board shall withdraw from the county board room without permission from the chairperson. If the member is appearing remotely per 1.01(d) or 1.13(e), the member must obtain permission from the chairperson to voluntarily disconnect from the mode of communication used to participate in the meeting. No member, staff person or other individual allowed on the floor shall walk between the chairperson and a member who has the floor.

**Section 7. Chapter 1.08 of the Milwaukee County Ordinances is amended as follows:**

1.08 – Specific motions.

(c)  *Suspension of rules.* Except as hereinafter provided in this subsection, the rules of the county board may be suspended by unanimous consent of the members present or, if there is objection to the suspension of the rules, by the affirmative vote of two-thirds ( 2/3 ) of the members present. Sections 1.14(b) and 1.15 of the Code shall not be suspended except by unanimous consent of the members present. Citations ~~and certificates~~ of congratulations, commendation or condolence shall not require suspension of rules provided the provisions set forth in section 1.09(g)(2) of the Code are complied with.

**Section 8. Chapter 1.09 of the Milwaukee County Ordinances is amended as follows:**

1.09 – Resolutions and ordinances.

(5)  Except for those resolutions and ordinances which are introduced subsequent to January 1 of an election year, all resolutions and ordinances pending before a committee of the county board shall be considered to have been placed on file at the end of the term of office of the county board. A listing of all such resolutions and ordinances to be placed on file in this manner shall be distributed to all county board supervisors by the ~~county clerk chief committee clerk~~ legislative services division in January of the final year of the term.

**Section 9. Chapter 1.11(c)(1) of the Milwaukee County Ordinances is amended as follows:**

1.11 – Standing committees.

(c)  The duties of such committees shall be to have charge of the several matters hereinafter designated but such enumeration shall not be exclusive:

(1)  Committee on personnel. All matters affecting reclassification and compensation, hours, benefits and conditions of employment of county offices and employe personnel, and the classification and pay of additional positions; departmental policy of the civil service commission; administration of employes' award program. (The chairperson of the committee on personnel may appoint an advisory committee consisting of the county executive or designee, the corporation counsel or designee, the director of the department of administrative services or designee, the director of human resources or designee, and a member of the committee to assist in the administration of the employes' award program.)

Departmental policy of the department of human resources and division~~s~~ of employe benefits ~~and labor relations~~.

**Section 10. Chapter 1.11(c)(2) of the Milwaukee County Ordinances is amended as follows:**

1.11 – Standing committees.

(2)  Committee on finance. (Seven (7) members.)

1.  Departmental policy of: the general office of the county executive, general office of the county board, department of administrative services (divisions of administration and ~~fiscal affairs~~ performance, strategy, and budget, information management services, procurement, and risk management), office of the comptroller, and county treasurer.

**Section 11. Chapter 1.11(c)(4) of the Milwaukee County Ordinances is amended as follows:**

1.11 – Standing committees.

(4)  *Committee on health and human needs.*

1.  Departmental policy of the department of health and human services, including the divisions of behavioral health, housing, economic support, delinquency and court services, disabilities services, management services, and director's office.

2.  All policy matters related to the office for persons with disabilities in the department of administrative services.

3.  All matters pertaining to the department on aging.

~~4.  All matters pertaining to the department of family care.~~

~~5~~ 4.  All matters pertaining to the county executive's veterans service office.

**Section 12. Chapter 1.11(c)(6) of the Milwaukee County Ordinances is amended as follows:**

1.11 – Standing committees.

(6)  *Committee on parks, energy and environment.*

1.  Departmental policy of department of parks, recreation and culture, zoological gardens, public museums, cultural activities (including funds for the arts), university extension service and the ~~environmental section~~ office of sustainability of the department of administrative services.

**Section 13. Chapter 1.13(c) of the Milwaukee County Ordinances is amended as follows:**

1.13 – Committee meetings.

(c)  *Committee general procedure.* All meetings of a committee shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of ss. 19.81—19.98, Wis. Stats. The attendance of a majority of the members thereof shall be requisite for the transaction of business of a committee. A committee member who participates in a meeting of the committee by telephone, video conference, or by other means of telecommunication or electronic communication is considered present. Without a majority in attendance, a committee may consider informational items only. Committee agenda are to be prepared so that members of the county board and other interested parties will receive the agenda by United States, electronic or interoffice mail at least twenty-four (24) hours before the scheduled committee meeting. A committee chairperson must schedule a county board referred item within a maximum of two (2) regular county board committee cycles. Once scheduled and publicly noticed, an item may only be withdrawn according to the provisions of section 1.13(d)(8). If the item is withdrawn by sole action of the committee chair pursuant to section 1.13(d)(8), the item must be placed on the committee agenda for the next regularly scheduled meeting and may not be withdrawn again.

