

Council Meeting Staff Report

May 4, 2021

Agenda No.:	2)
Indexes (Council Goals):	* 2021 Council Goal - Enhancing Communication
Presenters:	County Council
Legislative File:	14179-21

Title

Consideration of Restarting In-Person Meetings for County Council and Board/Commissions

Recommended Action

I move that Council direct staff to initiate plans for restarting in-person meetings of the Council at its May 18 work session, and that staff work with the County's Boards/Commissions to phase in similar in-person meetings by July 30, 2021.

-optional-

I further move that Council direct staff to develop means for public comment to continue to be accepted via Zoom, and that such distance opportunities be made available for Board and Commission meetings as well.

County Manager's Recommendation

The County Manager recommends that Council consider restarting in-person meetings.

Body

The County discontinued in-person meetings in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, utilizing virtual meeting options since that time. With the observed reduction in the number of new cases reported in numerous jurisdictions (local, state, and national), as well as Los Alamos' current "turquoise" status within the state's reopening framework, a discussion regarding if/when to restart in-person meetings is warranted. The purpose of this agenda item is to allow Council to discuss whether and when they may direct staff to alter the format of future Council and Board/Commission meetings.

There are several additional items to consider as well, including whether to continue with Zoom interactions, if so - how will this apply to members of the Council/Board/Commission, and what will be the process for public comment. Staff recommends that if the decision is made to host meetings in-person, that initially all such meetings occur in Council Chambers due to investments in PPE, the size of the room, and planned needs for room 110. This location could then be reconsidered once restrictions are further lifted and the anticipated construction project is complete.

Alternatives

Council could either postpone the implementation of in-person meetings or postpone a decision on the subject until a later time.

Fiscal and Staff Impact/Planned Item

The County normally plans for any costs associated with in-person meetings and has already invested in the creation of plexiglas dividers and related PPE, therefore there are no anticipated additional expenditures related to this decision.