

# City of Huber Heights **RULES OF COUNCIL**

(Adopted by the Huber Heights City Council on January 25, 2021)



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## **I. POWERS, JURISDICTION, FUNCTIONS AND LIMITATIONS**

Except as otherwise provided under the City Charter, all legislation and other powers of the City are vested in the Council. The Council has the power to enact ordinances, resolutions, and other measures to carry out municipal functions involving the City's departments, divisions, offices, boards, commissions, officers, and employees (Section 4.01, City Charter).

Councilmembers have power and may exercise that power only when Council is in session. Councilmembers and the Council itself are not bound by any statement or action taken by individual members, City officials, or employees unless in accord with Council action. Individual Councilmembers shall not direct any City official or employee to perform services or take action related to City operations (Section 4.06 (C), City Charter). Only as a body does Council have power to direct City operations and that direction is executed through the City Manager.

Some specific Council functions include:

1. Making policy necessary for the operation of the City.
2. Appointing a City Manager and establishing a salary for the City Manager (Section 6.01, City Charter).
3. Appointing a Clerk of Council (and Deputy Clerk of Council) and establishing a salary for the Clerk(s) (Section 4.08, City Charter).
4. Appointing a Law Director and establishing a salary for the Law Director (Section 7.05, City Charter).
5. Obtaining reports from the City Manager concerning conditions, efficiencies, needs, and other affairs and related City matters.
6. Evaluating and approving the City budget and appropriations and their modifications.
7. Evaluating the effectiveness of City programs and the performance of the City Manager, the Clerk of Council, and the Law Director.
8. Informing the public of City activities and needs.
9. Regulating its own organization and membership (Sections 4.02, 4.03, 4.05, 4.06, 4.07, 4.10 and 4.13, City Charter).

Council shall adopt, by a simple majority vote of its members currently holding office, its own Rules of Council which shall not conflict with the City Charter and which shall remain in effect until amended, changed or repealed by a majority vote of the members of Council then holding office. The Rules of Council shall go into immediate effect unless a later date is specified, and shall not be subject to initiative or referendum. The Rules of Council shall provide for the number, composition and manner of appointment of committees of Council, and such other matters as the Council shall determine to be necessary for the proper functioning and government of Council (Section 4.14, City Charter).

## **II. MEETINGS**

- A. Regular City Council Meetings:** Regular Council City Meetings will be held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month (except for December) unless the day falls on a City holiday. If such a conflict occurs, the meeting schedule will be

adjusted to address the holiday. Meetings will begin at 7:00 P.M. and will be held in the Council Chambers at the City Hall Building.

- B. Special City Council Meetings:** Special City Council Meetings may be called for any purpose by the Mayor or any five (5) Councilmembers upon at least twenty-four (24) hours' notice to the Mayor and each Councilmember. Councilmembers and the Mayor may waive receipt of notice of a special meeting either prior or subsequent to the meeting (Section 4.13, City Charter). The member or members calling the meeting will, through the Clerk of Council, notify the media and other individuals that have requested notification of the time, place and purpose of any special meeting.
- C. Council Work Sessions:** Council Work Sessions are working committee meetings of Council and are not utilized for legislative action or other formal Council actions appropriate to Regular or Special City Council Meetings. Council Work Sessions will be generally held on the Tuesday of the week prior to the Regular Council City Meetings unless the day falls on a City holiday. If such a conflict occurs, the meeting schedule will be adjusted to address the holiday. Council Work Sessions will generally begin at 6:00 P.M. and will be held in the Council Chambers at the City Hall Building. Council Work Sessions may also be called for any purpose at other dates and times by the Mayor or any five (5) Councilmembers upon at least twenty-four (24) hours' notice to the Mayor and each Councilmember. Councilmembers and the Mayor may waive receipt of notice of a special meeting either prior or subsequent to the meeting (Section 4.13, City Charter). The member or members calling the meeting will, through the Clerk of Council, notify the media and other individuals that have requested notification of the time, place and purpose of any special meeting.
- D. Committee of the Whole:** Council may schedule committee meetings of the entire Council as a Committee of the Whole meeting. Committee of the Whole meetings may be called for any purpose by the Mayor or any five (5) Councilmembers upon at least twenty-four (24) hours' notice to the Mayor and each Councilmember. Councilmembers and the Mayor may waive receipt of notice of a special meeting either prior or subsequent to the meeting. The member or members calling the meeting will, through the Clerk of Council, notify the media and other individuals that have requested notification of the time, place and purpose of any special meeting.
- E. Between Regularly Scheduled City Council Meetings:** Councilmembers are to be informed of incidents involving the City that, in the judgment of the City Manager, the Law Director, or the Clerk of Council; may require immediate consideration by the Council. A Council meeting may be the means required for conveying information regarding these incidents. In addition, Councilmembers are to be informed at the onset of incidents which may eventually require budgetary or policy decisions by Council.
- F. Public Notification of Meetings:** The Clerk of Council will make public notice of all Regular or Special City Council Meetings, Council Work Sessions, and other

meetings of Council at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance of such meetings or sessions. This public notice will include the date, time, place, and purpose for the meeting or session. This public notice will be done in the following manner:

1. Posting of the public notice at the City Hall building.
2. Posting of the public notice on the City of Huber Heights official website.
3. Posting of the public notice on the City of Huber Heights official Facebook and Twitter accounts.
4. Distribution of the public notice by email via the Internet through an electronic distribution list maintained by the Clerk of Council that includes media outlets and individual members of the public who have requested notification in advance (see below).

