

CITY OF LAFAYETTE CITY COUNCIL RULES

August 23, 2012

1. PURPOSE

1.1 Pursuant to Section 13 of the City Charter, the Council shall adopt Council rules. The Council shall review its rules during the first quarter of odd-numbered years. Amendments shall be adopted by a majority vote. The Council rules are not intended to replace or supersede any applicable federal or state laws or regulations, City ordinance or policies, or provisions of the City Charter.

2. COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS AND DECORUM - GENERALLY

2.1 In general, Councilors shall conduct themselves so as to bring credit upon the government of the City by respecting the rule of law, ensuring non-discriminatory delivery of public services, keeping informed about the matters coming before the Council, and abiding by all decisions of the Council, whether or not the member voted in favor of the decision.

2.2 Councilors shall preserve order and decorum during Council meetings, and shall not, by conversation or other action, delay or interrupt the proceedings or refuse to obey the orders of the Mayor or Presiding Officer or the Council rules. Councilors shall, when addressing other Councilors, staff or members of the public, be respectful and courteous in tone and conduct, and confine themselves to questions or issues then under discussion.

2.3 The Council has an obligation to consider and address the questions coming before it in an efficient and effective manner, and to respectfully consider the opinions of the City's citizens and other Councilors. Therefore, the following ground rules shall apply during Council discussions:

2.3.1 Efficiency:

Councilors shall:

2.3.1.1 Try to gather necessary information, resolve questions, etc., about issues from the staff prior to discussing them at a meeting.

2.3.1.2 During a meeting, seek clarification from staff before proceeding with evaluation or debate.

2.3.1.3 During discussion, focus on a single issue or topic at a time, and reach resolution on one issue or topic before proceeding to the next.

2.3.1.4 Set time limits on discussions and adhere to them.

2.3.1.5 Keep the discussion moving, and call for a “process check” if the discussion gets sidetracked or bogged down.

2.3.1.6 Adhere to the established agenda, and schedule additional issues on a future agenda.

2.3.2 Effectiveness and Respect. Each Councilor shall:

2.3.2.1 Speak only for himself or herself, not for other Councilors. A Councilor shall not state that he or she is representing the Council, unless asked by the Council to do so.

2.3.2.2 Avoid personalizing issues and focus on making decisions that will best serve the City and its citizens. Focus on City issues and avoid becoming involved in “extra-territorial” issues.

2.3.2.3 Be open, direct, and candid in Council discussions. Be brief and succinct in stating views, and avoid redundancy. Avoid personal attacks and remain objective in discussions, despite feelings on a particular topic or decision.

2.3.2.4 Give all members of the Council an opportunity to express their views. Listen to the contributions of other Councilors, City staff, and the public.

3. CONFIDENTIALITY

3.1 Councilors shall not share or discuss any confidential information with anyone other than other Councilors, the City Administrator, or the City Attorney.

3.2 Discussions in executive session are confidential. If the Council, in executive session, reaches consensus or provides direction to staff on confidential matters -- such as negotiations on property acquisition or disposal, pending or likely claim or litigation, or employee negotiations -- all contact with other parties shall be made only by the City Administrator.

3.3 All public statements, information, or press releases relating to a confidential matter will be handled by the City Administrator.

3.4 The Council, by resolution, may censure a member who discloses a confidential matter or has willfully violated City Council Rules. As used in this section, “censure” means to make a formal statement, either verbally or in writing,

expressing strong disapproval or harsh criticism by the Council of an action of a member who the Council believes has violated this rule. This censure can be done by a motion to censure, or a resolution of censure, either of which must set out in detail the alleged violation.

4. COMMUNICATION WITH STAFF

4.1 In observing the separation between policy-making and administration, the following rules shall apply:

4.1.1 Councilors and staff shall work together in a spirit of mutual confidence and support.

4.1.2 Except in a Council meeting, Councilors shall not attempt to influence or coerce a staff member on decisions concerning personnel, purchasing, awarding of contracts, selection of consultants, processing of development applications, or the granting of City licenses and permits.

4.1.3 Councilors shall direct to the City Administrator all requests for information from staff, or to the City Attorney, and allow sufficient time for response. When so directed in a Council meeting, the City Administrator shall submit to all Councilors all written material requested by the Mayor or individual Councilors on behalf of the City Council.

