

RESOLUTION NO. R-2017-81

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BASTROP, TEXAS
APPROVING REVISED CITY COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE;
ESTABLISHING A REPEALING CLAUSE; AND ESTABLISHING AN
EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, the City Charter, Section 3.13 Rules of Procedure, says the Council shall determine its own rules of procedure and order of business; and

WHEREAS, it is customary for City Council to have an annual review of these Rules of Procedure following an election, when new members have joined the Council; and

WHEREAS, the current Rules of Procedure were adopted 12 years ago on August 23, 2005 and have not been updated since their adoption; and

WHEREAS, the City Council discussed the proposed Rules of Procedure during a work session held on September 26, 2017, and agreed that they incorporate current customs, practices and laws in 2017; and

WHEREAS, these Rules of Procedure will be calendared for annual review at the first Council meeting in July, and can be reviewed and amended at any time during the year; and

WHEREAS, these Rules of Procedure adopt Rosenberg's Rules of Order rather than conducting Council meetings in accordance to Robert's Rules of Order, rules created by retired Superior Court Judge Dave Rosenberg after he was elected to the Davis, CA City Council, which included two terms as Mayor. After experiencing the frustration of both Council and the public using Robert's Rules of Order, which are both complex and difficult to read, Judge Rosenberg developed his own rules of order adapting the protocol in Robert's Rules of Order that best fit the most frequent procedures used in typical City Council decision making; and

WHEREAS, Section 3.12 is a new section "Council May Discipline its Own Members." This section provides a process for Council to follow when a Council Member or Mayor violates the Charter, Rules of Procedure or any other ordinance of the City, or acts in a manner that causes embarrassment or disgrace to the City of Bastrop. This section requires a supermajority vote to discipline the offending member; and

WHEREAS, these Rules of Procedure acknowledges the new process of Council Liaisons to the City's Boards and Commission.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BASTROP, TEXAS:

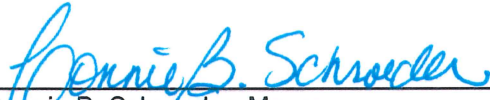
Section 1: That the City Council hereby approves the revised Rules of Procedure, attached hereto as Exhibit A and made a part hereof by this reference.

Section 2: All orders, ordinances, and resolutions, or parts thereof, which are in conflict or inconsistent with any provision of this Resolution are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict, and the provisions of this Resolution shall be and remain controlling as to the matters resolved herein.

Section 3: That this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage, and it is so resolved.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 10th day of October, 2017.

CITY OF BASTROP, TEXAS




Connie B. Schroeder, Mayor

ATTEST:



Ann Franklin, City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Joseph J. Gorfida, Jr.
Interim City Attorney

Rules of Procedure for the City Council
of the City of Bastrop, Texas



Adopted: August 23, 2005
Revised: October 10, 2017

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ARTICLE 1. AUTHORITY, APPLICABILITY, AMENDMENT, AND ANNUAL REVIEW

1.1 Authority.

Article III, Section 3.13 of the City Charter of the City of Bastrop, Texas grants the City Council the right to determine its own rules of procedure. The following rules are enumerated under and by authority of said provision.

1.2 Applicability.

The rules of procedure adopted by the City Council are applicable not only to the City Council, but also to all boards, commissions, and committees of the City of Bastrop.

1.3 Amendment.

These rules may be amended or new rules adopted by three (3) of the five (5) voting members of the City Council present.

1.4 Annual Review.

Following the municipal elections each year, Council will review these rules of procedure annually, make changes as appropriate, and adopt their own rules of procedure in accordance with the Charter at the first scheduled meeting in July. In the event no annual review occurs, the standing rules of procedure continue in effect. This does not limit the Council's right and ability to amend the rules at any other time during the year, in accordance with the Charter.

ARTICLE 2. GENERAL RULES OF PROCEDURE AND POLICIES

2.1 Construction of Authority.

The construction of authority in all matters associated with the meetings and activities of the City Council, including the agenda, shall be: (1) the U.S. Constitution and statutes of the United States of America; (2) The Texas Constitution and statutes of the State of Texas; (3) the City Charter; (4) the Code of Ordinances of the City of Bastrop, Texas; (5) these rules; and, (6) Rosenberg's Rules of Order as amended and set forth herein.