The committee coordinator shall enter in appropriate files kept for that purpose, a complete record of all such committee meetings, including attendance, appearances for and against pending matters, and minutes of the proceedings, including all motions made and by whom, how each member voted upon each matter considered, together with the final action by the committee thereon. All actions taken by the committee shall be by roll call vote, however a motion to place on file may be taken by voice vote without objection. No action shall be taken on any proposed ordinance unless it be in written form before the committee.

Except as herein provided and so far as applicable, the rules of procedure of the county board shall apply to committee meetings. Minority rules shall not apply to committee meetings.

After the conclusion of the committee meeting, the committee coordinator shall prepare a separate, written report of the action of the committee upon those matters considered by it which require county board approval, for submission to the county board for action of that body. Such report shall be made up in such manner that the county board may take action upon it as a whole, or may set aside any portion of it for separate action. Any member of any committee may make a minority report of said committee on any recommendation to the board contained in the committee report. Such minority report must be presented when the matter is considered at the meeting of the county board.

Except as provided in the preceding sentence, it is the duty of the committee to make a report to the county board on matters referred to such committee with some definite recommendation for disposition of such matters.

When members of a committee or joint committee present at any meeting thereof, are, by recorded vote, evenly divided as to the disposition to be made of any subject matter referred to and pending before such committee or joint committee, such subject matter shall be returned to the next meeting of the county board without recommendation and the committee or joint committee shall thereupon be deemed to be discharged from consideration thereof.

**Section 14. Chapter 1.13(e) of the Milwaukee County Ordinances is created as follows:**

1.13 – Committee meetings.

(e) *Remote meetings.* Standing committees may convene and meet to conduct business remotely via telephone conference, video conference or other electronic communication provided that the meeting is live-streamed, televised live or otherwise broadcast live to the public.

**Section 15. Chapter 1.16(c) and 1.16(d) of the Milwaukee County Ordinances is amended as follows:**

1.16 – Requests relating to personnel matters.

~~(c)~~*~~Review by county board staff.~~* ~~If the personnel request is for new positions in the department of administrative services, it shall also be reviewed by the county board staff and a recommendation regarding the necessity for the requested positions submitted to the committee on finance. If the request relates to reclassifications, reallocations, appointments at an advanced step of the pay range and advancements within the pay range in the department of human resources, it shall be reviewed by the county board staff and processed in a manner consistent with the authority granted to the director of human resources under chapter 17 of the Code.~~

(~~d~~c)  *Urgent requests.* Any personnel request requiring county board action which is considered sufficiently urgent and necessary to require that it become effective in the current year, shall not become effective unless an ordinance or resolution relating thereto is adopted by an affirmative vote of two-thirds ( 2/3 ) or more of the members-elect of the county board. If such ordinance or resolution is not adopted by such vote, but nevertheless receives the affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum of the county board, the provisions of section 17.06 of the Code shall apply. Any ordinance or resolution relating to a personnel request which requires an appropriation of funds must contain a provision for the necessary transfer of funds.

**Section 16. Chapter 1.18 of the Milwaukee County Ordinances is amended as follows:**

1.18. - Communications, reports, departmental requests, reference files.

(a)  *Reference of communications and reports.* All communications to the county board, reports of county officers, requests of county officers, requests of department heads and employes, and communications from the county executive, which are not in response to an existing county board file, or a previous request from a committee, shall be addressed to the county board chairperson who may ~~shall, within five (5) business days of receipt of the document,~~ refer said document to the appropriate standing committee(s) for a report. The date upon which the chairperson refers the said document(s) shall be deemed as the official referral date to the committee(s). Said action by the county board chairperson shall be deemed as authorization to the appropriate standing committee chairperson(s) to schedule the matter for review. If the chairperson does not refer the communication, report or request to the appropriate standing committee, that was submitted in compliance with the deadline and/or procedure established by the chairperson, ~~within five (5) business days after receipt,~~ that communication, report or request shall automatically be placed on the agenda of the county board at the next meeting as an item not yet referred. ~~presentation of communications that is published in the official proceedings of the county board at the next meeting for referral to the appropriate standing committee.~~ Any member of the county board may make a non-debatable motion to refer a file not yet referred by the chairperson to a standing committee by a majority vote of members present. Items that are for information only in response to an existing county board file or a previous request from a committee shall be addressed to the respective committee chairperson and a copy shall be provided to the county board chairperson. Except for those communications and reports which are introduced subsequent to January 1 of an election year, all communications and reports pending before a committee of the county board shall be considered to have been placed on file at the end of the term of office of the county board. A listing of all such communications and reports to be placed on file in this manner shall be distributed to all supervisors by the legislative services division ~~county board chief committee clerk~~ in January of the final year of the term.

(b)  *Copy of communications and reports to legislative services and research services divisions ~~chief committee clerk~~.* A copy of all such communications and reports, submitted to the county board chairperson, shall also be transmitted to the legislative services and research services divisions ~~county board chief committee clerk or other committee clerks~~ via the electronic legislative file system used by the county board.

