

RULES OF ORDER AND PROCEDURE

FOR THE CITY COUNCIL

PORTAGE, MICHIGAN

Section 1. Convening of Meeting; Quorum:

The Mayor, or in his/her absence or at his/her direction, the Mayor Pro Tem, shall, at the time fixed for meeting, take the chair for convening the Council. The presence of four (4) members of the meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transacting of business.

Section 2. Order of Business:

The Business of all regular meetings shall be transacted as far as possible in the following order:

CALL TO ORDER	D. Public Hearings
Moment of Silence	E. Regular Business Agenda
Pledge of Allegiance	F. Unfinished Business
Roll Call	G. Council Committee Reports
Proclamations	H. New Business
A. Petitions and Statements of Citizens	I. Statements of City Council & City Manager
B. Consent Agenda	ADJOURNMENT
C. Communications	

Section 3. Reading of Minutes:

Unless a reading of the minutes of a meeting is requested by a member of the Council, such minutes may be approved or corrected without reading if the City Clerk has previously furnished each member with a true copy thereof.

Section 4. Agenda for Meeting:

Any Councilmember, Mayor or City Manager may prepare items for consideration on the agenda of Council meetings. The Clerk shall prepare copies of the agenda of the business to be

considered at each regular Council meeting. No business shall be placed on the agenda by the Clerk unless received not later than 12:00 o'clock noon on the Friday preceding the meeting, except upon the approval of four (4) or more members of the Council.

Section 5. Consent Agenda:

The Consent Agenda motions shall be provided to City Council. The Consent Agenda and related motions shall not be read into the record unless a motion to do so is passed by Council. Items may only be removed from the Consent Agenda by a member of City Council. If an item is removed from the Consent Agenda, the item automatically moves from the Consent Agenda to the end of the Regular Business Agenda section. Routine items on the Consent Agenda include, but are not limited to, City Council Meeting Minutes, Minutes of Boards and Commissions, Accounts Payable Register, Materials Transmitted and Calendar of Meetings.

Councilmembers shall make every effort to request removal of items from the Consent Agenda prior to 12 noon on the day of the meeting. This does not preclude members of Council from requesting removal of an item from the Consent Agenda during the meeting itself.

At the meeting, the Presiding Officer will inquire if any Councilmember wishes to remove an item from the Consent Agenda for individual consideration. Consent Agenda items will then be introduced by the following statement: *“The Consent Agenda is available for review by visiting the City of Portage website, where it is available in written format on the City Council ‘Agenda and Minutes’ web page - or - by visiting the Office of the City Clerk during regular business hours prior to the meeting.”* Following this inquiry, the Presiding Officer will then request a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for the Regular Meeting.

Section 6. Regular Meetings; Time-Place:

The Council shall meet regularly every other Tuesday at 6:00 o'clock p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Portage City Hall, 7900 S. Westnedge Ave., Portage, Michigan; however, the Council may cancel all but two Tuesday meetings in each month by giving notice of said cancellation as required by Act 267 of the Public Acts of 1976. When the day fixed for any regular meeting falls upon a national holiday, or the eve of a national holiday, or upon any regular or special election day, the Council may determine to hold such meeting at the same hour within a week

preceding or succeeding the regular day or cancel the meeting as provided above. Notice of the time and place of the changed meeting date or cancellation shall be given in accordance with Act 267 of Public Acts of 1976. Meetings may be held in other locations provided notice is given pursuant to Act 267 of Public Acts of 1976.

The Council shall hold an organizational meeting, which may be combined with, but in no event shall be later than its first regular meeting in November immediately following the regular City election. At such meeting, or within one week thereafter, Council shall elect from its membership a Mayor Pro-Tempore who shall serve for a period of two years and thereafter until a successor is appointed. Nominations for Mayor Pro Tem shall be entertained by the presiding officer and after all nominations desired are made, the nominations shall be closed by motion. Voting by the Council shall be by a signed ballot. The City Clerk shall announce and record in the record each Councilmember's vote. A majority of Councilmembers present shall be required to elect the Mayor Pro Tem. If the first vote does not result in a majority, voting shall continue until a majority is achieved.

Section 7. Meetings; Notice Required:

The City Clerk shall call a special meeting on the written request of the Mayor, or any three members of the Council. Notice required for the special meeting will be given in accordance with Section 5 of Act 267 of the Public Acts of 1976, and the business to be transacted at such meeting will be limited to that stated or given in the notice.