The public may also obtain notice of the date, time, place, and purpose of all Regular or Special City Council Meetings, Council Work Sessions, and other meetings of Council by contacting the Office of the Clerk of Council.

Any person may obtain advance notification of all Council meetings by email via the Internet through an electronic distribution list maintained by the Clerk of Council at no charge. This request should be made in writing to the Clerk of Council. Any such request shall be effective indefinitely from the date of filing with the Clerk of Council or until the Clerk of Council receives written notice from an individual canceling or modifying such request. Notification of any special meeting shall be sent to those who have requested such notification. A reasonable attempt at notification shall constitute notification in compliance with these Rules of Council.

- G. Executive Session Meetings:** Meetings in Executive Session shall be closed, private, and confidential; and shall be held in accordance with Ohio Revised Code 121.22, the Ohio Sunshine Law. These meetings are to be noted on the agenda of regular meetings, when practicable. Any individual Councilmember may motion that Council recess to Executive Session when circumstances are such that satisfactory answers or useful discussion may be provided only in Executive Session. A motion, to include the general purpose of the Executive Session as specified in Ohio Revised Code 121.22 and passed by a majority or unanimous vote (depending on the purpose of the Executive Session), is required for Council to recess to Executive Session.

All other Council meetings must also comply with the requirements of Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 as described above.

Minutes of the Executive Session discussions shall not be kept. Neither shall any participant record the proceedings of the any Executive Session by any electrical or mechanical device.

The minutes of the Regular City Council Meetings or Special City Council Meetings, as well as Council Work Sessions and other Council meetings, should reflect the general subject matter of discussion held in Executive Session authorized under Division G of the Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code. In addition, the

aforementioned minutes should reflect the vote on the motion to go into Executive Session and the commencement and termination times of the Executive Session meeting.

Discussion in Executive Session is confidential. No participant shall compromise the confidentiality of an Executive Session.

- H. Pre-Meeting Information:** Two (2) business days prior to scheduled City Council Meetings, Council Work Sessions, or other Council meetings, Councilmembers are to be furnished a meeting packet with information germane to the meeting agenda items. This meeting packet will include background information on the agenda items and/or copies of proposed ordinances and resolutions, historical information, and any additional relevant information on the agenda items. The agenda will normally be finalized on the Thursday immediately preceding each meeting; however, proposed agenda items must be submitted to the Office of the Clerk of Council through the AgendaQuick system and approved by the City Manager on the Wednesday immediately preceding each meeting by 5:00 P.M. The Law Director will also be provided all of this information to allow for proper legal review.
- I. Recesses and Adjournments:** City Council Meetings, Council Work Sessions, or other Council meetings may be adjourned or recessed to another time, date, or place without giving the notice required in paragraph B, Special Meetings, above (Section 4.13 (C), City Charter). Short recesses (5-15 minutes) may be designated by the Presiding Officer during regular or special meetings without a vote of Council. Other recesses require a simple majority vote of Council.
- J. Presiding Officer:** The Mayor presides over Regular City Council Meetings, Special City Council Meetings, Council Work Sessions, Committee of the Whole meetings, or other Council meetings; however, in the absence of the Mayor, the Vice Mayor presides (Section 4.04, City Charter). In the absence of the Mayor and the Vice Mayor or at the discretion of the Mayor or Vice Mayor, the Council may elect a Councilmember to serve as Presiding Officer for that meeting provided a Council quorum is present. The Mayor is a member of Council, but does not have voting rights on issues in Regular City Council Meetings or Special City Council Meetings except in cases of tie votes (Section 4.04, City Charter). The Mayor is a non-voting member of all Council appointed committees (Section 4.04, City Charter). The Vice Mayor serves as a Councilmember with all voting and other rights accorded that position (Section 4.04, City Charter).
- K. Clerk of Council:** The Clerk of Council (with the assistance of the Deputy Clerk of Council) serves as Council administrator. The Clerk attends Council meetings, records proceedings, maintains City records, handles public records requests, authenticates legislation and signatures, prepares correspondence and minutes, and performs other duties as directed by Council and required by law (Section 4.08, City Charter). The job duties and functions of the Clerk of Council and the Deputy Clerk of Council are also defined in the applicable position descriptions. These job duties and functions are further defined through the day to day general supervision and

assignment of duties, tasks, and responsibilities by the Clerk of Council to the Deputy Clerk of Council.

