



City of Milpitas
City Council Handbook
2018

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CHAPTER I. Purpose and Overview

A. Purpose

This Handbook shall provide guidance to the Milpitas City Council in conducting all City business.

B. Applicability of Handbook

When not in conflict with the Constitution, the laws of the State of California or the Milpitas Municipal Code, this City Council Handbook (“Handbook”) shall govern.

C. Revisions to the Handbook

This Handbook is designed to be periodically updated in order to reflect either changes in the law or in City Council procedure or policy.

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CHAPTER II. Duties of the City Council

A. General Authorities of City Council

Milpitas was incorporated on January 26, 1954. As a general law city, Milpitas derives its authority from and is subject to the California Constitution and the general laws of the State of California.

The City Council is the policy and lawmaking body of the City. State and local laws define the powers and responsibilities of the City Council.

The City has a Council Manager form of government in which the elected City Council sets policy direction and the City Manager implements Council policy, manages day-to-day operations and provides professional recommendations to support the Council on policy decisions. Although the Council and City Manager operate in all four dimensions of the governance process: mission, policy, administration and management, the Council's primary focus is on the mission and policy while the City Manager's focus is on administration and management. Clarity of roles are informed by this handbook and ordinance provisions that provide the overall framework for the governance relationship.

B. Duties of Mayor

The Mayor is directly elected by Milpitas voters. The Mayor is the official head of the City of Milpitas for all ceremonial purposes. The Mayor is entitled to vote on all matters but does not possess any veto power. The Mayor signs all ordinances and resolutions for all City Council meetings.

C. Duties of Vice Mayor (Mayor Pro Tempore)

The Vice Mayor is selected from those on the Council during the first meeting at which the Mayor and returning or incoming Councilmembers commence their terms.

In the event that the Mayor cannot attend a ceremonial function, the Vice Mayor shall serve as the official head of the City in his or her stead. In the event that neither the Mayor nor Vice Mayor can preside at a ceremonial function, one of the remaining members of the City Council shall serve as the official head of the City on a rotating basis to be administered by City staff.

D. Duties of Mayor and Councilmembers

1. Arrive on time for all Council meetings.
2. Review all meeting materials published in accordance with the Open Government Ordinance, in preparation for Council meetings. As a body, provide clear direction to staff to aid in the development and consideration of proposed ordinances, policies, and procedures. Pass ordinances, approve new projects and programs, and ratify the budget.

3. Keep in touch with the community and interpret what is heard to Council colleagues and to the staff.
4. Participate in City Council meetings and other public forums.
5. Represent the City Council by fulfilling the liaison assignments to legislators, external agencies and the City's boards and commission.
6. Requests for Staff Resources
 - a. Mayor and Councilmember requests to consider new programs, services, or requests for significant allocations of resources, shall be directed to the budget process to the maximum extent possible.
 - b. Mayor or Councilmember requests for minor (generally less than four hours of staff time) research or other staff work must be directed to the City Manager.
 - c. If more than four hours of staff time will be required to complete the task/project, the item will be placed on the agenda to ask the City Council if time should be spent on the proposed item.
 - d. Mayor and Councilmember requests for more than four hours of staff work for City Council consideration will adhere to all the City of Milpitas Open Government Ordinance (No. 262.6) provisions, including, but not limited to:
 - I-310-2.30 Agenda Requirements. "(b) At least six (6) days before a regular City Council meeting, a preliminary agenda shall be posted containing a meaningful description of each item of business to be transacted."
 - "(c) A description is meaningful if it is sufficiently clear and specific to alert a person of average intelligence and education whose interests are affected by the item that he or she may have reason to attend the meeting or seek more information on the item.
 - To achieve the above requirements, all materials must be submitted to the City Clerk no less than eight (8) days in advance of a Council meeting.
 - e. Staff responses to a Councilmember inquiry, including the original inquiry, shall be distributed to the Mayor and all City Councilmembers.
7. Absences
 - a. Whenever a member knows in advance that he or she will be absent from a City Council meeting, it is the responsibility of that member to notify the City Manager or City Clerk as soon as possible of the impending absence.