(c)  *Reference files.* The county board chairperson~~, upon request from the chief committee clerk,~~ shall be authorized to establish reference files to be utilized by the standing committees for submission of recommendations to the county board concerning matters referred to the committees on an ongoing or continuous basis, or for receipt of informational reports from departments.

**Section 17. Chapter 1.21 of the Milwaukee County Ordinances is amended as follows:**

1.21. - Consideration and confirmation of appointments.

Every nomination by the county executive for appointment of individuals set forth under section 17.30, County Ordinances, or appointment by the county executive or county board chairperson of a member of a board or commission required to be confirmed by the county board shall, when presented to the county board by the county executive, be referred to the standing committee having jurisdiction over the office, board or commission. At least five (5) business days prior to the date of the meeting at which the appointment is to be considered, the nominee shall be notified in writing by the appointing authority to appear before the committee. Confirmation of such appointment shall be determined by roll call vote. The foregoing requirement of references shall not apply to members of the county board nor to members of any board or commission nominated for reappointment to their own position. ~~The county clerk shall notify the county executive or county board chairperson, in writing, of the rejection of confirmation by the county board of all appointments.~~

**Section 18. Chapter 1.23(b) of the Milwaukee County Ordinances is amended as follows:**

1.23. - Repeal, amendment or correction of rules.

(b)  *Correction of errors.* The legislative services ~~county clerk~~ or research services divisions shall have authority to correct any ordinance, resolution or memorial for:

(1)  Spelling errors,

(2)  Punctuation,

(3)  The use of one word for another (e.g. affect for effect),

(4)  Mistakes in numbering/lettering of sections and subsections,

(5)  Insertion of an "ordaining" clause in an ordinance when such clause has been inadvertently omitted,

(6)  Insertion of a current department, division, board, commission, committee or council that replaces that of a former name,

(7)  Insertion of a current position title to replace that of a former position title, and

(8)  Insertion of a current state statute number to replace that of a former state statute number.

The legislative services and research services divisions ~~county clerk~~ shall operate within the framework of the corrections enumerated here, with corporation counsel approval as appropriate, and the authority granted herein shall in no way usurp the proper legislative process. Legislative services and research services staff may edit the attachments submitted via the electronic legislative file system used by the county board to establish consistent font, appearance, and naming conventions.

**Section 19. Chapter 1.24(1)(c) of the Milwaukee County Ordinances is amended as follows:**

1.24 – Budgetary procedure.

(c)  Upon receipt of the county executive's budget, ~~county board~~ research services staff shall prepare, for distribution to all county supervisors and any interested county officials and citizens, a written overview of the budget, which addresses ~~including sections addressing~~ major tax levy changes, overview/policy changes, issues, concerns and questions and capital improvements.

**Section 20. Chapter 1.24(3)(a) of the Milwaukee County Ordinances is amended as follows:**

(3)  *Committee on finance hearings.*

(a)  The committee on finance shall not commence its review of the executive budget until at least seven (7) days succeeding the official receipt of the executive budget, in order to allow supervisors ~~finance members~~, ~~and~~ county board, and research services division staff sufficient time to review the budget.~~,~~ ~~meet with departmental personnel and develop suggested amendments to the budget.~~ It is also intended that this period will be utilized by ~~other~~ supervisors ~~not on the committee to familiarize themselves with the budget and~~ to discuss the budget with constituents and stakeholders and begin preparation of budget amendments ~~so as~~ to allow for introduction of those amendments during the time the committee is conducting hearings.

**Section 21. Chapter 1.25(4) of the Milwaukee County Ordinances is amended as follows:**

1.25. - Directives of the county board; how enforced.

(4)  *Political activity prohibited.* The heads of county departments, bureaus, boards and commissions or any other member of their respective departments, bureaus, boards and commissions, in their official capacities, are prohibited from recommending any changes or amendments of the laws of the State of Wisconsin to the legislature of the State of Wisconsin, or to any committee of the legislature, or to any member of the legislature of the State of Wisconsin without first submitting to the county board any changes or amendments of the laws of the State of Wisconsin and obtaining the approval of and a directive from said county board. In instances where matters are before the legislature at times when the county board is not in session, or when a meeting of the county board cannot be practicably convened, the directive of the committee on intergovernmental relations shall serve as said policy directive. In rare instances where a meeting of said committee cannot be called to consider a matter before the legislature of an immediate and urgent nature, which directly impacts on Milwaukee County, notice of such situation shall be given to the chair of the county board and the chair of the committee on intergovernmental relations, who shall give immediate direction on said matter. Final direction will subsequently be given by the committee on intergovernmental relations and, if deemed necessary, by the county board. The process outlined in this section shall also apply to the recommendation of any changes or amendments to the laws of the United States to the United States Congress, or to any committee of the Congress, or to any member of the Congress.

**Section 22.** The provisions of this Ordinance shall become effective upon passage and publication.