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CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM



Date: February 3, 2021

To: Mayor and Troy City Council Members

From: Lori Grigg Bluhm, City Attorney

Subject: Proposed Revisions to Troy City Council Code of Ethics and Rules of Procedure

As a result of City Council's comprehensive review of its City Council Code of Ethics, there was unanimous support to consider some amendments that could provide even greater clarity. The attached proposed red line version hopefully captures the revisions discussed at the February 1, 2021 City Council meeting. City Council members may have different suggested verbiage, or after a few days of reflection, may seek additional amendments to these documents.

There was also unanimous consensus for City Administration to draft a new ethics ordinance that comprehensively pulls together ethical regulations governing City Council members from multiple sources, such as the Troy Charter and State law and administrative materials. This would provide additional transparency, as well as a possible road map for employees and the general public. City Council affirmed that this is a priority project, and encouraged completion as soon as possible, recognizing that the drafting may take some time and would compete with other deadlines.

City Administration's memo and supporting documents and the power point presentation can be accessed via the City's website as part of the back-up documentation for the February 1, 2021 City Council meeting.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.



Troy City Council Code of Ethics

1. The Troy City Council shall:

- Respect the confidentiality of privileged information;
- Recognize that an individual council member has no authority to speak or act for Council;
- Work with other council members to establish effective policies;
- Delegate authority for the running of the City to the administrative staff;
- Encourage the free expression of opinion by all council members;
- Seek systematic communications between council, administrative staff, and all elements of the community;
- Render all decisions **in a fair and impartial manner**, based on the available facts and independent judgment rather than succumbing to the influence of individuals or special interest groups;
- Make every effort to attend all meetings;
- Become informed concerning the issues to be considered at each meeting;
- Avoid actual or apparent conflicts of interest, and make appropriate disclosures;
- Refrain from using this position for personal benefit, nor for the benefit of family members or business associates;
- Use the same care and caution when using electronic media as would be exercised when speaking face-to-face or through written memorandum;
- Avoid use of derogatory or denigrating language;
- Treat all people fairly and with dignity and respect;
- Abstain from harassing or discriminatory behavior of any kind;
- ~~• Other than receiving de minimis food and beverage in the course of official duties, such as grand openings, refuse any gift or gratuity or reward for an official action, and avoid any situation that could undermine public confidence.~~
- **Avoid any situation that could undermine public confidence, and neither solicit nor accept gifts offered for any official actions. There may be times when unsolicited items of a trivial value (less than \$25) are provided to City Council members in connection with marketing of new businesses or economic development, and such items can be retained as long as the aggregate value of gifts per year does not exceed \$250. City Council members and/or their significant others can accept invitations for ribbon cutting/grand openings and other ceremonial or celebratory events where food and/or beverages will be consumed, as long as the invitation is extended to the entire City Council and is consistent with the performance of Council's official duties, and at least 25 people are also expected to attend the event.**
- Adhere to the following tenets in the ICMA Code of Ethics (revised **June 2020** ~~10/2019~~):
 - Affirm the dignity and worth of local government services and maintain a deep sense of social responsibility as a trusted public servant. (Tenet 2)
 - Demonstrate by word and action the highest standards of ethical conduct and integrity in all public, professional, and personal relationships in order to merit the trust and respect of elected and appointed officials, employees, and the public. (Tenet 3)
 - Serve the best interest of the people. (Tenet 4)

2. Any City Council member may detail a suspected violation of this Code of Ethics by another City Council member, and forward this to the Troy City Council for action. The accused City Councilmember shall have an opportunity to respond to the allegations. If after considering all of the information, the Troy City Council determines that there was a violation of this Code of Ethics, then City Council may censure the offending City Council member, or take any other action that is allowed under the law, including but not limited to a request for a criminal misconduct investigation.