- b. If a City Councilmember is absent without permission from all regular City Council meetings for 60 calendar days consecutively from the last regular meeting he or she attended, his or her office becomes vacant pursuant to Government Code 36513.
- c. If at the roll call section of any Council meeting, the City Clerk notes the absence of the Mayor or any City Councilmember, unless objected to by any other Councilmember, it shall be deemed that such absence is with permission of the City Council. After an objection, a Councilmember shall be determined absent without permission upon a majority vote.

E. City Council Vacancies

A vacancy in the office of Councilmember or Mayor may be filled by appointment by the City Council. The appointee shall hold office until the next special municipal election which shall be immediately called to fill the remainder of the vacant term as provided under Milpitas Municipal Code Section I-3-2.00. Any unexpired remainder of the term of such office shall be filled by the voters at such election.

F. Role of City Manager.

1. The City Manager is the chief executive officer and the head of the administrative branch of the City government. The City Manager is appointed by the City Council and reports to the full City Council.
2. The City Manager implements policies and procedures initiated by City Council and manages the day-to-day operations of the City. The City Manager supports the full Council in setting clear goals for the City and optimizes the use of City resources to meet these goals.
3. The City Manager is the appointing authority, responsible for all City personnel. The City Manager or designee serves as a liaison to each commission. The use of City-owned property is handled through the City Manager's Office. The City Manager supports effective policy making and oversight by the City Council by providing information, formulating policy proposals, advising and informing the Council on policy matters while promoting team building and collaboration, and ensuring that the administration's delivery of service is consistent with City Council direction.
4. The City Manager prepares the budget annually, advises the City Council of future financial needs, and is responsible for budget administration after adoption. The City Manager prepares and submits to the City Council a complete report at the end of each fiscal year on the finances and administrative activities of the City during the preceding year.

G. Role of City Attorney.

The City Attorney is appointed by the City Council and reports to the full City Council.

The City Attorney advises the City Council and City officers in their official capacity on legal matters affecting the City, attends all City Council meetings and some board/commission meetings, and represents the City in legal actions and proceedings. The office of the City Attorney also approves the form of all bonds and contracts made by the City, approves all ordinances, resolutions and amendments for the City, and prosecutes criminal cases for violation of the City ordinances.

The members of the City Attorney's Office (attorneys and staff) maintain an attorney-client relationship with the City, full City Council, its officers, agents and employees, so their official communications are protected as confidential attorney-client privilege.

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CHAPTER III. Mayor and Councilmember Conduct

A. Mayor and Councilmembers shall:

1. put constituents first at all times;
2. treat each other, staff, and members of the public with dignity, courtesy, and respect;
3. maintain confidentiality of all closed session materials and discussion;
4. be attentive to others, limiting interruptions and distractions;
5. encourage diverse viewpoints in debate while being mindful not to prolong discourse or block consensus;
6. agree to respectfully disagree;
7. keep comments clear, concise, and on-topic;
8. start meetings on time, work from the agenda; and
9. present problems in a way that promotes discussion and resolution.

B. Mayor and Councilmember Conduct with City Staff:

1. Always maintain professionalism, treat all staff with respect.
2. Direct staff personnel issues to the City Manager.
3. Comments about staff performance should not be made in public or to the individual employee, and should only be made to the City Manager through private correspondence or conversation. Comments about staff in the office of the City Attorney should be made directly to the City Attorney.
4. In accordance with Milpitas Municipal Code VI-1-2.04, except for purposes of inquiry, the City Council and its members shall deal with the administrative staff solely through the City Manager..
5. The Mayor and Councilmembers must not attempt to influence City staff on the making of employment appointments, awarding of contracts, selecting of consultants, processing of development applications, or granting of City licenses and permits.
6. Routine secretarial support will be provided to the Mayor and all Councilmembers. Requests for additional staff support - even in high priority or emergency situations — should be made to the City Manager.
7. Do not solicit political support from staff. The Mayor and Councilmembers should not solicit any type of political support (financial contributions, display of posters or lawn signs, name on support list, etc.) from City staff. City staff may, as private citizens with constitutional rights, support political

candidates but all such activities must be done away from the workplace and on personal time.