4.1.4 Councilors shall limit individual contact with City employees so as not to interfere with their work performance, undermine the authority of supervisors, or prevent the full Council from benefiting from information received.

4.1.5 Councilors and staff shall be respectful and constructive when offering criticism of each other, whether inside or outside of a public meeting.

4.1.6 During a Council meeting, Councilors shall address staff questions to the City Administrator, who shall be entitled to either answer the inquiry or designate a staff member to do so.

5. AGENDA

5.1 The City Administrator shall prepare an agenda of the business to be presented at a regular Council meeting. The items on the agenda should follow a customary order of business as prescribed by the Council. The City Administrator, Mayor, Council members or the public may request that a matter be placed on the agenda. The City Administrator shall have the discretion of placing an item on the agenda for the upcoming meeting or a subsequent meeting because of time constraints or time needed for compilation of materials. Requests for placement of an item on the agenda must be received by the City Administrator by 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday a week prior to a regularly scheduled meeting. If an agenda item is requested to be placed on an agenda and staff isn't able to accommodate the request, then the reason why will be communicated to the person who requested it.

5.1.1 An item may be added to, or removed from, the agenda at the beginning of any meeting by the City Administrator, the Mayor or any Council member subject to approval by a majority of the Council present at the meeting.

5.2 Regular meetings may include the following agenda items subject to the right of the Mayor to alter the order of business:

Call to order.

Flag Salute.

Roll call.

Approval of minutes from previous meetings.

Additions and Deletions. The purpose of this item is to add or delete items on the agenda. Items may be added or deleted by the City Administrator, Mayor, or with concurrence of a majority of the Council.

Public hearings. All public hearings will be subject to notice requirements as listed in other City ordinances and state law, unless there are none, and then a Notice of Public Hearing shall be placed in a local newspaper a minimum of one time within the 7 days prior to the meeting. A copy of this Notice of Public Hearing shall also be posted at City Hall during that time.

Citizen Input on non-agenda items. The purpose of this item is to allow citizens to address the Council on matters related to City government and properly the object of Council consideration. A time limit may be imposed by the Mayor or Presiding Officer, who shall Chair the meeting and maintain Council meeting decorum. If the consensus of the Council is that a specific matter brought up during this portion of the meeting should be discussed further or acted on, then the Council can direct staff to look into the matter or place it on a future agenda.

Departmental reports. Reports by staff members may be discussed here if requested by a member of the Council or the City Administrator.

Legislative Actions. Adoption of Ordinances and Resolutions. A reasonable amount of time will be allocated for audience questions and comments on each agenda item in this section. The Mayor or Presiding Officer must recognize each person before they are allowed to speak.

Action Items. Items deemed by City Administrator to require a consensus decision or a motion and vote of the Council, other than the adoption of Ordinances and Resolutions. A reasonable amount of time will be allocated for audience questions and comments on

each agenda item in this section. The Mayor or Presiding Officer must recognize each person before they are allowed to speak.

Discussion Items. Updates from City Administrator concerning on-going projects, Council discussion of proposed policy changes, discussion of proposed projects, etc. A reasonable amount of time will be allocated for audience questions and comments on each agenda item in this section. The Mayor or Presiding Officer must recognize each person before they are allowed to speak.

Committee Reports. Advisory committee representatives may be given an opportunity to present information to Council.

Mayor's Report.

Review of Citizen Comment Cards. The Council may discuss citizen comments received and placed in the Council meeting packet.

Adjournment.

5.2.1 Each agenda item within the Legislative Actions, Action Items, and Discussion Items categories may be dealt with in the following order:

1. Staff Explanation
2. Council Questions
3. Council Discussion
4. Audience Questions/Comments
5. Council Motion
6. Council Deliberation
7. Vote

6. PRESIDING OFFICER

6.1 The Mayor shall be the Presiding Officer at all regular and special meetings and executive sessions of the Council. The Mayor shall conduct all meetings, preserve order, enforce the rules of the Council and determine the order and length of discussion of any matter before the Council, subject to these rules. In the absence of the Mayor, the Council President shall assume the duties of Presiding Officer. In the absence of both the Mayor and Council President, the Council will determine which Councilor present shall be the Presiding Officer.