2.2 Meetings Shall Be Public.

All meetings of the City Council shall be public, and notices thereof shall be posted as provided under the Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Open Meetings Act. Except in the case of an emergency meeting, notice of all meetings shall be given 72 hours before the time set for any meeting.

If meetings are held at Bastrop City Hall, they shall be televised live on the City's television channel via the appropriate cable providers and live-streamed via social media. If unable to televise meetings live due to technical difficulties, the meeting shall be recorded for a later broadcast. The Council meetings shall be rebroadcast as a part of the City's on-going channel programming.

The Bastrop City Hall is wheelchair accessible and special parking is available on the west side

of the building. If special accommodations are required, please contact the City Secretary a minimum of 24 hours in advance at 512-332-8800.

2.3 Conduct of Meetings.

Meetings of the City Council shall be conducted according to the rules adopted by the City Council, as well as the terms and provisions of Rosenberg's Rules of Order as amended herein and when not inconsistent with these rules.

2.4 Regular Meetings.

Regular meetings of the City Council shall be on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. The Council may, by majority vote at a regular meeting, change the days or times of meetings as circumstances may necessitate. Per the City Charter, the Council shall meet regularly and at least once each month.

2.5 Special Meetings.

The City Council may hold as many additional, special meetings as may be necessary for the transaction of the business of the City. Special meetings of the City Council may be called as necessary upon written notice to the City Secretary by the Mayor or by any two (2) members of the City Council unless made at a regular meeting at which a quorum of Council Members is present. The City Manager and all Council Members shall be notified of all special meetings.

2.6 Emergency Meetings.

In case of an emergency or urgent public necessity, which shall be expressed in the meeting notice, it shall be sufficient if members receive and notice is posted two (2) hours before the meeting is convened. Notice shall be provided also to the media in accordance with the Texas Government Code, Section 551.047.

2.7 Workshops (Work Session).

Workshops are special meetings called for the purpose of conducting a detailed and thorough exploration of matters that may properly come before the City Council. Audience comments or questions will not be considered at a work session unless posted for citizen comment.

2.8 Executive Sessions.

Executive sessions are sessions closed to the public. These sessions are only permitted for the purpose of discussing matters enumerated in Chapter 551, Open Meetings Act of the Texas Government Code. Disclosure of topics to be discussed shall be made to the public in accordance with the requirements of the Open Meetings Act.

The City Council can retire into an executive session as stated on a posted agenda during a regular or special meeting, if a motion is duly made and seconded and affirmed by a majority of the Council. However, before said session begins, the presiding officer shall announce that the executive session is commencing. The order in which an executive session may appear on the agenda is subject to the discretion of the City Council. A certified record of the meeting will be created by the presiding officer or his or her designee, sealed and permanently kept, subject to opening by court order. No voting or action shall be taken by the City Council during an executive session. No other subject but that posted on the agenda is to be considered. Adjournment of the executive session and any vote needed shall be made during the open

public meeting.

2.9 Recessed Meetings.

No meeting shall be recessed for a longer period of time than until the next regular meeting except when required information has not been received, or, in the case of work sessions or special meetings, to a date certain by motion duly passed.

2.10 Quorum.

Four (4) members of the Council shall constitute a quorum to do business, and a majority vote of those attending any meeting at which there is a quorum present shall be sufficient to adopt any ordinance or resolution, except otherwise provided in the City's Charter. (Charter Article III, Section 3.13).

2.11 Conflict of Interest.

A Council Member prevented from voting by a conflict of interest shall file a conflict of interest questionnaire with the City Secretary as soon as possible after the posting of an agenda, which contains a conflict, unless an applicable conflict of interest questionnaire has already been filed.

A Council Member prevented from voting by a conflict of interest shall step down from the dais and leave the Council Chambers, shall not vote on the matter, shall not participate in discussions regarding the matter or attempt to influence the Council's deliberation of the matter in any way, shall not attend Executive sessions regarding the matter, and shall otherwise comply with the State law and City ordinances concerning conflicts of interest including Chapter 171 of the Texas Local Government Code.

2.12 Presiding Officer.

The Mayor shall serve as the Chief Presiding Officer for all meetings of the City Council. In the absence of the Mayor, the Mayor Pro Tem shall serve as the presiding officer. In the absence of the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem, the City Manager shall call the meeting to order, if a quorum of the Council is present, and the first order of business shall be for Council to elect by majority vote, a temporary presiding officer from the members then seated and in attendance. The temporary presiding officer shall serve in such capacity until the meeting is adjourned.