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CHAPTER IV. Meetings

- A. All Council decisions must occur at City Council meetings pursuant to the requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act. The City Council shall not use a series of telephone calls, a conference call, mass e-mailing or any other method of communication to discuss or decide matters within the jurisdiction of the Council among a majority of the Councilmembers.
- B. Quorum
1. No business may be transacted by the Council at a regular or special meeting unless a quorum of the membership is present (on a 5 member Council, a quorum is 3 members).
 2. When there is no quorum, the Mayor or Vice Mayor, or any Councilmember may adjourn a meeting, or if no Councilmember is present, the City Clerk may adjourn a meeting.
- C. Council Meeting Dates; Cancellation
1. If at any time any regular meeting of the Council falls on a holiday, the regular meeting shall be held on the next business day or the earliest business day within a week.
 2. Any meeting of the City Council may be canceled in advance by the Mayor. It can also be cancelled by a majority of the Councilmembers at a City Council meeting. The City Manager may also cancel a meeting in cases of need, such as an emergency or when a majority of members have provided notice of their unavailability to attend a meeting.
- D. Types of Meetings
1. Regular meetings are held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. (discussion item – would Council prefer 6pm?) in the City Hall Council Chambers, 455 E. Calaveras Blvd., Milpitas, California. Pursuant to the requirements of the City's Open Government Ordinance, the agenda is posted by the Wednesday preceding the regular meeting date. The Brown Act requires the posting of an agenda at least 72 hours prior to a regular meeting.
 2. Special Meetings may be called by the Mayor. They can also be called by a majority of the Council at a public meeting. Any special meeting called requires a minimum of 24 hours' notice as required by the Brown Act. Only business described in the notice may be transacted.
 3. Study Sessions may be held as part of a regular meeting or special meeting and are held for the purpose of providing information to the City Council, particularly on issues that are more complex or more time-consuming. Study sessions may be conducted jointly with another City board, commission or committee or another governmental agency. At

study sessions Councilmembers may state their individual responses and questions to the information provided and may collectively provide direction to City staff. No formal action is taken at the study sessions.

4. Closed Sessions can be part of either special or regular meetings. The Council conducts its business in public to the greatest extent possible. State law, however, recognizes that in certain limited circumstances authorized by the Brown Act, that the Council will need to meet in private without the public present. These matters may include certain personnel matters, labor negotiations, real property negotiations, matters of public security, and the discussion of litigation, among other topics listed in the Brown Act. These rules provide for strict confidentiality of City Council discussion as required by State law and no Councilmember shall disclose anything discussed in closed session to any individual not present in that closed session. Violating this confidentiality requirement can subject an individual Councilmember to disciplinary action, a referral to the grand jury, and in some limited circumstances, criminal prosecution. In limited instances, if action is taken in closed session, the City Attorney may need to report out any action taken and any vote on that action.
5. Emergency Meetings can occur in limited circumstances when there is a work stoppage, crippling activity, other activity that impairs public health, safety, or dire emergency. Depending on the factual circumstances, 24 hour notice or one hour notice may be required, or no notice at all.

E. Teleconferencing

1. Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(b), teleconferencing may be used as a method for conducting meetings where Councilmembers may be counted towards a quorum and participate fully in the meeting from remote locations. If a Councilmember participates in a meeting via teleconference, the following requirements must be met:
 - a. The remote locations must be connected to the main meeting location by telephone, video, or both.
 - b. The notice and agenda of the meeting must identify the remote location.
 - c. The remote location must be posted with the agenda and be accessible to the public.
 - d. All votes must be by roll call.
 - e. The meeting must in all respects comply with the Brown Act, including participation by members of the public present in the remote locations.
2. Because there are other legal nuances to making use of the teleconferencing provisions in the Brown Act, please check in with the City Attorney or City Clerk in advance.