**L. Quorum and Majority Votes:**

1. Quorum: Five (5) members of Council, other than the Mayor, shall constitute a quorum for all Council meetings. Confronted with a lack of a quorum, a smaller number of Councilmembers may convene and may compel the attendance of absent members and may adjourn meetings to a subsequent date (Section 4.12, City Charter).
2. Majorities: In determining a simple, a two-thirds (2/3), or a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of Council, the Mayor is counted. Majorities are based on the total number of Councilmembers holding office (not simply those present). Therefore, majorities are calculated, in normal situations, using the number nine (9) as denominator. Thus, five (5) constitutes a simple majority, six (6) a two-thirds (2/3) majority, and seven (7) a three-fourths (3/4) majority.

**M. Attendance, Absences, and Removals:** Councilmembers are required and expected to attend all Regular City Council Meetings and Special City Council Meetings. Absences from Council meetings may be excused for reasonable cause. All absences from meetings will be communicated through the Clerk of Council's Office. For the official record purposes, a motion of Council to excuse a member's absence must be passed by a simple majority vote.

Unexcused absences from three (3) consecutive Regular City Council Meetings may result in the removal of a Councilmember. A two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Councilmembers then holding office, exclusive of the Councilmember being considered for removal, is required (Section 13.08, City Charter).

A Councilmember or the Mayor may be expelled from a Council meeting for disorderly conduct or violation of the Rules of Council by a vote of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of Councilmembers. Expulsions are considered unexcused absences.

**N. Agendas:**

1. Preparation: The Clerk of Council shall be responsible for preparing the agendas for all Council meetings in consultation with the City Manager and the Presiding Officer. The Presiding Officer may also solicit input from Councilmembers and the Mayor for the agendas for all Council meetings. Any three (3) Councilmembers may also compel an item to be placed on the agenda for Council Work Sessions as described under Section II, C. of this document.
2. Review: Council will be previously apprised and informed of all proposed legislation/motions and/or other matters of significance on the agendas through Council Work Sessions, other Council meetings, or written



communications from the City Manager or the Clerk of Council (except for emergency situations) or as otherwise determined by Council.

3. Format:

A. Regular City Council Meetings of Council will follow this format unless changed by any five (5) Councilmembers:

1. Call the Meeting to Order
2. Invocation
3. Flag Ceremony
4. Pledge of Allegiance
5. Roll Call
6. Approval of Minutes
7. Special Presentations/Announcements \*
8. Citizens Comments \*\*
9. Citizens Registered to Speak on Agenda Items \*\*
10. City Manager Report
11. Pending Business
12. New Business
13. City Official Reports and Comments
14. Executive Session
15. Adjournment

\* Usually reserved to accommodate non-profit or citizen groups whose purpose is to make a short, formal presentation.

\*\* Citizens wishing to reserve time to speak must complete a Citizens Comments Request.

B. Council Work Sessions will normally follow this format:

1. Call the Meeting to Order/Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes
3. City Manager Report
4. Work Session Topics of Discussion
5. Executive Session
6. Adjournment

**O. Public Participation at Meetings:** The Presiding Officer of Regular or Special City Council Meetings, Council Work Sessions, or other Council meetings will recognize persons requesting to be heard. If the topic to be discussed is not on the agenda, it may be discussed under Citizens Comments. Members of the public desiring to speak at Regular City Council Meetings and Special City Council Meetings must request time using the Citizens Comments Request. Members of the public desiring to speak at Council Work Sessions or other Council meetings may approach the podium and be recognized at the discretion of the Presiding Officer. Citizens

granted time to speak may do so following recognition by the Presiding Officer. Individuals wishing to speak are asked to abide by the following procedures:

1. Wait to speak until recognized by the Presiding Officer.
2. Approach the microphone and state your name.
3. Address remarks to the Presiding Officer.
4. Respond to questions from Councilmembers through the Presiding Officer.
5. Limit comments to subject under discussion (if speaking on an agenda item).
6. Limit comments to five (5) minutes.
7. Avoid complaints and/or remarks directed against individual employees or Councilmembers. (These types of complaints and/or remarks will be ruled out of order by the Presiding Officer and should be handled instead through the proper procedures for filing complaints).

Public statements on agenda items by other than properly registered or properly recognized citizens will generally not be allowed during the discussion and/or decision of such agenda items. Public statements will be accepted during public hearings, citizens' comments agenda time, and at other times as allowed by the Presiding Officer. Regarding pending legislation, citizen comments will be heard only after the reading of the legislation and explanation by City Staff and discussion by Council.

- P. Minutes:** The minutes shall record actions taken at the meeting and shall not be a verbatim transcript of what is said at the meeting. Council may, by a simple majority vote, direct that more detailed minutes be kept for all or part of a meeting.
- Q. Councilmember Decorum:** During all official meetings of the Council, whether Committee Meetings, Council Work Sessions, Regular City Council Meetings, or Special City Council Meetings, the members of Council in attendance will represent the City in a professional manner by directing their comments to the business of the Council and the policy implications of such business.