3. **City Council shall thoroughly review this Code of Ethics at least once each calendar year at a City Council meeting, and thoughtfully consider and discuss its effectiveness and/or the need for any revisions.**

Signed this ~~9th~~ day of **February** ~~November, 2020.~~ **2021**



**RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF TROY, MICHIGAN**

Adopted: February 8, 2021

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1. APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR PRO TEM:

The selection of Mayor Pro Tem shall rotate annually in the following order: Brooks, Erickson Gault, Chamberlain-Creanga, Hodorek, Abraham, Hamilton

2. CODE OF ETHICS:

a) CITY COUNCIL CODE OF ETHICS:

City Council shall thoroughly review its Code of Ethics at least once each calendar year at a City Council meeting, and thoughtfully consider and discuss its effectiveness and/or the need for any revisions. ~~City Council shall review and revisit the City Council Code of Ethics in November of each calendar year, and all~~ In November of each year, all City Council members shall agree to abide by the approved City Council Code of Ethics, and shall evidence this agreement by affixing their signature to a written copy of the Code of Ethics at the earliest opportunity, and providing an executed copy to the City Clerk. **The Council Code of Ethics shall be prominently placed on the City's website.** City Council members shall hold themselves to the highest level of integrity.

b) BOARD AND COMMITTEE CODE OF ETHICS:

City Council shall review and revisit the Board and Committee Code of Ethics in November of each calendar year, and upon appointment, all Board and Committee members shall agree to abide by the adopted Board and Committee Code of Ethics, and shall evidence this agreement by affixing their signature to a written copy of the Code of Ethics at the earliest opportunity, and providing an executed copy to the City Clerk. **A copy of the Board and Committee Code of Ethics shall be prominently placed on the City's website, and this shall be a generic version that is applicable to all City Boards and Committees.**

3. DESIGNATION OF ACTING MAYOR:

In the absence or disability of both the Mayor and the Mayor Pro Tem, the Council Member present who has served longest shall be designated Acting Mayor and shall perform the duties of the Mayor.

4. SPECIAL MEETINGS:

Special meetings may be called in accordance with the City Charter and the Open Meetings Act. Special meetings shall be held at 6:00 P.M. in the Council Board Room unless the written notice to each member of the Council provides for a different time and/or place.

a) SPECIAL MEETING AGENDAS:

The City Manager shall be responsible for the preparation of an agenda for each special meeting. The agenda packet, excluding material exempt from disclosure by state or federal statute, shall be posted on the City's website and distributed to the City Council at least eighteen (18) hours in advance of the meeting.

b) SPECIAL MEETING ORDER OF BUSINESS:

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Public Comment
- D. Business Stated in the Special Meeting Notice
- E. Other Business (Only with consent in accordance with City Charter Section 4.3).
- F. Adjournment

5. REGULAR MEETINGS:

Regular meetings shall be held at 7:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers. A schedule of regular meetings for the subsequent calendar year shall be adopted by resolution in accordance with the City Charter and the Open Meetings Act.

a) REGULAR MEETING AGENDAS:

The City Manager shall be responsible for the preparation of an agenda for each regular meeting. The agenda packet, excluding material exempt from disclosure by state or federal statute, shall be posted on the City's website and distributed to the City Council at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting. When City Council meets in a closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268 (c), for strategy and negotiation sessions connected with the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement, the collective bargaining agreement shall be identified on the agenda. When City Council meets in a closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268 (e), to consult with its attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with specific pending litigation, the specific pending litigation shall be identified on the agenda.

b) REGULAR MEETING ORDER OF BUSINESS:

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Certificates of Recognition and Special Presentations
- D. Carryover Items
- E. Public Hearings
- F. Public Comment for Items On the Agenda
- G. City Council/City Administration Response/Reply to Public Comment
- H. Postponed Items

- I. Regular Business
- J. Consent Agenda
- K. Memorandums and Future Council Agenda Items
- L. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda
- M. City Council/City Administration Response/Reply to Public Comment – Any Responses/Replies will be provided after all persons have finished addressing City Council
- N. Council Referrals - Items appearing under Council Referrals are items intended for City Council action that are brought forward by the Mayor or Council Members in accordance with the Rules of Procedure
- O. Reports
- P. Council Comments - Items for the good of the order brought forward by Mayor and Council

- Q. Closed Session
- R. Adjournment

6. BROADCASTING OF CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS:

All regular meetings of the City Council will be broadcast on the City's government access cable channel and/or made available through online streaming or similar media formats.

7. MINUTES:

The draft City Council meeting minutes will be available on the City's website prior to their inclusion in the next regular agenda packet. The requested approval of the minutes will be included on the Consent Agenda.

8. PROCLAMATIONS AND CONGRATULATORY CERTIFICATES:

City Council receives requests for proclamations to honor or celebrate milestones or achievements of Troy residents and businesses, and also to raise awareness of certain events or causes. Proclamations are intended to positively impact the community and convey an affirmative message to Troy residents, and are discretionary. Any person requesting a proclamation for presentation at a regular City Council meeting shall submit a written request to the City Manager or his/her designee. Proclamations must be approved by City Council at a regular meeting preceding the requested presentation date. If a presentation is requested, the proclamation will be included under the topic of Certificates of Recognition and Special Presentations.

