

## **Zoom and Online Meetings moving forward, April 2021**

As we begin transitioning back to in-person meetings, we are starting to think of the future of Town Council meetings and whether or not we will continue to try and maintain an interactive remote option. I would prefer to transition away from this interactive component. It has been a lot to manage the remote audience for myself and the Clerk who already have to focus on the meeting and I expect that management to become more difficult as we transition to having Council members, staff and the public back in the Chambers. And we would have to make some significant modifications to the technology in the room to accommodate both in-person and remote audience effectively.

Does your community plan to keep utilizing some form of interactive technology such as Zoom after things are reopened for public Council/Trustee meetings?

Thanks and have a great day!

Dara MacDonald  
Town Manager  
(970) 349-5338

Creede will be discussing this topic at the Board meeting this evening. I believe that the Board wants to maintain the Zoom component.

Hey Dara:

This is a great conversation to have. My current intent is to maintain the zoom component, at least for the next 6-9 months to see if it continues to be utilized, as I think that it adds a new way for our residents to be engaged and informed. That said, we do have a much larger staff so it is an easier additional task for us to manage.

Good luck with your decision.

SH

**Shane Hale**  
*Town Manager*  
Town of Windsor | Town Manager's Office

Pagosa Springs used CVRF monies to upgrade audio and visual technology in our Council Chambers so that we can continue the use of Zoom participation by the public in "hybrid" meetings. We saw more varied public participation over the past year with this option and Council would like to continue it for the long term even as we come back to limited in person seating. We are still trying to fix the bugs so that it works more seamlessly, and I agree it is a lot to manage in addition to the meeting itself.

Andrea Phillips, Town Manager, ICMA-CM  
Town of Pagosa Springs  
Good Morning Dara,

The Town of La Jara's Board of Trustees will continue to have meeting via Zoom. Our Mayor thinks either May or June we will attempt face-to-face Board meetings. I agree with you concerns about the necessary work that the town clerks have to do to prepare for Zoom. I personally prefer to Zoom for the fact that most of the meetings have been short yet productive.

Good luck with your transition back to in-person meetings.

*Larry Zaragoza*  
*La Jara Town Manager*

We just are starting our hybrid meeting next week. We made a significant investment in order to utilize this more and well into the future. They are not cheap to implement so we want to get our \$ worth.

Trish

Hi Dara,  
Mead will be discussing this at our next board meeting 4/12. I imagine they will want to move forward with zoom for a time but our reception has been challenging and I think they will want all in person soon.  
Kindly,  
Helen

Hi Dara: we will be returning to in person meetings of Council and Boards in June together with staff participation. We will also continue with Zoom at the same time as it has been a great tool for additional participation. We upgraded our Council chambers AV to allow for both during COVID and used CVRF grants to offset the costs. I see us continuing with Zoom/in person options indefinitely to provide as many options for participation as possible.

A caveat is that we own our own broadband system that will have full 1G service (many are already on this service) which will be complete by the fall of this year.

Best of luck!

Kim Montgomery  
Town Manager

Dara,

I think Johnstown will continue with some sort of remote option as we move and look forward. Our

major issue is we are having an echo on in person presentations currently, I believe to the delayed feed through zoom. I am not sure what this will cost us to eliminate, but it is certainly frustrating while Council is conducting business.

Thanks,

ML

Victor will do combination. If council wants to meet, we will meet. If one or more want to attend virtually and others meet in person, we will accommodate for that as well. It is challenging at times.

*Richard Mann, MPA, MAM*

City Administrator

Dara,

The Board and Department Leaders are returning to the Boardroom in April. Zoom participation will continue an undetermined term and we also have a Youtube viewing option similar to pre-pandemic. I agree managing all of the technology while participating in the meeting continues to be a challenge. Our last meeting in March had all officials in the room and it ran a bit smoother.

The Zoom option continues to be an important public health option for those at risk and personalities that have determined that the pandemic is fake news.

Kathleen "Katie" Ann Sickles

Town Manager

Town of Bayfield

Hi Dara, we decided to make the changes to accommodate both in-person and remote audience. We installed new cameras, desktop monitors for the dias, and we had already installed new video screens. We'll be able to accommodate all types of interaction with the Council. Our Council thought the increased community engagement was something they wanted to see if we could keep in place.

**~Nancy**

**(C) 970-406-2988**

**Nancy Kerry | Town Manager**

Fort Morgan will continue to provide both in-person and virtual participation and I don't see that ever going away. We have been in-person for several months now and few to none are opting for virtual attendance.

Steve Glammeyer

In Monte we returned to regular Council meetings with masks, etc. in February and held hybrid meetings. That being said our Council didn't really enjoy zoom meetings and the public participation wasn't amazing. So, we are discontinuing the practice effective April 1st.

Thanks,

Forrest H. Neuerburg  
Monte Vista City Manager

We've been doing a "hybrid" model for Council meetings and Study Sessions in which the Mayor, Council and staff are in-person and outside presenters, applicants and general public are "virtual" via Zoom and Facebook. The Council elected to transition to this model from the 100% virtual meetings back in July, 2020. They have since then opened the in-person option to outside presenters and applicants (started this month and none have taken them up on it yet).

We've done the Facebook Live Streaming for our Council meetings for several years and under COVID we restricted it to public who wish only to view the meeting and not participate. They are not able to provide public comment during public hearings through Facebook Live. This live streaming is done on-site by a contracted individual and with his equipment.

With COVID and the in-person restrictions, we added the Zoom option for both Council meetings, which is used for public hearings and general public comment, and Council study session. We did purchase some equipment to assist with this through CARES funds. The Zoom option and participation is managed by staff.

I anticipate Council keeping both when we go to "full" in-person just for accessibility and convenience for the public.

Hope this helps.  
Michelle Kivela  
Town of Parker

Dara

We are currently doing a hybrid meeting (zoom and allowing attendance in the chamber if there is an available seat which is positioned more than 6 feet apart). Staff will be recommending we continue to use zoom for public participation and as a tool to record our Council meetings. We have found that participation in Council meetings has increased by making it easier to access meetings for the item an individual is interested in hearing about or speaking to.

Russ Forrest  
Town of Gunnison