6.2 The Mayor shall have all duties and privileges of any Councilor, and shall not be denied any right or privilege by reason of his or her position as Presiding Officer. However, the Mayor shall vote only in the case of a tie vote, consistent with the City Charter.

7. MEETINGS

- 7.1 The Council will meet regularly at 6:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month in the Council Chambers. A second special meeting or work session may be held on the fourth Thursday of each month, also in the Council Chambers. All regular or special meetings or work sessions shall be open to the public. All meetings will be adjourned not later than 10:30 p.m. unless extended by a majority vote of the Council. The Council or City Administrator may, at their discretion, schedule meetings or work sessions at other times to be announced.
- 7.2 Each Councilor shall make every effort to attend all meetings. A Councilor shall inform the Mayor or staff in advance if he or she is unable to attend any meeting. The Mayor shall inform the Council President and the City Administrator if he or she is unable to attend a meeting.
- 7.3 Every effort shall be made to begin meetings on time, and to avoid unduly long meetings. With the concurrence of the Council, the Mayor or Presiding Officer may table or postpone discussion on any item or matter until a subsequent meeting.
- 7.4 At the beginning of each regular meeting, the Council shall designate a time for community comment, which shall be reserved for citizens to address the Council on matters related to City government and properly the object of Council consideration. A time limit may be imposed by the Mayor or Presiding Officer, who shall Chair the meeting and maintain Council meeting decorum. The purpose of the community comment period is to provide citizens an opportunity to be heard by the Council primarily on issues not on the agenda. Each Councilor should refrain from engaging speakers in debate or extended dialogue, or directing questions to staff for immediate response. Councilors shall refer complaints or questions to the City Administrator.
- 7.5 The Mayor or Presiding Officer shall direct persons addressing the Council to either stand or step to the podium, limit their comments if required by the Mayor or Presiding Officer, and provide their name and address for the record. All public remarks should be addressed to the entire Council. Any person making personal, impertinent or slanderous remarks, or who becomes boisterous, threatening, or personally abusive while addressing the Council may be requested or required to leave the meeting.
- 7.6 After a public hearing has been closed, no public member shall address the Council without first securing permission from the Mayor or Presiding Officer.
- 7.7 The Mayor may, or, at the request of three members of the Council, shall, call an emergency meeting after giving notice as required by Oregon's

Public Meeting Laws. No other business shall be transacted at any emergency meeting, other than that for which it was called. All proceedings of the emergency meeting must be reviewed at the next regular Council meeting.

- 7.8 Upon motion and majority vote of the Council members present, any meeting of the Council may be continued or adjourned from day to day or for more than one day, provided that no adjournment shall be for a period longer than until the next regular meeting. A motion to adjourn shall not be made while a Councilor is speaking or while a vote is being taken. A motion to adjourn is debatable only as to the time to which the meeting will be adjourned.
- 7.9 A short break may be taken during the meeting upon a decision by the Mayor or Presiding Officer.

8. ORDER AND DECORUM DURING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- 8.1 The Mayor or Presiding Officer shall preserve order at all meetings of the Council, cause the removal of any person from any meeting for disorderly conduct, and enforce the rules of the Council. The Mayor or Presiding Officer may command the assistance of a police officer to restore order at any meeting. If a meeting is disrupted by members of the audience, the Mayor or Presiding Officer may order that the Council Chambers be cleared.
- 8.2 Any of the following shall be sufficient cause for the removal of any person from the Council Chambers for the duration of the meeting:
 - 8.2.1 Unreasonably loud or disruptive language, noise or conduct that is obstructive of the work or the conducting of the business of the Council.
 - 8.2.2 Engaging in violent or distracting actions.
 - 8.2.3 Willful damage to furnishings or of the interior of the Council Chambers.
 - 8.2.4 Refusal to obey an order of the Mayor or Presiding Officer or an order issued by a Councilor which has been approved by a majority of the Council present.
- 8.3 Before the person is removed from the Council Chambers for conduct described in this section, that the Mayor or Presiding Officer shall warn the person to cease his or her conduct.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

- 9.1 An executive session (meeting closed to the public) may be held in accordance with Oregon's Public Meetings Laws, if permitted under ORS 192.660.
- 9.2 No final action may be taken during an executive session. When the Council reconvenes in open session, final action may be taken. Only the Council, City Attorney, staff members requested by the Council, and news media representatives may attend the executive session. The Mayor or Presiding Officer shall instruct members of the press that they may not report the substance of an executive session.
- 9.3 Minutes of the executive session will be recorded in accordance with ORS 192.650(2).