Disparaging comments about a specific member of Council's personhood, political affiliations, or matters of a personal nature will be ruled out of order by the Presiding Officer. For repeated offenses, the Presiding Officer shall put the question of whether the offender shall be removed from the meeting which shall be determined by a vote of three-fourths (3/4) of Councilmembers then present (excluding the offender) without debate.

In no way is this section designed to eliminate the natural and appropriate disagreement or communication of such disagreements between Councilmembers on particular views, positions, directions, or political and/or philosophical positions of individual Councilmembers. Additionally, this section is not designed to limit any First Amendment rights of individual Councilmembers in their private or political capacities outside of official City meetings.

### ***III. LEGISLATION***

- A. The Legislative Process:** Actions of the Council are by ordinance, resolution, or motion. A motion is used to make or approve appointments of personnel, to conduct the business of Council in procedural matters, to conduct elections required by Council, and for other similar matters provided by the Charter (Section 5.01, City Charter). All motions of Council require seconds. Voting records by individual Councilmembers on each item voted on are to be kept by the Clerk of Council.

Article V of the City Charter prescribes procedures that must be adhered to in regard to legislation. The Law Director assures that any proposed legislation fulfills all legal requirements.

**Step 1.** If determined appropriate, the Presiding Officer will refer proposed legislation to a Council Work Session for Council to review the proposed legislation and to make any recommendations regarding the proposed legislation. Council may also refer the matter to additional Council Work Session(s) to review the proposed legislation in between the ongoing reading(s) of the legislation. In most cases, the proposed legislation will have already been reviewed by a Council Work Session prior to being placed on the meeting agenda for a Regular City Council Meeting or Special City Council Meeting. After discussion on proposed legislation, the Presiding Officer will inquire if there any objections from Councilmembers to placing the proposed legislation on the agenda of a Regular City Council Meeting or Special City Council Meeting for a first reading. If there are any objections to placing the proposed legislation on the agenda of a Regular City Council Meeting or Special City Council Meeting for a first reading, the Presiding Officer may continue the discussion on the proposed legislation to determine an appropriate course of action.

**Step 2.** The proposed legislation is placed on the agenda of a Regular City Council Meeting or Special City Council Meeting for a first reading. A copy of all proposed legislation, except personnel-related actions, will be posted on the bulletin board in City Hall. The Clerk of Council will endeavor to have legislation posted as soon as available prior to the meeting. All readings of legislation are made by title only unless a majority of Council approves by an adopted motion a full text reading. No discussion by Councilmembers will occur until after a motion is on the floor and the motion is seconded. Each resolution must be read on one separate Council meeting day. Each ordinance must be read on two separate Council meeting days, unless this requirement is waived by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Councilmembers then holding office (Section 5.04, City Charter). Approval or rejection of a proposed resolution usually takes place immediately after this first reading, but the resolution can be read at additional readings at the discretion of Council.

**Step 3.** A second reading is held for a proposed ordinance, unless this requirement is waived by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Councilmembers

then holding office (Section 5.04, City Charter). Approval or rejection of the proposed ordinance usually takes place immediately after this second reading but the ordinance can be read at additional readings at the discretion of Council.

**Step 4.** When approved by Council, the legislation is assigned an index number from the legislation journal and typed in final form by the Clerk of Council. An annual indexing system is used. Ordinances are coded “O” and Resolutions “R”; for example, 2017-O-1000 and 2017-R-1000. The legislation is then authenticated by the signatures of the Clerk of Council and the Presiding Officer (Section 5.08(A), City Charter) after the City Council Meeting when available or in a forthwith manner. Amended legislation or legislation not available for authentication by the Clerk of Council and the Presiding Officer during or immediately following the City Council Meeting will also be authenticated forthwith. Motions by Council (beginning in 2009) are also assigned an index number and typed in final form by the Clerk of Council using an annual indexing system. Motions are coded “M”; for example, 2017-M-1000.

**Step 5.** Any legislation which is enacted by less than a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote must be presented to the Mayor for approval except those enacted by the Mayor having cast the deciding vote. If the Mayor does not approve (i.e., vetoes) the legislation, the Mayor shall return it after its passage or adoption, with any objections in writing, to the Council at the next Regular City Council Meeting. The Mayor's written objections shall be entered upon the journal of the Council. The Mayor may approve or disapprove the whole or any item of an ordinance or resolution appropriating money. If the Mayor does not return such ordinance or resolution with written objections within the time limited in this Section, it shall take effect in the same manner as if the Mayor had signed it, unless the Council, by adjournment, prevents its return. When the Mayor disapproves an ordinance or resolution, or any part thereof, and returns it as herein provided with any written objections, the Council may reconsider it no later than the Regular City Council Meeting, and if such ordinance or resolution upon such reconsideration is approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members of Council then holding office, it shall take effect as if signed by the Mayor. If Council does not reconsider the Mayor's veto as herein provided, the content of the legislation in question may be considered thereafter in the same way all new legislation is considered (Section 5.12, City Charter).