The presiding officer shall serve as the chair of all meetings and shall make final rulings on all questions pertaining to these rules. All decisions of the presiding officer are final unless overruled by the City Council through a motion to appeal as described in Article 3.9 – Courtesy, Decorum and Order of these rules.

The Mayor, as Chief Presiding Officer, is entitled to participate in the discussion and debate, but may not vote, except in elections, to break a tie and as otherwise provided in the City's Charter. Because the presiding officer conducts the meeting, it is common courtesy for the chair to take a less active role than other members of the Council in debates and discussions. This practice in no way precludes the presiding officer from participating in the meeting fully and freely.

The presiding officer of boards and commissions shall be the person selected by the board or commission as the chair, co-chair, or vice chair. If these persons are not in attendance, the

board or commission shall choose a temporary presiding officer from among the members in attendance.

2.13 Minutes of Meetings.

The City Secretary shall keep minutes of all proceedings of the City Council and they shall be open to public inspection in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas.

2.14 Suspension and Amendment of Rules.

Any provisions of these rules not governed by federal, state law or the City Charter may be temporarily suspended by a super majority vote (see Article 3.7 of these rules) of the City Council. Any provisions of these rules may be amended by majority vote if such amendment is appropriately posted on an agenda of a regular meeting of the City Council and receives approval of the majority of City Council at such meeting.

2.15 Rules for the Press and Media.

The use of media equipment, such as lights, cameras and/or microphones should be coordinated with the City Manager prior to the meeting to ensure that the equipment does not disturb or otherwise conflict with or disrupt the meeting or the Council's activities.

ARTICLE 3. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

3.1 Purpose.

The purpose of these rules of parliamentary procedure is to establish orderly conduct of the meetings. Simple rules lead to a wider understanding and participation. Complex rules create two classes: (1) those who understand the rules, and (2) those who do not fully understand and those who do not fully participate. The ultimate purpose of these rules of parliamentary procedure is to encourage and facilitate decision-making by the City Council. In a democracy, the majority opinion carries the day.

These rules enable the majority to express their opinion and fashion a result, while permitting the minority to also express itself (but not dominate) and fully participate in the process.

3.2 Model Format for an Agenda Item Discussion.

The following ten (10) steps may be used as a model or guidebook by the Presiding Officer. The meeting is governed by the agenda and the agenda constitutes the only items to be discussed. Each agenda item can be handled by the Presiding Officer (Mayor) in the following basic format:

1. *Announce the Item.* The Mayor should clearly announce the agenda item number and should clearly state what the subject matter of the agenda item by reading the caption for the item being considered.
2. *Receive a Report.* The Mayor should invite the appropriate people to report on the item, including any recommendation they might have.
3. *Ask Clarifying Questions.* The Mayor should ask the Council Members if they have any

technical questions for clarification. At this point, members of the City Council may ask clarifying questions to the people who reported on the item, and they should be given time to respond.

4. *Seek Citizen Input.* The Mayor should invite citizen comments – or if a public hearing, open the public hearing. Upon conclusion, the Mayor should announce that public input is closed, or if a public hearing, close the public hearing.
5. *Motion First.* The Mayor should invite a motion from the City Council before debate is given on the merits of the item. The Mayor should announce the name of the member who makes the motion.
6. *Motion Second.* The Mayor should determine if any member of the City Council wishes to second the motion. The Mayor should announce the name of the member who seconds the motion. If no member of the City Council wishes to second the motion, then the motion fails, and should be so stated by the Mayor.
7. *Repeat Motion.* If the motion is made and seconded, the Mayor should make certain that everyone (including the audience) understands the motion. This is done in three ways:
 - a. The Mayor can ask the maker of the motion to repeat it;
 - b. The Mayor can repeat the motion; or
 - c. The Mayor can ask the City Secretary to repeat the motion.
8. *Discuss the Motion.* The Mayor should now invite the members of the City Council to discuss the motion. If there is no desired discussion, the Mayor may call for a vote. If there has been no discussion or a brief discussion, then there is no need to repeat the motion before taking a vote. If the discussion has been lengthy, it is a good idea to repeat the motion before calling for the vote.
9. *Vote.* The Mayor may ask the City Secretary to call roll. Unless a super-majority is required for passage of the motion, a simple majority vote determines whether the motion passes or fails. Unless a member of the Council seeks recusal from voting on any question where the vote would constitute a conflict of interest, and that recusal is consented to by a majority of the remainder of the Council, all members of the Council shall vote upon every question, ordinance or resolution. Action items require a vote.
10. *Announce the Outcome.* The Mayor announces the results of the vote and should also state what action (if any) the Council has taken. The Mayor should announce the name of any member who voted in the minority on the motion.