Section 8. Presiding Officer; Powers and Duties:

- (a) The Mayor shall be the presiding officer of the Council. He/she shall state every question coming before the Council, announce the decision of the Council on all matters, and decide all questions of order; provided, however, that upon an appeal to the Council, a majority vote of the Council shall conclusively determine such question of order. He/she shall vote on all questions. He/she shall, at the request of a Councilmember divide any question, if such question in his/her opinion is subject to division, and he/she shall submit it as divided.

- (b) The Mayor may refer any communication, question or petition to the City Manager of the City for action, reply or procedure to dispose of such matter.

Section 9. Statements of Citizens:

All citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard during the course of each meeting after standing and being recognized by the presiding officer, and stating their name, street address and city. No citizen shall speak for longer than three (3) minutes unless the rules are suspended in accordance with Section 12(a).

Section 10. Rules of Debate:

- (a) There shall be no debate or discussion of any issue prior to the proper introduction of said issue.
- (b) When an issue is under debate, all motions permitted by Robert's Rules of Order are acceptable. Examples of motions include:
 1. Motion to adjourn.
 2. Motion to take a recess.
 3. Motion to lay on the table.
 4. Motion for the previous question.
 5. Motion to postpone to a day certain.
 6. Motion to refer to a committee of the council.
 7. Motion to amend or substitute.
 8. Motion to postpone indefinitely.
 9. Motion to close debate.
- (c) A motion to adjourn and a motion to lay on the table shall always be in order and without debate.
- (d) After a motion is made to close debate, the presiding officer shall poll the Council on the question of closing the debate. If the yes's prevail, the presiding officer shall immediately poll the Council on the principal question, or questions, without further debate. As provided in Robert's Rules of Order, a two-thirds majority is required for this motion to be adopted.
- (e) All votes shall be taken by yes and no, and be entered upon the journal to show the names of

those voting in the affirmative and in the negative, except if the vote is unanimous, the record need merely so state.

- (f) When a question has once been decided, it shall be in order for any member who voted on the prevailing side of the question to move reconsideration thereof.

Section 11. Ordinances, Resolution, Motions, Contracts:

- (a) All ordinances, resolution and contract documents shall, before presentation to the Council, have been approved as to form and legality by the City Attorney.
- (b) Ordinances, resolutions and other matters that are subjects requiring action by the Council, shall be introduced and sponsored by the Mayor or a member of the Council; otherwise, they shall not be considered.
- (c) Each proposed ordinance shall be introduced in written form. Reading of the title shall be sufficient for the introduction of an ordinance unless a member of the Council requests that the proposed ordinance be read in full. The Council may also request that the introducer give an explanation of the proposed ordinance. Upon the introduction of an ordinance, the Council may:
 1. Postpone the proposed ordinance for consideration at the next regular meeting of the Council or at a later regular Council meeting specified in the motion to postpone; or
 2. Refer the proposed ordinance to an ad hoc committee of three (3) Councilmembers named by the Mayor for study and recommendation to the Council. When such committee reports back to the Council, the ordinance may then be adopted or postponed as above. Any proposed ordinance may be amended by the Council at any time prior to its adoption by the vote of four (4) or more of its members.
 3. When an emergency ordinance is introduced for adoption at any meeting, it shall be read in full before the Council and may be passed at such meeting in accordance with the provisions of Section 5.3 (b) of the City Charter.

Section 12. Suspending; Amending Rules:

- (a) These rules may be suspended by a vote of five (5) members of the City Council present and

voting.

- (b) These rules may be amended by a vote of five (5) members of the City Council present and voting.

Section 13. Roll Call Votes:

All roll call votes are to rotate in staggered alphabetical order, such that no member of the City Council, including the presiding officer, votes in the same position for consecutive roll call votes.

Section 14. Attendance:

Councilmembers who will be absent shall, if possible, notify the City Clerk prior to meeting.

Section 15. Governing Rules of Order:

Roberts Rules of Order may apply to all other items not provided for in these rules, except where they may be inconsistent with said rules.

Section 16. Vacancies

If a vacancy occurs on the City Council, except in the case of recall, the Council shall fill the vacancy by appointment within 60 days thereafter. In making its appointment Council may consider appointing any eligible person.