**Step 6.** Legislation is published by posting the full text of the ordinance or resolution for a period of not less than ten (10) days after its passage in public places within the City or places of public access as determined by Council. The designated public places are:

1. Legislative Bulletin Board - City Hall Building
2. Legislative Public Binder - City Hall Building
3. Clerk of Council's Office

4. Huber Heights Public Library
5. Huber Heights Police Station
6. City of Huber Heights Official Website

**Step 7.** The Clerk of Council certifies in the legislative journal the dates that publication occurred.

- B. Effective Date of Legislation:** Any resolutions take effect immediately upon adoption by Council, unless a later date is specified. Ordinances dealing with appropriations of money; annual tax levies for current expenses of the City; certain improvements petitioned for by owners; questions to be submitted to the electorate or determinations to proceed with elections; approval of revisions, codifications, recodifications, or rearrangements of the City Code; and, any emergency ordinances take effect immediately upon adoption by Council, unless a later date is specified. All other ordinances take effect thirty (30) days after adoption by Council, unless a later date is specified. The thirty (30) day effective date of legislation is calculated by counting from the date after adoption by Council of the ordinance with the effective date being the thirty-first (31<sup>st</sup>) day after date of adoption by Council of the ordinance.
- C. Emergency Legislation:** Emergency ordinances are those necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety or welfare, or an emergency in the operation of the City. Emergency ordinances must contain a statement, “the emergency clause”, describing the necessity for the emergency. A vote of two-thirds (2/3) of Councilmembers holding office is required to approve emergency ordinances (Section 5.06, City Charter). Any emergency ordinances take effect immediately upon adoption by Council, unless a later date is specified.
- D. Copies of Ordinances and Resolutions:** The Clerk of Council shall provide copies of ordinances and resolutions adopted by Council to persons requesting such copies. Copies of proposed ordinances and resolutions shall also be provided to persons requesting such copies. The Clerk of Council shall charge the established rate in the Huber Heights Public Records Policy for such copies.

#### ***IV. MOTIONS***

Unless there is a conflict with these Rules of Council or the City Charter, Roberts Rules of Order will be used as guidance during Council meetings. The following specific procedures shall be followed during Council meetings:

1. **Main Motions:** A motion to introduce a subject (**requires majority vote**).
2. **Motions When Question Is Before Council:** When a question or proposition is before or under debate by Council or when a motion has been made, only the following motions can be accepted:
  - a. To adjourn (**requires majority vote**).
  - b. To recess (**requires majority vote**).

- c. To raise a question of privilege. Questions of privilege have precedence over all other questions except adjournment. Questions of privilege are those affecting the rights of the Council collectively, its safety, dignity, comfort, and the integrity of its proceedings and those rights, reputations, and conduct of Councilmembers in the capacity as members of Council **(decision of Presiding Officer)**.
- d. To call for orders of the day to require the Council to conform to its agenda, program, or order of business, or to take up a general or special order **(decision of Presiding Officer)**.
- e. To lay on the table to set aside the pending question when something else of immediate urgency has arisen or when something else needs to be adopted before consideration of the pending question is resumed **(requires majority vote)**.
- f. To call the previous question and request that discussion end and that the motion being considered be voted on **(requires two thirds vote)**.
- g. To limit or extend limits of debate **(requires two thirds vote)**.
- h. To postpone any action to a certain time (or definitely) **(requires majority vote)**.
- i. To commit or refer the proposal to a committee or special meeting of Council for further investigation or to put into better condition for consideration **(requires majority vote)**.
- j. To amend. A motion to amend is to modify the main motion by inserting or adding; striking out; or striking out and inserting. No motions can be made to amend an amendment. A rejected amendment may not be moved again in the same form **(requires majority vote)**.
- k. To postpone indefinitely. When motions to postpone indefinitely are passed, the principle question is declared lost. The motion rejects or “kills” the main motion for the duration of the session **(requires majority vote)**.
- l. To postpone any action indefinitely **(requires majority vote)**.

Note: These motions have precedence in the order given. Motions listed above in “a”, “b”, “c” and “f” are decided without debate.

- 3. **Motion to Take Matter From Committee:** When ordinances, resolution, or other matters have been referred to a committee and said committee fails within a reasonable or specified time to report or offer a valid reason for failure to report, any member of Council has a right to move that ordinance, resolution, or matter of concern be taken from that committee and placed before Council for action **(requires majority vote)**.

4. **Motion to Reconsider:** Motions to reconsider an approved item must be made before adjournment of that session of Council for those items of legislation that are effective immediately; motions to reconsider other legislation must be made prior to the close of the next following regular meeting of Council. A motion to reconsider may be made only by a Councilmember who voted with the prevailing side. A motion to reconsider, being laid on the table, may be taken up and acted upon at any time when the Council is engaged in the transaction of other business. No motion to reconsider may be made more than once on any matter and the same number of votes is required to reconsider the action of Council as was required to pass or adopt the matter (**requires majority vote**).

V. **COUNCIL WORK SESSIONS/COMMITTEES**

- A. **Council Work Sessions:** Council Work Sessions are working committee meetings of Council and are not utilized for legislative action or other formal Council actions appropriate to Regular or Special City Council Meetings. The Council Work Sessions shall consist of the Mayor and all of the Councilmembers. Council Work Sessions shall be supported by the Clerk of Council, the City Manager, the Law Director, and City Staff as directed by the City Manager.