3.3 The Basic Motions.

The basic motion is the one that puts forward a decision for consideration. A basic motion might be: “I move for approval of the ordinance as submitted,” or “I make a motion that we deny the resolution.”

3.4 The Motion to Amend.

If a member wants to change a basic motion, he or she would have to motion to amend the original or previously amended motion. A motion to amend might be: “I move that we amend the motion to include the changes we discussed to the ordinance.” A motion to amend seeks to retain the basic motion on the floor (a motion made and seconded), but to modify it in some way. A motion to amend requires the agreement of the person making the original motion. If the

basic motion has already been seconded, the motion to amend must be acknowledged and accepted by the member who seconded the basic motion.

3.5 Discussion and Debate.

The basic rule of motions is that they are subject to discussion and debate. Accordingly, the basic motion and the motion to amend are all eligible, each in their turn for full discussion by and before the City Council. Discussion and debate can continue as long as the members wish to discuss it, or until the Mayor decides that it is time to move on and call a vote on the motion.

3.6 Other Motions.

There are exceptions to the general rule of free and open debate on motions. The exceptions all apply when there is a desire of the Council to move on. The following motions are NOT debatable, and the Mayor must immediately call a vote on the motion, if seconded by another member.

- *Motion to Adjourn.* This motion, if passed, requires the Council to immediately adjourn to its next regularly scheduled meeting. This motion requires a simple majority vote.
- *Motion to Recess.* This motion, if passed, requires the Council to immediately take a recess. Normally the Mayor will determine the length of the recess which could last for a few minutes to several hours. It requires a simple majority vote.
- *Motion to Fix the Time to Adjourn.* This motion, if passed, requires the Council to adjourn the meeting at the specific time set in the motion. For example, "I move we adjourn this meeting at Midnight." It requires a simple majority vote.
- *Motion to Table.* This motion, if passed, requires discussion of the agenda item to be halted immediately, and the agenda to be placed on hold. The motion may contain a specific time to bring the item up again, or it may not specify a time. If no time is specified, the item shall be placed on the agenda at the following Council meeting.
- *Motion to Remove from Table.* This motion, if passed, allows the Council to remove an item previously placed on hold. A vote in favor of removing an item from the table must be made before the Council can take action on an item that was tabled.

3.7 Motions Requiring a Supermajority Vote to Pass.

A super majority vote consists of four votes (three to pass as a simple majority, plus one more).

- *Motion to Limit Debate.* This motion is sometimes referred to as, "moving the question" or, "calling the question." When a member of the Council makes such a motion, the member is saying, "I have had enough discussion, let's vote on the issue." When such a motion is made, the Mayor should ask for a second, stop the discussion and vote on the motion to limit debate. The motion requires a super majority vote to pass. Meaning, the number of council members voting for the motion must equal four or more.
- *Motion to Object to the Consideration of an Item.* This motion, if passed, precludes the City Council from even considering the item on the agenda. It does not preclude the item from appearing on a future agenda. The motion requires a super majority vote to pass. (Normally, this motion is unnecessary, because the objectionable item can be defeated

outright or tabled.)

- *Motion to Suspend the Rules.* This motion is debatable, but requires a super majority vote to pass. This motion allows the Council to suspend its own rules for a particular purpose. For example, the Council may desire to give a particular speaker more time than normally allowed. A “motion to suspend the rules and give the speaker ten additional minutes,” accomplishes this desire.

3.8 Motion to Reconsider.

There is a special motion that requires a bit of explanation all by itself: the motion to reconsider. A tenet of parliamentary procedure is finality. After vigorous discussion, debate and a vote, there must be some closure to the issue. As such, after a vote is taken, the matter is deemed closed, subject only to reopening if a proper motion to reconsider is made.

A motion to reconsider requires a simple majority vote to pass, but there are two special rules that apply only to the motion to reconsider.