F. Presiding Officer

1. The Mayor presides at all City Council meetings. In the absence of the Mayor, the Vice Mayor is the presiding officer. If both the Mayor and Vice Mayor are absent, the remaining Councilmembers should select a presiding officer for that meeting. The presiding officer votes on all questions as do other members of the City Council.
2. The Mayor/presiding officer always sits in the middle seat at all formal council meetings. The Vice Mayor and City Manager are always seated immediately next to the Mayor/presiding officer.
3. The presiding officer conducts the meetings of the City Council to:
 - a. Ensure that consideration of items on the agenda move along without delay.
 - b. Ensure that petitioners, proponents and opponents are heard but not allowed to disrupt the meeting.
 - c. Ensure that decorum is maintained at the meeting.
 - d. In presiding over matters where the public has provided testimony and/or raised questions, the presiding officer should:
 - (i) Restate every question coming before the Council.
 - (ii) Direct questions or comments requiring a response to staff for a response.
 - (iii) Ensure that staff and members of the public direct their comments to the chair.
 - (iv) If necessary, help keep Councilmember questions relevant to the matter being considered by the Council.
 - (v) If necessary, consider calling for a brief recess if orderly conduct of the meeting is being disrupted.
 - (vi) Announce the decision of the Council on all subjects.
4. Ensure that each member of the Council is provided an opportunity to completely express their views on items of business, the Mayor should:
 - (i) See that Councilmembers ask to be recognized by the Mayor before speaking.
 - (ii) Ensure that each Councilmember is given the opportunity to fully express their views.
5. The Chief of Police, or his or her representative, is the ex officio sergeant-at-arms of the City Council. The ex officio sergeant-at-arms shall carry out

all orders and instructions given by the presiding officer for the purpose of maintaining order and decorum in the council chamber.

G. Voting; Rules of Procedure

1. A motion, second, and a majority vote of the Council shall be required for any formal action of Council (except where a different vote requirement is set by state law). Votes and abstentions are taken by roll call and recorded in the meeting minutes.
2. Steps in making, discussing and voting on a formal motion:
 - a. The maker of the motion asks for recognition by the presiding officer. After the individual is recognized, he or she will say "I move that we ..."
 - b. The presiding officer will ask if there is a second. Another member of the group must second the motion in order for it to be discussed. A second is made by saying "I second the motion." The Mayor or any Councilmember can suggest one or more modifications in the motion, which the member making the motion can accept or reject. There also may be times where the City Manager or City Attorney may suggest an amendment to the motion for clarity purposes for the public, which the member making the motion can accept or reject.
 - c. The presiding officer then restates the motion "It has been moved and seconded that ..." and opens the floor to discussion and debate.
 - d. The presiding officer will recognize members who wish to comment on the motion. Only one "main motion" may be discussed at a time.
 - e. Once discussion has concluded, the presiding officer will "call for the question" and conduct a roll call vote.
 - f. The presiding officer will announce the result of the vote.
3. Unless state law requires otherwise, a majority vote is needed for the motion to pass. In the event of a tie vote, the motion does not pass.
4. Subject to state law limitations and to the extent this Handbook does not address an issue of parliamentary procedure, Roberts Rules of Order shall apply. For example, even though Roberts Rules of Order permit a legislative body to reconsider or rescind prior actions, under due process the City Council cannot reconsider or rescind a quasi-judicial decision after the decision is final, in the absence of statutory authority to the contrary.
5. The City Attorney serves as parliamentarian during City Council meetings. The role of the parliamentarian is advisory; the Chair has the power to rule on questions of order.

H. Continued Matters

1. Any matter may be continued to a subsequent meeting.
2. If the Mayor or Councilmember who was not present at a prior meeting has reviewed the relevant documents and minutes from the missed meeting and, if possible, reviewed the recording or webcast from the meeting, then he or she shall disclose those actions on the record at the beginning of the discussion of the item and may vote on the continued matter.
 - a. Exception: Continued Public Hearing. If a hearing is required for an agenda item, then the Mayor or a Councilmember shall not participate in the decision if that member was not present during the entire hearing from the time of its opening to the time of its close. (MMC § I-20-3.14.)

