

CITY COMMISSION RULES OF ORDER

1. DEFINITION OF TERMS

- 1.01 Charter - the Charter of Sandusky, Ohio effective July 28, 1914, and its amendments;
- 1.02 Member - a member of the City Commission;
- 1.03 President - the President of the City Commission and Presiding Officer or Chair of the City Commission who is the Ex-officio Mayor under the Charter;
- 1.04 Clerk - the Clerk of the City Commission;
- 1.05 Meeting - any regular or special meeting of the City Commission;
- 1.06 Quorum - a majority of the members elected to the City Commission;
- 1.07 Ad Hoc Committee - a temporary committee created by the City Commission through motion, usually composed of two members.

2. APPLICATION OF RULES

- 2.01 Except as otherwise provided by the Charter or laws of the State of Ohio, the functioning and proceedings of the City Commission shall be governed by these City Commission Rules of Order.
- 2.02 On matters involving parliamentary procedure not provided for in these City Commission Rules of Order, the Clerk's latest revised edition of "Robert's Rules of Order" shall be referenced by the President as persuasive, rather than binding, and the President's determination shall be final.
- 2.03 The Law Director shall act as parliamentarian and, when applicable, shall interpret "Robert's Rules of Order" for the City Commission.
- 2.04 These Rules of Order shall not be altered except by a vote of a majority of all members of the City Commission, and at a regular or special meeting. The proposition to make an amendment shall be in the form of a resolution, and shall be submitted and read to the City Commission at a meeting preceding the one at which it is acted upon. These Rules of Order may be suspended, when appropriate, by a majority vote of all City Commission members.

3. CITY COMMISSION COMMITTEES

- 3.01 Ad hoc committees may be created by the City Commission to review, study and make recommendations on specific matters. The President shall appoint with the consent of the City Commission each ad hoc committee, give it a charge, and establish the time frame within which the committee is to report to the City Commission. When an ad hoc committee has completed its charge, the existence of the committee shall terminate.
- 3.02 The Clerk of the City Commission shall provide for the electronic recordings of all ad hoc committee meetings and will maintain these recordings as the permanent record of these meetings.

4. CITY COMMISSION MEETINGS

- 4.01 Regular meetings shall be held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. Meetings shall be convened in the City Commission Chamber of the City of Sandusky at 5:00 p.m., or in an alternate public place within the City of Sandusky corporate limits, provided that a public notice shall be posted on the entrance doors of the Municipal Building 24 hours prior to the meeting time. In the event that a regular meeting date of the City Commission coincides with a legal holiday, or presents a conflict for a majority of members, the City Commission may establish an alternate date, or cancel the regular meeting. The Clerk shall ensure that any cancellation, alternate date or alternate location is published in a local newspaper of general circulation within the City of Sandusky.
- 4.02 The President and City Manager shall confer regularly regarding the agenda for City Commission meetings, after which the President shall determine the agenda. Upon concurrence that a meeting may become unduly lengthy due to the content and/or number of items on an agenda, the President may divide the agenda and defer items to the following regular meeting, or call a special meeting as provided for in Section 10 of the City Charter.
- 4.03 Special meetings are governed by Section 10 of the City Charter and Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

4.04 Members shall be present during all regular and special meetings. Excused absences shall be granted by the City Commission by a majority vote of the City Commission pursuant to Section 11 of the City Charter.

5. CITY COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

5.01 Except for emergency matters or other special matters requiring the immediate attention of the City Commission, a listing of business to be considered by the City Commission shall be prepared and made available to each member at least 96 hours prior to each regular City Commission meeting.

5.02 It is the responsibility of the Clerk to prepare and deliver the agenda and all supporting documentation under the general supervision and direction of the President and the City Manager. All members of the City Administration and members of the public are encouraged to cooperate with the Clerk in making the agenda complete and accurate. While nothing herein will prevent the introduction of new business not listed on the agenda, the City Commission may require additional time to study any item not included on the agenda.

5.03 The City Commission may, upon majority vote of its members, modify the order or contents of the agenda at a City Commission meeting.

6. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

6.01 Public Notice

The Clerk shall cause to be published one time in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the City a statement of the dates, times, and places of the City Commission meetings regularly scheduled for the calendar year. Said publication shall occur no later than the day preceding the day of the first such regular meeting for the calendar year. The Clerk of the Commission may use any other medium appropriate for notice of public meetings.

6.02 Public Posting

The Clerk shall also post a statement of the dates, times, and places of each regular City Commission meeting for the calendar year at least one week prior to the first regular meeting of the calendar year. Said posting shall be done at three (3) locations; the City Building, the Central Fire Station and the Sandusky Public Library.

7. PUBLICATION OF MEETING AGENDAS

7.01 Agenda Packets for Press / Media

The Clerk shall make available a copy of the agenda for any regular or special meeting to any news organization requesting same. The agenda will include copies of new ordinances and resolutions and other materials shall be made available at the discretion of the Clerk. These agenda packets will be made available to news organizations by 4:30 p.m. on Thursday prior to regular meetings, and as soon as practicable prior to special meetings. It is the responsibility of the news organization to make arrangements for pick-up of its agenda packet.

8. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The President shall take the chair at the hour appointed for the meeting of the City Commission and shall call the meeting to order and direct the Clerk to call roll. If a quorum is present, the meeting shall continue.

The order of any regular or special meeting shall be as follows:

1. Invocation
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Call to Order
4. Roll Call
5. Action of Minutes of previous meeting(s)
6. Audience Participation, agenda items only (3 minute limit)
7. Proclamations / Special Recognitions
8. Public Hearings
9. Legislation
 - a. Tabled legislation
 - b. Second reading of ordinances / resolutions
 - c. First reading of ordinances / resolutions
10. City Manager's Report

11. Committee & Department Heads / Commission Liaison Reports
12. Old Business
13. New Business
14. Audience Participation – Open Discussion (5 minute limit)
15. Executive Session(s) if any
16. Adjournment

9. REQUEST TO SPEAK

9.01 Members' Right to Speak

- a. While each member has the right to speak, the member must request this right by addressing the chair. Upon being recognized, the member may proceed.
- b. No member may filibuster. No member may speak for more than five (5) minutes continuously, except by leave of the President. The decision by the President in this matter is final. Reference to personalities and personal attacks shall be avoided by all speakers.
- c. A member may speak a second time on any one question only after all members have been given an opportunity to speak.
- d. The President shall regulate debate in any other manner that she/he deems necessary, provided that the rights of all persons to express their views are respected.
- e. By a motion duly made, seconded, and passed by a majority of members present, the City Commission may overrule any limitation of debate by the President and allow a member to speak for an additional five (5) minutes.

9.02 Residents / Interested Parties' Duties

Any resident or interested party desiring to address the City Commission shall be first recognized by the chair. She/he shall then step to the floor microphone and state her/his name and address in an audible tone for the Clerk's record. Remarks shall be limited as provided in Section 8 and reference to personalities and personal attacks shall be avoided by all speakers.

9.03 City Employees

The City Manager and any other appointed, administrative level official shall be entitled at all times to any privilege of the floor for the purpose of speaking upon any questions that pertain to their duties, responsibilities and authority. All provisions of 9.01 apply.

10. VOTING PROCEDURES

10.01 Every member present, when a question is put, shall vote unless the member has an ethical conflict of interest. Any member requesting permission to abstain may make a brief statement of the reason for making such a request. The question shall then be immediately taken without further debate.

10.02 Voting on all legislation shall be oral and in open. No proxy votes are permitted. When the Clerk calls roll, each member shall respond "yes", "no", "present", or "abstain". No other comment is permitted during voting. The order of voting shall rotate in a random manner.

10.03 The Clerk shall announce the results of the voting, and state whether the matter voted upon passed or failed.

10.04 No vote of a member shall be questioned. Any member so desiring may briefly comment upon the vote personally cast after the roll call and announcement of the result. The President shall decide upon the propriety of the comments and monitor the length of same.