The first issue involves timing. A motion to reconsider must be made at the meeting where the item was first voted upon or at the very next meeting (if properly noticed and on the posted agenda). A motion to reconsider made at a later time is considered untimely and it may not be considered unless the Council suspends the rules to consider it.

Secondly, the motion to reconsider can only be made by a member of the Council who voted in the majority on the original motion. The motion to reconsider may be seconded by any member of the City Council regardless of how they voted on the original motion. If a member of the Council who voted in the minority on the original motion seeks to make a motion to reconsider, it **MUST** be ruled out of order by the Mayor. The purpose of this rule is finality. If a member of the minority could make a motion to reconsider, then the item could be brought back again and again, which would defeat the purpose of finality.

If a motion to reconsider passes, then the original matter is back before the Council, and a new original motion is in order. The matter may be discussed as if it were on the floor for the first time.

3.9 Courtesy, Decorum and Order.

These rules of order are meant to promote an atmosphere of courtesy and decorum appropriate for the efficient discussion of business. It is the responsibility of the Mayor (and the members of the City Council) to maintain that atmosphere of courtesy and decorum. The Mayor should always ensure that debate and discussion focus on the item and the policy in question, not on the personalities of the participants of the discussion. Debate on policy is healthy; debate on personalities is not. In order to assist in the creation and maintenance of that atmosphere, the following rules shall govern all meetings:

1. *Request to Speak.* Before a Council Member, staff member or an audience member may speak, they must first be recognized by the Mayor. Upon recognition the person requesting to speak shall hold the floor and shall make their point clearly and succinctly.

Public comments must be kept relevant to the subject before the Council. The Mayor shall rule on the relevance of comments. Persons making irrelevant, personal, impertinent, overly redundant or slanderous remarks may be barred by the Mayor from further comment before the Council during the meeting. Audience members who wish to speak during an agenda must first complete a 'request to speak card' and submit it to the City Secretary. The Mayor has the right to cut a speaker off if the discussion becomes too personal, too loud, too crude, irrelevant, impertinent, redundant, or slanderous.

2. *Order.* If a person fails to request to speak before speaking, the Mayor shall rule them 'out of order' and remind them that they do not have the floor. While the Council is in session, all Council Members must preserve order and decorum. A person shall neither, by conversation or otherwise, delay or interrupt the proceedings or the peace of the meeting, nor disturb any other person while speaking or refuse to obey the orders of the Mayor. Members of the City Council should not leave their seats during a meeting without first obtaining permission of the Mayor, or making a motion to recess.
3. *Improper References Prohibited.* Every person desiring to speak shall address the entire Council and shall not single out a member of the Council, the audience or a staff member. Speakers shall confine themselves to the question under debate, avoiding all personal attacks and indecorous language.
4. *Interruptions.* A Council Member, once recognized, shall not be interrupted when speaking unless it is to call him or her to order, or other such interruption expressed below. If the Council Member, while speaking, is called to order, he or she shall cease speaking until the question of order is determined, and if the Council Member is found to be in order, he or she shall be permitted to proceed speaking. Allowable interruptions or points of order are as follows:
 - a. *Point of Privilege.* The proper interruption would be: "Point of Privilege." The Mayor would then ask the interrupter to, "state your point." Appropriate points of privilege relate to anything that would interfere with the normal comfort of the meeting. For example, the room might be too hot or cold, or a fan motor might interfere with a Council Members ability to hear.
 - b. *Point of Order.* The proper interruption would be: "Point of Order." The Mayor would then ask the interrupter to, "state your point." Appropriate points of order relate to anything that would not be considered appropriate conduct of the meeting. For example, if the Mayor called for a vote on a motion that permits debate without allowing any discussion.
 - c. *Motion to Appeal.* If the Mayor makes a ruling that a member of the body disagrees with, that member may appeal the ruling of the Mayor by stating, "motion to appeal." If the motion is seconded and after debate if it passes by a simple majority vote, the ruling of the Mayor is reversed.
 - d. *Call for orders of the day.* This is simply another way of saying, "let's return to the agenda." If a council member believes the discussion has strayed from the agenda. The motion does not require a vote. If the Mayor discovers that the discussion has strayed from the agenda, he or she simply returns to the

business of the day.