10. MEETING STAFFING

- 10.1 The City Administrator shall attend all Council meetings unless excused by the Mayor. The City Administrator may make recommendations to the Council and may take part in all Council discussions, but shall have no vote.
- 10.2 At the request of the City Administrator or Mayor, the City Attorney shall attend Council meetings and shall, upon request, give an oral or written opinion on legal questions. The City Attorney should be recognized by the Mayor or Presiding Officer before he or she addresses the Council during Council meetings.
- 10.3 The City Administrator shall perform the duties of meeting recorder, or shall designate a staff or contact person as a meeting recorder. The meeting recorder will attend all Council meetings and keep the official minutes, and perform such other duties as may be needed for the orderly conduct of meetings.
- 10.4 Department directors or other staff will attend Council meetings upon request of the City Administrator.

11. MINUTES

- 11.1 Minutes shall be prepared with sufficient detail to meet their intended uses. Verbatim minutes are not required.
- 11.2 The minutes of meetings of the Council shall comply with provisions of ORS 192.650 by containing, at minimum, the following information:
 - 11.2.1 The name of Councilors and staff present.

11.2.2 All motions, proposals, resolutions, orders, ordinances and measures proposed, and their disposition.

11.2.3 The result of any votes, including ayes and nays, and the names and votes of the Councilors whenever there is a split vote.

11.2.4 The substance of the discussion on any matter, including direction to staff.

11.2.5 Reference to any document discussed at the meeting.

11.3 Exhibits presented before the Council in connection with its deliberations on a legislative, quasi-judicial or other substantive matter shall be accepted by the Council and made a part of the record. The exhibit shall be marked for identification and referenced in the minutes. The exhibit or a copy thereof shall be provided to the meeting recorder.

11.4 The Council may amend the minutes to more accurately reflect what transpired at the meeting. Under no circumstances shall the minutes be changed following approval by the Council, unless the Council authorizes such change.

12. CONDUCT OF HEARINGS

12.1 Scope of Rules. The rules contained in this section shall govern the conduct of administrative and quasi-judicial hearings held by the Council including, but not limited to, those held pursuant to land use matters of the City.

12.2 Nature and General Conduct of Hearing.

12.2.1 The Council when conducting any such hearing shall afford persons entitled under the ordinances of the City, such as the land use ordinances, to notice of hearing, an opportunity to be heard, to present and rebut evidence to an impartial tribunal, and to have a decision based on substantial evidence.

12.2.2 No person in attendance shall be disorderly, abusive or disruptive of the orderly conduct of the hearing and any person may be removed from the hearing for such conduct.

12.2.3 No person offering testimony shall speak more than once without obtaining permission from the Mayor or Presiding Officer.

12.2.4 No person shall testify without first standing, receiving recognition from the presiding officer and stating his or her name and residence or business address.

12.2.5 No person shall present irrelevant, immaterial, or unduly repetitious testimony or evidence; provided, however, that reports and documents prepared by staff shall be deemed relevant, material and the weight or competency thereof shall be determined by the Council.

12.2.6 There shall be no audience demonstrations, such as applause, cheering, display of signs, or other conduct disruptive of the hearing.

12.2.7 The Mayor, Presiding Officer, and Councilors may question and cross-examine any person who testifies. With the approval of the Mayor or Presiding Officer, the City Administrator may also question and cross-examine any person who testifies.

12.3 Order of Procedure. The Mayor or Presiding Officer, in the conduct of the hearing, shall comply with the appropriate City ordinance and/or state law for specific types of hearings so regulated. For administrative hearings not subject to other City ordinances or state law, the hearing will be conducted in the following manner:

12.3.1 Commence the Hearing. Announce the nature and purpose of the hearing and summarize the rules for the conduct of the hearing.

