NOTICE TO ALL PARTICIPANTS OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETINGS ON ZOOM

On March 20, 2020, Governor Bill Lee signed Executive Order No. 16 (“the Order”), which suspends the requirements of the Tennessee Open Meetings Act (“TOMA”) to the extent necessary to allow any governing body subject to the requirements of TOMA to meet and conduct essential business by electronic means if the body determines meeting electronically is necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Tennesseans in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Governor’s Order applies to any state, county, or municipal governing body or any other public body that may be subject to the requirements of TOMA. It allows members of the governing body to participate and vote in public meetings without being physically present to protect public health, safety, and welfare and prevent the spread of COVID-19. This is a temporary measure that originally expired on May 18, 2020, further action has been taken by the Governor and this temporary measure has been extended.

As of June 29, 2020, Gov. Lee also signed Executive Order Nos. 51 and 52, which extend provisions that allow for electronic government meetings subject to transparency safeguards and remote notarization and witnessing of documents, respectively, to August 29, 2020.

Based on the Governor’s Order this Chattanooga Form-Based Committee (FBC) meeting will be audible to the public at the location specified in the notice of the meeting.

- Each member participating electronically or otherwise should be able to hear each other simultaneously and speak to each other during the meeting.
- Documents which will be discussed at the meeting have been provided to members participating electronically prior to the meeting from the FBC agenda posted on the City website, to the extent doing so is practicable.
- All votes at the meeting will be taken by roll call vote.
- Notice of the meeting has provided a statement that the meeting will allow members to participate electronically or by other means.

For any Public Comments: At the “Community Comments/ Comments by Other Persons” time of the meeting the Chair will recognize members of the public who wish to address the Committee. The following procedural rules will apply to public comments:

a) Each speaker wishing to address the Committee shall be recognized only after a speaker has provided identification including the speaker’s name and address, establishing that identification before addressing the Committee.

b) No person shall have more than three (3) minutes to speak. (Per City Council’s current virtual public meeting protocol)

c) The speaker may address the Committee only upon matters within the legislative and quasi-judicial authority of the Committee. The speaker may not address the Committee on matters which are not under the authority of the Committee and which are regulated by other governmental bodies or agencies.

d) The speaker shall not be permitted to use any vulgar or obscene language, nor use the floor to personally attack or personally denigrate others. The speaker should address the Committee as a whole and not make comments directed towards individual Committee members.

e) The Chair shall not permit Disorderly Conduct or Disrupting a Public Meeting which is prohibited by Tennessee law after warning is given to the disrupter. A person commits an offense if the person substantially obstructs or interferes with the meeting by physical action or verbal utterance with the intent to prevent or disrupt a lawful meeting or gathering.