- e. *Withdraw a Motion.* During the debate and discussion of a motion, the original maker of the motion on the floor, at any time, may interrupt the speaker to withdraw his or her motion. The motion is immediately deemed withdrawn and discussion on the motion shall cease. Council members are free to make the same motion or another motion.

3.10 City Council and Board Member Disruptions.

As stated in Resolution R-2017-20, when members of the City Council or other Board Members become engaged in heated discussions that could be construed as not following parliamentary procedures; it will be the responsibility of the Presiding Officer (Mayor or Board Chair) to restore order to the meeting. In the event that order cannot be immediately restored, the Presiding Officer should call for a recess. When the recess is called, a sufficient number of the City Council or Board Members should depart the room so that a quorum is no longer present. Information Technology personnel will ensure that the microphones and audio for the television channel are turned off. The Presiding Officer will determine what action to take and will resume the meeting, when appropriate. Law enforcement personnel will not become involved unless a crime (i.e. assault, terroristic threat, etc.) is committed.

3.11 Audience Disruptions.

As stated in Resolution R-2017-20, if a member of the audience (gallery) becomes disruptive, the Presiding Officer will inform that person that their conduct is not permissible and to cease. If that person receives a second warning, the Chief of Police or his/her designee will position themselves in proximity to that person. On the third warning (when appropriate), the Presiding Officer will inform the person that their actions are disrupting this lawful meeting and they must depart immediately. The Chief of Police or his/her designee will escort the person out of the chambers and off of City property. In the event the person does not leave the chambers, the person will be subjected to arrest under Section 42.05 of the Texas Penal Code (TPC). The person will be subject to arrest under Section 30.05 TPC if the person does not leave the property. In the event the same person comes to a subsequent meeting and disrupts that meeting to the point they are requested to leave again, a criminal trespass warning can be issued.

It should be noted that case law has determined that only using profane language in a public place does not rise to the level of Disorderly Conduct as defined in Section 42.01 TPC. The utterance of this language should rise to the level that a fight is imminent.

3.12 Council May Discipline its Own Members.

In the event a Council Member violates the Charter, these rules or any other ordinance of the city, or acts in a manner that causes embarrassment or disgrace to the City of Bastrop, the City Council on supermajority vote may discipline the offending member.

Such action may only take place after an executive session is held to discuss the offense. The offending member shall be present at the executive session to answer any questions asked by members of the City Council or make other statements as he or she may desire to make in his

or her defense. If the offending member refuses to attend the executive session, the remaining members of the City Council may proceed in his or her absence.

The outcome of the executive session may be as follows and shall be made publicly in open session in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act:

1. *No Action*. The City Council chooses to take no action.
2. *Private Censure*. The City Council may choose to privately censure the offending member, leaving their comments to the offending member left in the confines of the executive session.
3. *Public Censure*. The City Council may choose to publicly censure the offending member through a resolution passed by supermajority vote and entered into the public record.

ARTICLE 4. AGENDA ORDER

The Mayor and the City Manager or an appropriate designee shall prepare an agenda and cause the same to be posted a minimum of 72 hours prior to the meeting. Agendas and packet material shall be delivered to the City Council via electronic format uploaded into a cloud storage service, such as Dropbox. City Council shall be notified via email that the agenda and packet have been uploaded and available for review. The goal would be to upload the agenda and packet on Friday prior to a regularly scheduled Council Meeting. In the event of an emergency meeting of the City Council, this provision shall be suspended when not inconsistent with the provisions of federal or state law or the City Charter.

In order to facilitate the agenda process, the Mayor, two Council Members, or the City Manager may place an item on the agenda. Staff assistance, if required, should be requested through the City Manager (City Charter, Article III, Section 3.05 Prohibitions). Agenda items must be provided to the City Manager's Office at City Hall by 12:00 noon on the 11th calendar day preceding the date of the regular meeting. If the agenda topic does not allow for staff to adequately prepare information for Council's consideration, the item may be postponed until the next regular meeting.

4.1 Call to Order.

The Mayor shall call the meeting to order. The Mayor shall announce that a quorum of the City Council is present and shall state for the record the names of all members of the City Council that are absent.

4.2 Pledges of Allegiance to the United States & Texas Flags.

The Council shall recite the Pledge of Allegiance, first to the United States Flag, and then to the state Flag of Texas. The Council welcomes individuals and organizations, young and old, to lead the Pledges.

4.3 Invocation.

All regular meetings of the City Council shall include an invocation.