Proposed legislation/motions and/or other matters of significance will generally be reviewed initially through assignment to a Council Work Session. Exceptions to the review of proposed legislation/motions and/or other matters of significance through assignment to a Council Work Session can be made by Council for routine matters, including approval of expenses legislation and end of the year legislation. Council may also opt to review proposed legislation/motions and/or other matters of significance that arise in emergency situations at Regular City Council Meetings or Special City Council Meetings without assignment to a Council Work Session.

All Council Work Sessions shall comply with the requirements of Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 under Ohio's Open Meetings Act. It shall be the responsibility of the Presiding Officer to advise the Office of the Clerk of Council of all scheduled meetings so that public notice can be given. It shall also be the responsibility of the Office of the Clerk of Council to ensure and/or prepare written minutes of all such meetings and to maintain a copy of all meeting notices, information, and minutes in the Office of the Clerk of Council's records.

- B. **Committee of the Whole:** The working business of the Council may also be conducted through Committee of the Whole meetings. The Committee of the Whole shall consist of the Mayor and all of the Councilmembers. The Committee of the Whole meetings shall be supported by the Clerk of Council, the City Manager, the Law Director, and City Staff as directed by the City Manager.
- C. **Special Committees:** The Mayor may appoint temporary special committees, unless objected to by Council, as may be appropriate to gather information, conduct surveys, make findings and recommendations on proposed legislation, or perform other specified tasks. The work of the special committees shall be confined to

specific assignments and these committees shall have only the authority granted by Council. These special committees shall be temporary and terminate upon presentation of their final reports to the Council. All special committees appointed by the Mayor shall be advisory only. The Mayor shall be a non-voting ex-officio member of all special committees. A Special Committee Chair will be elected by the members of the special committee to act as the Presiding Officer of meetings of the special committee. The Special Committee Chair shall advise the Mayor of all committee meetings at the same time that members are notified of such meetings.

All special committee/subcommittee meetings shall comply with the requirements of Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 under the Ohio's Open Meetings Act. It shall be the responsibility of each such Chair to advise the Office of the Clerk of Council of all scheduled meetings so that public notice can be given. It shall also be the responsibility of the Office of the Clerk of Council to ensure and/or prepare written minutes of all such meetings and to maintain a copy all meeting notices, information, and minutes in the Office of the Clerk of Council's records.

- D. Outside Committees:** For those Councilmembers selected to serve as individual representatives of City Council on outside committees or organizations, ongoing reports shall be provided to City Council in a timely manner. Representation of City Council on outside committees or organizations should be made by a motion of Council and approval by a simple majority vote of Council.

## ***VI. COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES***

Council may increase or decrease the compensation of its members by ordinance or resolution. However, no Councilmember shall benefit from any increase in compensation enacted during such Councilmember's current term of office (with the exception of increases or decreases in fringe benefits). Any ordinance or resolution changing the compensation of Council shall be adopted no later than June 1 of any odd numbered year (Section 4.10, City Charter).

Councilmembers shall be reimbursed their actual expenses incurred in the performance of authorized travel on official business of the City for approved training seminars, conferences, etc. The mode of travel and types of expenses covered (meals, tips, lodgings, fees, materials, etc.) for Council must first be approved by the Mayor before such expenses are reimbursable. The Mayor's mode of travel and types of expenses covered (meals, tips, lodgings, fees, materials, etc.) must first be approved by the Vice Mayor before such expenses are reimbursable. Those who use a personal vehicle during authorized travel will be reimbursed at the same rate as that authorized for City employees. Travel vouchers requesting reimbursement for approved travel expenses shall be submitted to the Office of the Clerk of Council after approval by the Mayor (or Vice Mayor for the Mayor's travel expenses) for processing by the Finance Department.

## ***VII. IN-SERVICE TRAINING***

The Mayor and Councilmembers may avail themselves of educational opportunities by attendance at professional meetings, conferences, educational institutions, and purchases of



information that enhance a Councilmember's ability to perform Council duties. Councilmembers shall be reimbursed for these expenses.

### **VIII. LAW DIRECTOR AND OTHER LEGAL COUNSEL**

No legal services shall be performed by the Law Director except as authorized by the City Charter and City Council, or as requested by the City Manager, the Clerk of Council, and Senior City Staff. City Council, through the Council Work Sessions or any other Council meetings including the Committee of the Whole as determined by City Council, shall be responsible for administration and management of the Law Director and the Law Department. All administrative matters involving the Law Director shall be brought before the appropriate Council meeting including the Council Work Session or the Committee of the Whole. Conflicts of interest shall be resolved between Law Director and City Council through the appropriate Council meeting including the Council Work Session or Committee of the Whole.