11. LEGISLATING PROCEDURE

11.01 A member may speak on any legislation; call for questions; ask for a statement of the question (which the President shall render); call for a division of the questions (the President shall render a decision regarding the divisibility of any question and said decision shall be subject to appeal as is a question of order); and question the City Manager. Any two members may demand the previous question.

11.02 Any member may request the preparation of such legislation as the member deems appropriate. Legislation is prepared and recommended by the Administration.

- 11.03 Every motion shall be reduced to writing if the chair or a member so requests.
- 11.04 When a motion is offered and seconded, it shall be transcribed and read back by the Clerk before debate. When written, it shall be read by the Clerk before debate.
- 11.05 After a motion has been read by the Clerk, it shall be deemed to be in the City Commission's possession and may be withdrawn only by leave of the City Commission.
- 11.06 Ordinances and resolutions shall be read by title only unless there is an objection from one of the Commission members.
- 11.07 Form of Ordinances / Resolutions
- a. All ordinances and resolutions shall continue to be written in the same format and style as was in use at the time these rules were enacted by the Commission. All such legislation shall be assigned a number by the Clerk.
 - b. Each ordinance / resolution shall contain not more than one subject, which shall be fully described in the caption in easily understood terms.
- 11.08 Second Reading / Public Hearings - No motion is required on second readings. After debate has closed, the President shall direct the Clerk to call the roll.
- 11.09 Order of Consideration of Questions - All questions shall be considered in the order in which they are made.
- 11.10 Motion Made - Additional Proper Motions - When a question is before the Commission or under debate, or a motion has been made, no other motion shall be proper, except the following and these take precedence according to the order listed:
1. to adjourn
 2. to table until future stated time
 3. request cessation of debate and vote be taken
 4. to refer to an ad hoc committee
 5. to amend the matter under discussion

6. to postpone action for an indefinite time or to a date certain.

11.11 Question Without Debate – the following questions shall be considered without debate:

1. to adjourn
2. to lie on the table
3. to take from the table
4. all questions relating to priority.

11.12 Motion to Postpone – Adjourn

- a. A motion to postpone (to a day certain or indefinitely) shall not again be allowed at the same reading of the ordinance or resolution under consideration.
- b. A motion to adjourn shall always be in order, but if decided in the negative, it shall not be entertained again until some motion, order, or decision has taken place.

11.13 Motion to Take From the Table – A motion to remove any matter from the table shall be in order after consideration of one question succeeding the tabling. This is not debatable. Any matter removed from the table shall not be considered or acted upon until the next or a subsequent meeting.

11.14 Motion to Strike Out – A motion to strike out and insert shall be deemed divisible and a refusal to strike out equivalent to agreeing to the matter in the form, but shall not preclude further amendment by way of addition.

11.15 Appeal Decision of the Chair – On appeal from the decision of the chair, no member shall speak more than once, and the chair shall have preference.

11.16 Call to Order – If any member, in speaking or otherwise, violates the rules of the Commission, the chair or any member may call her/him to order and the member so called shall cease speaking until the question of order is decided.

12. MISCELLANEOUS

12.01 Council Courtesies

No member shall privately confer while the Commission is in session with anyone other than a fellow member, the City Manager, the Clerk, or Law Director. Such discussions as are permitted shall be brief and shall be conducted in a tone and manner so as not to disturb the proceedings.

12.02 Confidentiality

- a. On matters where public knowledge of same could be detrimental to the City's position on legal, fiscal, property acquisition, personnel or other matters as provided in Section 10 of the City Charter and O.R.C. Section 121.22 (G), all members shall limit and/or restrict discussion and/or dissemination of the confidential information unless and until the Commission or the City Manager decides such matters may be discussed publicly.
- b. No member may speak for the City Commission as a body unless specifically authorized to do so by the City Commission.

12.03 Enforcement of Rules

The President shall conduct all City Commission meetings in accordance with these rules and shall preserve order at all meetings, and shall enforce the rules of the Commission either by private or public reprimand.

12.04 Violation of Rules

If any member, in speaking or otherwise, shall violate any rule of the City Commission, the President shall call the member to order. If such member is speaking when called to order, the member immediately cease speaking unless permitted to explain. The question or order shall be decided without debate, at the President's discretion.