4.4 Presentations.

Presentations may be made by the Mayor, City Council or Staff. The Mayor may deliver any proclamation as may be required from time to time. Outside entities and organizations granted permission to make a presentation shall be placed in this section.

4.5 Work Session/Briefings.

Items may be included in this section for the purpose of conducting a detailed and thorough exploration of matters that may come before City Council as an item for individual consideration. All questions of a technical nature, which require a detailed explanation for understanding, may be considered in a work session. Council may, through the City Manager, request the attendance of such staff members or outside experts as may be required to answer such questions. No formal action may be taken on items. Council may provide staff direction on the matter being considered. Audience comments or questions will not be considered at a work session unless posted accordingly.

4.6 Staff and Board Briefings.

Items that are provided to Council on a routine basis, such as monthly financial statements and quarterly investment reports, should be included in this section. Appointed boards of the City, who have been requested to provide periodic updates, such as the Bastrop Economic Development Corporation and Visit Bastrop, will be included in this section.

4.7 Citizen Comments.

Every agenda must include the following language for purposes of open and transparency to inform the public of how to appropriately address the City Council:

At this time, three (3) minute comments will be taken from the audience on any topic. To address the Council, please submit a fully completed request card to the City Secretary prior to the beginning of the Citizens' Comment portion of the Council meeting. In accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, if a citizen discusses any item not on the agenda, City Council cannot discuss issues raised or make any decision at this time. Instead, City Council is limited to making a statement of specific factual information or a recitation of existing policy in response to the inquiry. Issues may be referred to City Staff for research and possible future action.

To address the Council concerning any item on the agenda, please submit a fully completed request card to the City Secretary prior to the consideration of that item.

It is not the intention of the City of Bastrop to provide a public forum for the embarrassment or demeaning of any individual or group. Neither is it the intention of the Council to allow a member of the public to slur the performance, honesty and/or integrity of the Council, as a body, or any member or members of the Council individually or collectively, or members of the City's staff. Accordingly, profane, insulting or threatening language directed toward the Council and/or any person in the Council's presence will not be tolerated.

4.8A Approval of the Minutes.

The Council shall consider the minutes of any meeting presented for their review since the last regular meeting. This heading will only be used when there are no other items listed on a consent agenda.

4.8B Consent Agenda Items.

There is hereby established, as a part of every agenda for regular and/or special called meetings of the City Council, a portion of said agenda that shall be labeled "consent agenda." Said consent agenda may consist of any and all business regularly coming before the City Council including approval of the minutes of previous meetings.

The City Secretary shall read the caption of each item and/or ordinance, once a motion has been made to approve the Consent Agenda and received a second, but before a vote.

All items set out in the consent agenda shall be deemed passed upon passage of an affirmative motion, by a vote of the majority of the members of the City Council, that the consent agenda be adopted. No further action shall be deemed necessary, and all such items appearing on the consent agenda, upon passage of such motion, shall be deemed adopted as if voted upon separately.

Any member of the City Council or a citizen may request that any item be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately. If any item was removed from the consent agenda, it will be considered immediately following approval of the remainder of the consent agenda.

4.9 Items for Individual Consideration.

Items for individual consideration shall be considered by the City Council individually and approved by either a simple majority vote or a super majority vote as the case may be.

Public hearings, which are statutorily required, shall be included in this section. The Mayor shall first request staff comments. The Mayor shall open the public hearing and receive citizen input. While the public hearing is open, Council may ask questions of the speakers, but may not deliberate or argue with the public on the matter at hand. Those speaking at a public hearing are required to follow the rules established herein for Citizen Comments. Upon conclusion of citizen comments, the Mayor shall close the public hearing. Council may deliberate or take action on the matter at hand upon the closing of the public hearing.

4.10 Executive Session Items.

This section is only used when it is necessary for the Council to convene in executive session. Executive sessions are sessions closed to the public. They are only permitted for the purpose of discussing matters enumerated in Chapter 551, Open Meetings Act of the Texas Government Code. Disclosure of topics to be discussed shall be made to the public in accordance with the requirements of the Open Meetings Act.

If the subject of the executive session warrants, the executive session may be held prior to the regular session.

4.11 Action on Executive Session Items.

This section is only used if Council conducts an executive session. Action on executive session items must be taken during public/open session of the Council. Action may include the taking of no action at all.