I. Public Participation

1. Members of the public are encouraged and invited to participate in the legislative process by submitting written comments before the meeting or speaking in person at a meeting.
2. It is the intent of these rules to allow everyone to be heard without fear of jeers or cheers that may discourage public participation. For this reason, these rules are taken seriously. Disruptive or threatening behavior may result in removal from the Council meeting.
3. Only the presiding officer can interrupt a speaker during a presentation. However, a Councilmember can ask the Mayor for a point of order if the speaker is off the topic or exhibiting behavior or language the Councilmember finds disruptive.
4. Time Limits for public comment:
 - a. Individual Speakers - 3 minutes
 - b. Organized group (in lieu of individual speakers) – up to 15 minutes, depending on the number of speakers represented
 - c. The presiding officer may, at his/her discretion, limit the amount of time allotted to the speaker(s) when needed.
5. Individuals who wish to speak should submit a speaker card to the City Clerk to be called up at the appropriate time. Each speaker may only speak once on an item and shall speak at the podium into the microphone and address the City Council.
6. Written or photographic materials relevant to consideration of a matter may be submitted to the Council. Copies of such materials should be provided for the Mayor, Councilmembers, City Clerk, City Manager and City Attorney. Depending on the quantity and complexity of materials, the materials should be provided to the City Clerk for distribution to the city officials in advance of the meeting/hearing. If insufficient time exists to review the materials provided at the time of the meeting/hearing, the

meeting/hearing may be recessed or continued. The City Council retains discretion to accept or to reject new documentation furnished on the night of the City Council meeting/hearing. Accepted materials are retained by the City and become part of the official public record.

7. Wireless/Cellular telephones or any other telecommunications device should be in the silent mode or turned off during the City Council meeting.
8. Literature distribution or petition circulation is not permitted when the City Council is in session. Such activity may occur outside the meeting room, provided access is not blocked.

J. Discussion Items on the agenda are to be conducted in the following order:

1. Staff / applicant presentation
2. Council questions to applicant and/or staff
3. Open public hearing (or public comment section) for comments
4. Close public hearing (or public comment section)
5. Response by staff to public questions/concerns, if warranted
6. Council discussion and deliberation
7. Council votes

K. Quasi-Judicial Matters/Appeals/Revocation Hearings

1. Quasi-judicial matters and appeals will be considered at a noticed public hearing and will follow the order stated in Section I, above, with the following time allocations:
 - a. Applicant/Appellant – 15 minutes
 - b. Individual Speakers – 3 minutes
 - c. Rebuttal – 5 minutes
 - d. In an appeal, if the appellant is not the applicant, the applicant shall also have 15 min and is entitled to make any concluding remarks prior to closure of the public hearing

The time limits may be changed by the presiding officer to permit full and fair consideration of a particular matter depending on the number of items on the agenda and the number of persons desiring to speak on a matter.

2. If the Mayor or a Councilmember has spoken or met with a proponent or opponent of a quasi-judicial matter or has visited the site of a project which is the subject of a hearing, that contact or visit should be acknowledged and described on the record prior to the opening of the hearing. Any facts

that could influence the Mayor or a Councilmember's decision, must be included in the public record.

L. Items Considered after 11:00 p.m.

1. Unless a majority of the Council determines there is a need to act, no items shall continue and no new items shall be heard after 11:00 p.m.