Congratulatory certificates are public announcements made by City Council at ribbon cutting ceremonies, grand openings and other events outside of regular City Council meetings. Any

request for such a congratulatory certificate should be submitted to the City Manager or his/her designee in advance of the planned business celebration and will not require City Council action.

9. RECONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS:

A motion to reconsider any vote of the Council may be made by either side of the voted motion and shall require the affirmative vote of the majority of the Council Members elect. A motion to reconsider can be made only if no action was taken as a result of the previous vote. If such a motion to reconsider passes, and new information has been brought forward, then any member of Council may move to take action on the motion that is to be reconsidered, and any such motion would pass by an affirmative vote of the majority of the Council Members elect.

10. RESCISSION OF RESOLUTIONS

Rescission of any vote of the Council shall require the affirmative vote of the majority of the Council Members elect only if no action was taken as a result of the previous vote.

11. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Public hearings will be held after required notice has been provided. The City Council may upon affirmative vote of a majority of its members "continue" said hearing at a future date designated in the resolution, without the necessity of re-notification. If the City Council elects to continue the public hearing it will appear in the designated meeting agenda under the topic of Public Hearings.

12. CONSENT AGENDA:

The Consent Agenda includes items of a routine nature and will be approved with one motion. That motion will approve the recommended action for each item on the Consent Agenda. Any Council Member may remove an item from the Consent Agenda and have it considered as a separate item. Any item(s) so removed from the Consent Agenda shall be considered after approval of the motion for all non-removed items on the consent portion of the agenda. Public comment on Consent Agenda items will be permitted pursuant to the Rules of Procedure.

13. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

a) MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS:

The Mayor shall, with City Council concurrence, appoint members of the following

boards or committees as governed by state statute or city ordinances: Board of Review, Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, Civil Service Commission (Act 78), Downtown Development Authority, Economic Development Corporation, Global Troy Advisory Committee, Local Development Finance Authority, Planning Commission, Volunteer Firefighter Incentive Board

b) CITY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS:

The Mayor Pro Tem shall contact candidates or incumbents for City Council appointments to determine their interest in being nominated or reappointed. Any Council Member, but usually the Mayor Pro Tem, may put forth nominees to the following boards or committees: Animal Control Appeal Board, Building Code Board of Appeals, Charter Revision Committee, Election Commission, Historic District Commission, Liquor Advisory Committee, Municipal Building Authority, Parks and Recreation Board, Personnel Board, Retiree Health Care Benefits Plan & Trust, SOCRRA, SEMCOG, Sustainable Design Review Committee, Traffic Committee, Zoning Board of Appeals

c) NOMINATIONS:

The Mayor or any Council Member desiring to nominate a person for appointment to a board, commission, or committee shall submit the person's name for nomination at a regular meeting during the item Board and Committee Nominations. The person's name will be placed on the agenda for the next regular meeting under the item Board and Committee Appointments. A brief summary of background and personal data as to nominee's qualifications (or a resume) should be submitted on or before the time of nomination, except that such a resume shall not be required for the re-nomination of a current board or commission member, or if the Council unanimously agrees that a resume is not necessary. In the event that more nominees are put forth than positions available, the City Clerk will conduct a roll call vote.

14. CITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

a) SEMCOG (Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments) Representation:

The Mayor and City Council shall appoint one delegate and one alternate to serve on the SEMCOG General Assembly for a term of two-years expiring at 7:30 PM on the Monday following the City Council general election.

b) SOCRRA (South Oakland County Resource Recovery Authority) Representation:

The Mayor and City Council shall appoint one delegate and one alternate to serve on the SOCRRA Board for a term of one-year expiring on June 15th.

c) No member of the City Council shall serve on any committee, commission or board of the City of Troy, except the Retirement System Board of Trustees, Retiree Health Care

Benefits Plan and Trust, Volunteer Firefighter Incentive Plan & Trust, Global Troy Advisory Committee, Downtown Development Authority and Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA), unless membership is required by ordinance, statute or the City Charter.

- d) Because quasi-judicial boards and commissions are appointed by Council, and make recommendations to the Council, these recommendations should be made independent of the influence of individual Council Members. As a result, members of City Council shall not appear before or attend meetings of City boards or commissions if they are not appointed members of the City board or committee.

15. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND VISITORS:

Any person not a member of the City Council may address the Council with recognition of the Chair, after clearly stating the nature of his/her inquiry or comment. **NOTE TO THE PUBLIC:** *City Council requests that if you do have a question or concern, to bring it to the attention of the appropriate department(s) whenever possible. If you feel that the matter has not been resolved satisfactorily, you are encouraged to bring it to the attention of the City Manager, and if still not resolved satisfactorily, to the Mayor and Council.*

- Petitioners of items that are included in the pre-printed agenda booklet shall be given a fifteen (15) minute presentation time that may be extended with the majority consent of City Council.
- Any member of the public, not a petitioner of an item, shall be allowed to speak for up to three (3) minutes to address any Public Hearing item.
- Any member of the public, not a petitioner of an item, does not have the right to engage in discussion or debate with City Council during the Public Comment portions of the meeting.
- All members of the public who wish to address the Council at a meeting shall be allowed to speak only if they have signed up to speak within thirty minutes before or within fifteen minutes after the meeting's start time. Signing up to speak requires each speaker provide his or her name. If the speaker is addressing an item(s) that appears on the pre-printed agenda, then the speaker shall also identify each such agenda item number(s) to be addressed.
- City Council may waive the requirements of this section by a consensus of the City Council.
- Agenda items that are related to topics where there is significant public input anticipated should initiate the scheduling of a special meeting for that specific purpose.

Prior to Public Comment for Items On the Agenda, the Mayor may provide a verbal notification of the rules of decorum for City Council meetings or refer to the pre-printed agenda booklet, which will include the following language, as approved by City Council:

The audience should be aware that all comments are to be directed to the Council rather than to City Administration or the audience. Anyone who wishes to address the Council is required to sign up to speak within thirty minutes before or within fifteen minutes of the start of the meeting. There are three Public Comment portions of the agenda. For Items On the Agenda, visitors can sign up to address Postponed, Regular Business, Consent Agenda, or

Study items or any other item on the agenda. All other topics are addressed under Items Not on the Agenda. There is a timer on the City Council table in front of the Mayor that turns yellow when there is one minute of speaker time remaining, and turns red when the speaker's time is up. In order to make the meeting more orderly and out of respect, please do not clap during the meeting, and please do not use expletives or make derogatory or disparaging comments about any one person or group. If you do so, then there may be immediate consequences, including having the microphone turned off, being asked to leave the meeting, and/or the deletion of speaker comments for any re-broadcast of the meeting. Speakers should also be careful to avoid saying anything that would subject them to civil liability, such as slander and defamation. Please avoid these consequences and voluntarily assist us in maintaining the decorum befitting this great City.

16. RULES OF ORDER:

Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, as clarified by the City Clerk, is hereby adopted, except as modified by these Rules of Procedure, the Charter, or the City Code.

17. ABSENCES AT COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Members of Council who are unable to attend a Council meeting and desire an excused absence shall notify the City Attorney or City Manager of their absence in writing as soon as possible prior to the meeting and indicate the reason for the absence. The reason shall be entered in the proceedings of the Council at the time of each absence.

18. SUSPEND RULES:

The Rules of Procedure may be waived by a simple majority vote, unless specifically noted that a consensus of City Council is sufficient.

19. COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

No member of Council shall speak a second time on any item under discussion until all other members desiring to speak on that item have been heard. No member of Council shall be allowed to speak for more than five (5) minutes at a time.

20. AGENDA ITEMS SUBMITTED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Timely submitted agenda items that, in the City Manager's judgment, do not require a professional opinion from City Administration, will be placed on the next regular agenda for City Council action. These items include, but are not limited to proclamations and celebratory matters. If the City Manager believes that City Council could benefit from additional input from City Administration prior to voting on a referral, then the next regular

agenda will contain only a resolution directing City Administration to provide additional input to accompany the Council referral for a future City Council meeting.

21. WIRE COMMUNICATIONS BY AND TO COUNCIL MEMBERS DURING ANY MEETING OF COUNCIL:

Members of Council shall not engage in electronic communication with each other or a member of the public during a regular or special meeting. Electronic communication is defined as e-mail, text message, instant message, website, social media, blog posting, or any other form of communication transmitted or retrieved through the use of an electronic device. This rule does not apply to participation of a Council Member in a meeting via electronic means, subject to the approval of City Council for such participation.