



City Council Agenda Item Summary Report

Meeting Date: March 16, 2021

Submitted by: Jon Thatcher, City Attorney

Consent	Public Hearing	Action Item X
Item Title: Discuss and consider action on the open meeting practices for the City Council and the individual boards and commissions and the use of masks and social distancing practices within City facilities.		

Summary Statement

The Governor's Executive Order GA-34 authorizes a city to require masks, social distancing, and other appropriate pandemic mitigation measures. Expressly stated, a city has the same authority as a private business to require specific mitigation measures, such as requiring the use of a mask.

Effective, March 10, 2021, the City no longer has the authority to require certain practices such as the authority to require city residents or businesses to adhere to pandemic mitigation measures including business closures, occupancy limits, or mask mandates. It is the decision of the individual businesses or other establishments to decide whether to require employees or its patrons to follow additional hygiene measures, including mask wearing.

The Governor has continued to suspend certain rules related to the Texas Open Meetings Act. This allows the Boards and Commissions of the City to continue to meet virtually should the City choose to do so.