4.12 Adjournment.

The Mayor shall adjourn the meeting upon passage of the appropriate motion.

ARTICLE 5. RULES GOVERNING CITIZEN COMMENTS

5.1 Purpose.

It is the desire of the City Council to hear from the citizens of Bastrop and to stimulate discussion and offer a forum for a cordial and meaningful public debate on matters that are properly a concern of the City Council. The following rules shall control and govern audience comments.

5.2 Rules for Audience Comments.

Immediately preceding the opening of a public hearing, the Mayor may direct the City Secretary to read the rules governing citizen comments.

5.3 Rules Governing Citizen Comments.

1. Each speaker is limited to a maximum timed limit of three minutes on any item except for a public hearing item.
2. No individual may address the Council without submitting a speaker card. The card must clearly state the subject or issue on which the citizen wishes to speak. If the subject matter does not pertain to city business, the Mayor shall advise the individual and/or make recommendations as to how they may get the issue addressed.
3. Citizens speaking on agenda items shall restrict their comments to the subject matter listed.
4. Citizens speaking on non-agenda items shall only speak during the Citizens Comment portion of the agenda.
5. Council may not act upon or discuss any issue brought forth as a non-agenda item, except to:
 - a. Make a statement of specific factual information given in response to the inquiry, or
 - b. A recitation of existing policy in response to the inquiry.

Any deliberation of or decision about the subject of the inquiry shall be limited to a proposal to place the subject on the agenda for a subsequent meeting.

6. Proper respect, decorum, and conduct shall prevail at all times. Impertinent, slanderous, or personal attacks are strictly prohibited and violators may be removed from the Council Chambers.
7. No placards, banners or signs may be displayed in the Council Chambers or City Hall.

Exhibits relating to a presentation are acceptable.

8. Arguing, intimidation, or other disruptive behavior is prohibited. Discussion and/or debate are acceptable only on items specifically listed on the agenda.
9. Unauthorized remarks from the audience, stomping of feet, applauding, whistles, yells, or any type of disruptive behavior is prohibited. Applause of appreciation may be acceptable when recognizing a significant event or achievement.
10. Council meetings are the workplace to carry out the business of the City of Bastrop; therefore, any conduct that could constitute harassment in the workplace is prohibited.
11. In all cases, the Mayor shall preside over the Council meeting and ensure that proper conduct and decorum is adhered to.

5.4 Preservation of Order.

As referenced in Article 3.11 above, the Mayor shall preserve order and decorum and, if necessary, shall cause to be silenced or removed from the Council Chambers any non-Council Member speaking out of order or disrupting the order of the meeting.

ARTICLE 6. COUNCIL LIAISONS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

One Council Member will be appointed as the council liaison to each of the city's boards and commissions annually as a part of the Board & Commission Member appointment process. Council liaisons will be appointed by Council with consideration given to applicable expertise. Council liaisons may attend, but are not required to attend, the meetings of the boards or commissions to which they have been appointed as liaison. Board and commission members may contact their council liaison concerning items of concern or interest with regard to their appointed board.

ARTICLE 7. TABLE OF MOTIONS AND POINTS OF ORDER

MOTION/ORDER	REQUIRES SECOND	DEBATABLE	AMENDABLE	VOTE TYPE
Basic Motion	Yes	Yes	Yes	Simple
Motion to Amend	*	No	Yes	N/A
Motion to Adjourn	Yes	No	No	Simple
Motion to Recess	Yes	No	Yes	Simple
Motion to Fix the Time to Adjourn	Yes	No	No	Simple
Motion to Table	Yes	No	No	Simple
Motion to Limit Debate	Yes	No	No	Super
Motion to Object to the Consideration of an Item	Yes	No	No	Super

Motion to Suspend Rules	Yes	No	No	Super
Motion to Reconsider	Yes	Yes	Yes	Simple
Point of Privilege	No	No	No	N/A
Point of Order	No	No	No	N/A
Motion to Appeal	Yes	Yes	No	Simple
Call for Orders of the Day	No	No	No	N/A
Withdraw a Motion	No	No	No	N/A
Motion to Enforce	Yes	No	No	Simple

* For the purposes of these rules, Amendments are not debatable and only require the approval of the member who made the original motion. An amendment to an amendment, requires first the approval of the member who made the original amendment and secondly the approval of the member who made the original motion.