Republika Ng Pilipinas
TANGGAPAN NG SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD
Lungsod ng Bacolod

CITY ORDINANCE NO. 1114
December 4, 2025

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND SETTING THE GUIDELINES FOR THE CONDUCT OF ONLINE SESSIONS OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD OF BACOLOD CITY.

WHEREAS, the Local Government Code of 1991 authorizes each Sanggunian to adopt its own internal rules of procedure, including the manner of conducting sessions and voting, subject to national law and transparency requirements;

WHEREAS, the Local Government Code, as interpreted in jurisprudence, define the basic rules on sessions and identify the composition of the Sangguniang Panlungsod, which guide the adaptation of procedures for online sessions consistent with notice, quorum, voting, and public-access requirements;

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court has recognized that the Local Government Code governs the day, time, place, notice, and public nature of sessions, and requires that all Sanggunian sessions be open to the public unless a closed-door session is ordered by majority vote of the members present, there being a quorum, in the public interest or for reasons of security, decency, or morality, and that written notice for special sessions be served at least twenty-four (24) hours before the session, with limits on matters to be taken up unless concurred in by two-thirds of the members present, there being a quorum;

WHEREAS, it is important that the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Bacolod City should incorporate in its Rules the conduct of Online Sessions as there are exceptional circumstances in which the exigency of conducting the same is inevitable and necessary;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Bacolod, in session assembled that:

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT ONLINE SESSIONS. The Sangguniang Panlungsod of Bacolod City is authorized to conduct regular or special sessions, as well as committee meetings, through online or virtual platforms, consistent with the Local Government Code and applicable jurisprudence.

SECTION 2. CONSULTATIVE APPROVAL TO SHIFT ONLINE.

The Sanggunian may shift any scheduled session from physical to online format when face-to-face session is not feasible by reason of extreme emergencies, such as but not limited to, natural and man-made disasters, medical emergencies, or situations that pose an imminent threat to life, health, property, safety and welfare of Sangguniang Panlungsod members.

Declaration to shift to such format shall be done upon consultative approval of at least 2/3 of all members of the Sanggunian, evidenced by a prior request by the Vice Mayor to conduct the session via online, stating the reason for the shift and with a written or electronic consent gathered by the Secretary to the Sanggunian of the members who are amenable to the conduct of an online session.

Such approval may be standing (for a defined period) or session specific.

SECTION 3. OFFICIAL TRAVEL. A Sangguniang Panlungsod member may join in the online session in situations mentioned in Section 2 and after the required approval is obtained.

For face-to-face sessions, a member who is on official travel shall not be allowed to participate in the session via online platform.

SECTION 3. NOTICE AND AGENDA. For Online sessions, Notice and agenda shall be circulated pursuant to the Internal Rules of Procedure.

However, for Special Sessions, written notice stating the date, time, platform/link, and agenda shall be served personally or electronically at least twenty-four (24) hours before the session. Only items stated in the notice may be taken up unless two-thirds (2/3) of the members present, there being a quorum, concur otherwise.

SECTION 4. QUORUM AND ATTENDANCE. Quorum shall consist of a majority of all members elected and qualified, including the Vice Mayor as presiding officer.

Attendance shall be verified by roll call and authenticated through live video presence, official login or other verifiable means recorded by the Secretariat. Members shall keep cameras on during roll call and voting, except for justified connectivity or security reasons noted in the minutes.

SECTION 5. PUBLIC ACCESS AND CLOSED-DOOR SESSIONS. Online sessions shall be open to the public through live-streaming or a publicly accessible virtual gallery, except when the Sanggunian, by majority vote of members present, there being a quorum, orders a closed-door session for public interest or for reasons of security, decency, or morality. The grounds shall be stated in the journal.

The Secretariat shall publish access details (such as stream links) on official city channels and ensure reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities.

SECTION 6. VOTING. Voting shall be by roll call or other verifiable electronic means. The Secretary shall announce and record each member's vote. For measures requiring special thresholds (e.g., majority of all members), the Secretariat shall certify compliance in the minutes.

SECTION 7. RECORDS AND. JOURNAL. The Sanggunian shall keep a journal and an audiovisual record of all online proceedings. Recordings, minutes, and approved measures shall be archived and may be published upon resolution of the Sanggunian.

SECTION 8. TECHNICAL FAILURE AND CONTINUITY. If a member is disconnected due to technical issues, the presiding officer may declare a brief recess to restore participation.

If quorum is lost and cannot be restored within a reasonable time, the presiding officer shall suspend or adjourn the session pursuant to law.

The Secretariat shall maintain a redundant platform, call-in fallback, and real-time technical helpdesk.

SECTION 9. PLATFORM, SECURITY, AND DATA PRIVACY. The Secretariat, in coordination with the **Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Office**, shall designate secure platforms with end-to-end encryption where feasible, enforce authentication and waiting-room protocols, and ensure compliance with data privacy and government records-retention policies. Meeting links and credentials shall be transmitted only through official channels.

SECTION 10. INTERNAL RULES ALIGNMENT. This Ordinance shall be deemed incorporated into and shall amend the Internal Rules of Procedure of the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Bacolod City.

SECTION 11. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. If any provision of this Ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 12. REPEALING CLAUSE. All ordinances, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 13. EFFECTIVITY. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately.

CARRIED BY THE VOTE OF:

Affirmative:

Councilors : Caesar Z. Distrito, Israel P. Salanga, Em L. Ang, Jude Thaddeus A. Sayson, Jason Isidro S. Villarosa, Celia Matea R. Flor, Dindo C. Ramos, Roberto M. Rojas, Wilson C. Gamboa, Jr., Psyche Marie E. Sy, Homer Q. Bais.

Official Travel : None.

Official Leave : None.

Main Author : Councilor Caesar Z. Distrito.

Co-authors : Councilors Em L. Ang, Jason Isidro S. Villarosa, Celia Matea R. Flor and Dindo C. Ramos.

Passed : December 4, 2025 (23rd Regular Session of the 12th Council).

Comments : P a s s e d .
Councilors Lady Gles Gonzales-Pallen and Danna Marie C. Barzo were not around when this Ordinance was passed.

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CLAUDIO JESUS RAYMUNDO A. PUENTEVELLA
Vice Mayor
Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:

ATTY. VICENTE C. PETIERRE II
Secretary to the Sanggunian

APPROVED: _____

GREG G. GASATAYA
City Mayor

VCP/CGT/llt

10 DAYS LAPSED
AS OF 06 JAN 2026

SP LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES SECTION
DATE: 01/06/2025 TIME: 9:15am