The Law Director shall attend all Council meetings, including Executive Sessions, unless unable to do so because of a conflict in court scheduling or other business related to the conduct of official business. The Law Director shall attend meetings of other City bodies when, in the Law Director's judgment, the subject matter at those meetings is such that a presence is required or appropriate. The chairs of City boards, committees, and commissions generally should request, through the City Manager, the attendance of the Law Director at any meetings, if necessary. Communication will also be forwarded to City Council by the City Manager regarding the attendance of the Law Director regarding such meetings.

Preliminary drafts of legislation should be submitted to the Law Director for review as part of the legislative process established in Section III of the Rules of Council. In addition, the Law Director will draft legislation at the specific direction of the City Manager, the Clerk of Council, or from Council meetings and shall review all legislation for legal form and propriety.

The Law Director will provide Council, the City Manager, and the Clerk of Council with copies of each significant legal document issued; however, entire briefs, etc. too bulky for reproduction will not be reproduced in their entirety except upon request or will be provided in electronic format.

The Law Director will provide Council with a quarterly activity report, including a verbal and written update on all significant active legal actions (such as civil suits, etc.). Between these reports, the Law Director will advise Council and the City Manager of any matters warranting immediate attention. Additionally, to ensure the City's best interest are always protected, the Law Director will attend other City meetings, as requested, and coordinate day-to-day activities with the City Manager.

The Council may employ additional legal counsel to provide supplemental legal services and to represent the City. These services are to be paid for from the City's legal budget.

***IX. COUNCIL/ADMINISTRATION COMMUNICATIONS***

Official communications between Council or its individual members and City officers and employees are to be conducted solely through the City Manager (Section 4.06(C), City Charter).

Requests to the City Manager for routine information, which involve minimal extra work by City Staff, can be handled without approval of Council as a whole (for example; a copy of existing information, brief project status reports, opinions, etc.).

The City Manager may determine that a request for information is not routine or will require more than minimal effort, in which case the requesting Councilmember will be informed and has the option of taking the matter before the entire Council for consideration. Similarly, routine complaints or requests received by the City Manager from elected officials will be handled promptly without Council approval.

On matters pending before Council, any new information that is developed by the City Staff will be shared by the City Manager with all Councilmembers prior to the discussion of the matter. Additionally, all Councilmembers inquiries to the Law Director for non-routine requests (greater than one hour of work) shall be approved by a majority of Council before the work begins and will be detailed on the Law Director's billing statements.

If a request for new information on matters not presently before Council is received that would suggest the issue would be a policy matter for the entire Council to consider, the City Manager shall inform all members of Council and seek approval for the City Staff work necessary to respond to the request (with majority approval of Council necessary). Requests for information or reports which will interrupt the established day-to-day utilization of City Staff time must be approved and authorized by Council. If the request is approved, all information compiled will be shared with all Councilmembers.

In order to assure that the City Manager's time is directed to implementing a common agenda reflecting the wishes of Council, a goal setting session shall be held every six (6) months.

***X. INVESTIGATIONS***

Council may make investigations in coordination with the City Manager into the affairs of the City and the conduct of any City office, department, division, board, commission, or committee. Such investigations must be authorized by a majority of the Councilmembers. Councilmembers who request such investigations shall bring the request and the reasons for the request to Council in Executive Session. Such investigations shall be carried out within parameters established by the City Charter, federal and state law, and in consultation with the Law Director.

***XI. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS***

Council is empowered to create City boards and commissions, in addition to those established by the City Charter. Council also appoints members to City boards and

commissions. A simple majority vote of Councilmembers currently holding office at the time of appointment is required to appoint. Appointments will be made in accordance with the process set forth in the City of Huber Heights Board and Commission Handbook.

## **XII. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND ETHICS**

Councilmembers are subject to all Ohio and local statutes and federal and state law regarding conflicts of interest, criminal misbehavior, ethics, and financial disclosure by municipal officials (Section 13.09, City Charter). Members of Council shall abstain from voting on and the formal discussion of any motion or issue wherein the member might have a conflict of interest. Members having conflicts are expected to notify other members of the conflict as soon as such conflict becomes evident.

## **XIII. COMPLAINTS**

Complaints against employees are to be made to the City Manager and handled in accordance with the City Personnel Policy Manual. Complaints against Councilmembers, the City Manager, the Law Director, the Clerk of Council, or members of City boards or commissions appointed by Council are to be made to the Mayor. Complaints against the Mayor are to be made to the Vice Mayor. Complaints are required to be in writing.

Only complaints against Councilmembers or the Mayor that are limited to the following grounds will be investigated:

1. Alleged ethical violations/conflicts of interest.
2. Alleged failure of a Councilmember or Mayor to possess or maintain the qualifications of the office as prescribed by the City Charter.
3. Alleged intentional violation of the prohibitions set forth in Section 4.06 of the City Charter.
4. Alleged violation of any other expressed provision of the City Charter.

\* Alleged violations of State or Federal law are not considered complaints under this rule and should be filed by the complainant with the City Prosecutor or law enforcement.