12.3.2 Call for Abstentions. Any Councilor announcing a decision to abstain shall identify the reasons for abstaining and shall leave the Council table and not participate in discussion of the matter or vote on the matter.

12.3.3 Staff Report. The City Administrator, or designee, shall summarize the nature of the matter, explain any graphic or pictorial displays which are a part of the record, and provide such other information as may be requested by the Council.

12.3.4 Written Communications. Written communications addressing any matter before the Council should be received by the City the week before a regularly scheduled Council meeting.

12.3.5 Audience Participation. Those present wishing to speak in favor of the proposed action will be allowed to speak, followed by those opposed to the proposed action.

12.3.6 Close of Hearing and Deliberation by Council. The Mayor or Presiding Officer shall conclude the hearing and the Council shall deliberate the matter. The Council shall either make its decision or continue its deliberations to a subsequent meeting, the date, time, and place of which must then be announced. The subsequent meeting shall be for the purpose of continued deliberation, and the Mayor or Presiding Officer shall not allow additional submission of testimony, except on approval by the Council.

13. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Each Councilor must understand the statutory obligation pursuant to ORS Chapter 244 to declare a potential or actual conflict of interest and act accordingly.

14. ETHICS REQUIREMENTS AND REPORTING

14.1 Councilors shall review and observe the requirements of the State Ethics Laws and related statutes. It is each Councilor's responsibility to file statements of economic interest as required by ORS Chapter 244.

14.2 Councilors shall give public notice of any conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest and the notice shall be reported in the meeting minutes. Councilors shall maintain the highest standards of ethical conduct and assure fair and equal treatment of all persons, claims, and transactions coming before the Council. This general obligation includes the duty to refrain from:

14.21 Making decisions involving business associates, customers, clients and competitors;

14.22 Appointing relatives, clients or employees to boards and commissions;

14.23 Requesting preferential treatment for themselves, relatives, associates, clients, coworkers or friends;

14.24 Seeking employment of relatives with the City;

14.25 Actions benefiting special interest groups at the expense of the City as a whole;

14.26 Participating in decisions of City boards and commissions where there is a possibility of appeal of the matter to the Council.

14.27 Expressing an opinion which is contrary to the official position of the Council without so stating.

15. USE OF CONTRACTORS BY COUNCIL

All requests by Council for use of contractors to perform billable work shall be directed through the City Administrator with the exception of the City Attorney. At any time during a public meeting a majority of the Council may direct the work of the City Attorney. Outside of a public meeting, the Mayor at any time may consult with the City Attorney on matters of Council-Administrator relations, Mayor-Councilor relations, or Councilor-Councilor relations.

16. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

16.1 Motion Procedure. When a motion is moved and seconded, it shall be stated by the Mayor or Presiding Officer for debate. A motion once made may not be withdrawn by the mover without the consent of the Councilor seconding it. No Councilor shall be allowed to speak more than once on a particular question until every other Councilor has had an opportunity to do so.

16.2 Motion to Postpone or Table. A motion to postpone or table may be debated and amended and may specify a time when the question will be considered. A motion to table precludes all amendments or debate and if the motion prevails, consideration of the question may be resumed only upon the motion of a member voting with the majority.

16.3 Point of Order. Any Councilor may raise a point of order at any time and the Mayor or Presiding Officer shall determine all points of order, subject to the right of any Councilor to appeal the decision to the full Council.

17. PROCESS FOR DETERMINING RESIDENCY

17.1 The Council shall determine whether a person is qualified to hold elective City office consistent with the requirements imposed by the City Charter.

17.2 Residency means a person actually lives and maintains a domicile within City limits where they personally reside. A determination of residency must include physical occupancy of the structure.

17.3 The Council shall use its best judgment in making a determination on residency and may consider (but are not limited to) any of the following as evidence thereof:

17.3.1 voter registration card;

17.3.2 Oregon driver license;

17.3.3 tax returns; or

17.3.4 mail addressed to the Councilor at a street address located within the City limits.

18. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The Mayor may make appointments to all committees subject to public meetings statutes with the concurrence of a majority of Councilors present. All other appointments to committees not subject to public meetings statutes may be made by the Mayor without the concurrence of Council.

Amendment History:

March 12, 2009

April 9, 2009

July 8, 2010

May 12, 2011

August 23, 2012