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**City of Palmetto**  
**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**  
**EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 20-01**  
(Emergency Management- COVID-19 - City Public Meetings)

**WHEREAS**, on March 1, 2020, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis (the “Governor”) issued Executive Order 20-51 directing the Florida Department of Health to issue a Public Health Emergency as a result of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 1, 2020, the State Surgeon General and State Health Officer declared a Public Health Emergency exists in the State of Florida as a result of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 9, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order 20-52 declaring a state of emergency for the entire State of Florida as a result of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 16, 2020, President Donald J. Trump and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) issued the “15 Days to Slow the Spread” guidance advising individuals to adopt far-reaching social distancing measures, such as working from home and avoiding gatherings of more than 10 people; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 16, 2020, the Palmetto City Commission adopted Resolution 2020-05 declaring a State of Emergency in the City of Palmetto and authorized the Mayor to take whatever steps necessary to carry out the emergency management of practices of the City of Palmetto; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 17, 2020, the Governor wrote a letter to Attorney General Ashley Moody seeking an advisory opinion regarding concerns raised by local government bodies about their ability to hold meetings through teleconferencing and other technological means in order to protect the public and follow the CDC guidance regarding social distancing; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 19, 2020, Attorney General Ashley Moody delivered an opinion to me indicating that certain provisions of Florida law require a physical quorum be present for local government bodies to conduct official business, and that local government bodies may only conduct meetings by teleconferencing or other technological means if either a statute permits a quorum to be present by means other than in person, or that the in person requirement for constituting a quorum is lawfully suspended during the state of emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 20, 2020, the Governor, pursuant to Executive Order 20-69, suspended any Florida Statute that requires a quorum to be present in person or requires a government to meet at a specific place and allowed local governments to utilize communications through media technology for their meetings; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary and appropriate to take action to ensure that COVID-19 remains controlled, and that residents and visitors in Florida remain safe and secure and it is important that social distancing be maintained in all aspects of life, including public meetings.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, SHIRLEY GROOVER BRYANT**, as Mayor of the City of Palmetto, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Section 15 of the Charter of the City of Palmetto, Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, City Resolution 20-08,

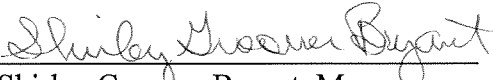
and all other applicable laws and ordinances, promulgate the following Executive Order to take immediate effect:

Section 1. I hereby suspend any Palmetto City Charter or City Ordinance provision that requires a quorum to be present in person or requires the Commission or other City Board to meet at a specific public place.

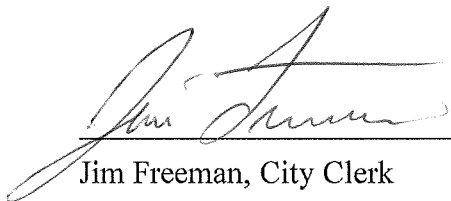
Section 2. The City Commission or any City Board may utilize communications media technology, such as telephonic and video conferencing, as provided in section 120.54(5)(b)2., Florida Statutes.

Section 3. This Executive Order shall become effective upon execution and shall expire at the expiration of the Governor's Executive Order 20-52, including any extension.

CITY OF PALMETTO,  
a Florida municipal corporation

  
Shirley Groover Bryant, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Jim Freeman, City Clerk