Upon receipt of a complaint, that is to be investigated under this rule, the Mayor or Vice Mayor shall distribute a copy of the complaint to all members of the City Council for review. All actions taken to investigate and resolve the complaint shall be documented as a matter of record. The Mayor or Vice Mayor will complete a written response as soon as possible advising the initiator and the City Council of the disposition of the complaint. In those cases where resolution requires longer than ten (10) business days, an interim written response and target date for completion will be provided to the initiator of the complaint and the City Council.

If the Mayor or Vice Mayor as the case may be, believes the complaint is unfounded, the Mayor or Vice Mayor shall advise the complainant and City Council in a written response. If the same individual complainant has three or more determinations of an unfounded complaint within a twelve (12) month period, City Council may advise the Mayor or Vice Mayor to disregard any future complaints from that individual for one (1) year. Oral

complaints against individual employees by the public or Councilmembers at City Council Meetings are out of order. The Presiding Officer shall rule the complaint out of order and explain the proper procedure for filing complaints.

The above are not to be construed to deny the rights of the public to criticize, state dissatisfaction, or complain about the City Council or City services, but to protect individuals from public censure without the chance to answer specific complaints.

***XIV. EVALUATION OF CITY OFFICIALS***

It shall be the responsibility of Council to provide a written evaluation of the performance of the City Manager, the Law Director, and the Clerk of Council annually. There shall be a formal Executive Session discussion of these evaluations by Council prior to the finalization of these evaluations. The Mayor or the Vice Mayor shall consolidate and present final evaluations to all City Officials.

***XV. SUSPENSION OR WAIVER OF THE RULES OF COUNCIL***

Council may suspend or waive the adopted Rules of Council, in full or in part, for a specified time by a motion. The motion to suspend or waive the Rules of Council must be properly seconded and approved by a simple majority vote of Councilmembers currently holding office.

***XVI. SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS FOR COUNCIL***

These Guidelines and Standards apply to City Councilmembers (“Elected Officials”) that may maintain and use personal web pages, websites, blogs, and social networking sites (collectively “Internet Platform”).

Elected Official’s Internet Platforms are not controlled by the City of Huber Heights. The City does not require or promote such sites, nor provides web space or access (links) for such sites through any official City channels. Communications on Elected Official’s Internet Platforms are not created, received, maintained or used by the City. Nor are they meant to document the organization, functions, policies, decisions, procedures, operations, or other activities of the City or its Council as a whole.

**Social Media Guidelines**

1. The site should NOT be designated as a “governmental” page.
2. The site should NOT appear to be an official City internet platform.
3. The site should have a disclaimer predominantly featured on the site, such as:

This is a private page under the sole control of \_\_\_\_\_. The comments expressed by me are my own and do not reflect the opinions and/or position of the City of Huber Heights or its officers and employees. This page is not sanctioned or monitored by the City. This Page cannot be used for service of any legal notice, administrative notice or any other legal

process directed to the City. As this site is not monitored by the City, do not use this site to request City records.

4. Elected Officials should NOT promote their private Internet Platforms at official City meetings or in official City correspondence.
5. If the Internet Platform is interactive (allows third parties to post) the site should expressly provide that it is not intended to be a public forum and that posts that are vulgar, off topic, hate speech etc. will be deleted according to a posted policy advising of such. A sample provision is:

I reserve the right to remove or edit any posts that are unlawful, threatening, libelous, defamatory, obscene, pornographic, invasive of privacy, infringing of intellectual property rights, or otherwise violate any law. This includes comments or content that promotes, fosters, or perpetuates discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, age, religion, gender, marital status, genetics, status with regard to public assistance, national origin, physical or intellectual disability, or sexual orientation. Spam, links to other sites, information that is clearly off topic, and/or apparent spamming or trolling will be removed.

### **Social Media Standards**

1. Elected Officials should not disclose information that is considered privileged or confidential. By way of example, such information may include but is not limited to certain personnel information, non-public information from criminal investigations and business trade secrets.
2. Elected Officials should be honest and accurate when posting information or news, and should quickly correct any mistakes, misstatements and/or factual errors in content upon discovery.
3. Elected Officials should never represent themselves as a spokesperson for the City Council, board, committee, or commission.
4. Elected Officials should consider the potential impact of social media statements prior to posting.
5. Elected Officials should not post information about matters involving pending or threatened litigation, items that are or may be appealed to them in their official capacity or to City boards or commissions.
6. Elected Officials should not use internet platforms to communicate with city employees about City-related matters.
7. Elected Officials should not “tag” a matter to a City employee’s personal internet platform site.

8. Elected Officials should be mindful of the risks of electronic communication in relation to the Ohio Public Records Laws and the Open Meeting Law; communication between elected officials should be avoided on internet platforms.
9. Elected Officials should not reference any document(s) as a basis for making an official decision unless that document is available through the City as a public record.
10. Removing a user's comment or post because the person is criticizing some government action is not advisable.
11. When an Elected Official desires to have a matter posted to an Official City Internet Platform, the Elected Official shall provide the item or link to the Clerk of Council who will then forward it to the designated person in charge of the City Internet Platform for posting consistent with the City's Social Media Policy.