M. Conflict of Interest

1. The Political Reform Act (PRA), enforced by the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC), controls financial conflicts of interest.
2. The other applicable law is Government Code §1090, which applies only to contracts in which a public official has a financial interest.
3. Whenever it appears to a Councilmember that he or she may have a prohibited financial interest in any item that may be presented to the City Council, the Councilmember should consult with the City Attorney at the earliest opportunity for advice on whether a disqualifying conflict of interest exists.
4. With full consideration of the City Attorney's advice, it is up to each individual Councilmember to decide for him/herself whether there is a conflict of interest. When a Councilmember may be in doubt, the City Attorney can obtain more formal advice from the FPPC.
5. A member shall not vote upon any matter on which s/he has a conflict of interest.
6. A member shall openly state the reason for his/her conflict of interest, or work in consultation with the City Attorney to state something on the record.
7. A member who is disqualified by a conflict of interest shall recuse him/herself from the dais and leave the room unless it is during the Consent Calendar.

CHAPTER V. Meeting Agendas and Minutes

NOT FOR DISCUSSION – SUPERCEDED BY UPDATED CHAPTER APPROVED BY COUNCIL

A. Agenda Order

City Council agendas will be prepared by the City Clerk and presented to the City Council in the order described below. The presiding officer with the approval of a majority of the Council can change the order of hearing the items on the agenda.

1. Opening
 - a. Call to Order by Mayor and Roll Call by City Clerk
 - b. Adjourn to Closed Session
 - c. Closed Session Announcement
 - d. Pledge of Allegiance. If the Mayor and Vice Mayor are both absent, then the City Clerk calls the meeting to order and a temporary presiding officer is elected by a majority of those councilmembers present. Upon the arrival of the Mayor or Vice Mayor, the temporary presiding officer relinquishes the chair at the conclusion of the business then before the City Council.
 - e. Invocation. In accordance with the policy adopted by City Council (SOP 1.2), the Mayor and Councilmembers shall invite a community member to give an invocation at the speaker podium.
2. Ceremonial matters. The presentation and receipt of proclamations and commendations not requiring formal legislative action.
3. Public Forum. Members of the public wishing to comment on any item not appearing on the agenda may address the City Council at this time. State law prevents Council from taking action on any matter not on the agenda. Comments may be referred to staff for follow up. Individuals are limited to 3 minutes. However, the presiding officer has discretion to reduce the speaking time in situations where there are a large number of persons who wish to speak.
4. Announcements. The Mayor and Councilmembers shall report on any meetings or conferences attended and paid for by the City and may also report on various assignments or other events. The Mayor and Councilmembers shall be limited to the same amount of speaking time as members of the public during open public comment (3 minutes). The City Manager may also make brief announcements.

5. Announcements of Conflict of Interests and Campaign Contributions. City Attorney shall ask the Mayor and Councilmembers to declare any conflicts of interest or campaign donations related to items on the agenda, in accordance with the Milpitas Open Government Ordinance (Municipal Code I-310)
6. Approval of Agenda
7. Consent Calendar. All matters listed under the Consent Calendar, including minutes, are considered by the Council to be routine and will be enacted by one motion without discussion (except for simple clarifying questions). If discussion is desired, that item may be removed and considered separately.
8. Public Hearing. Duly noticed hearings as mandated by local, state, or federal law, providing an opportunity for public review and comment of a proposed action by the Council.
9. Community Development. This section will cover the Community Development City Service Area and will include items related to Building/Housing, Economic Development, Engineering (Land Development), and Planning.
10. Community Services and Sustainable Infrastructure. This section will cover the Community Services and Sustainable Infrastructure City Service Area and will include items related to Engineering (Capital Projects and Solid Waste), Public Works, and Recreation and Community Services,
11. Public Safety. This section will cover the Public Safety City Service Area and will include items related to Fire/Emergency Preparedness and Police.
12. Leadership and Support Services. This section will cover the Leadership and Support Services City Service Area and will include items related to the City Clerk, City Council, City Manager, Finance, Human Resources, and Information Services,
13. Reports. This section will include special reports and any other requests for staff work by the Mayor and Council.
14. Commission Reports. Reports and work plans from Commissions will be presented in this section.
15. Adjournment

B. Agenda Item Submission

1. The City Manager has the primary responsibility for the development of the Council Agenda, ensuring all protocols are followed, and that management of the agenda is closely linked to organizational goals and work plans.

2. Mayor or Councilmember:
 - a. The Mayor or a Councilmember may request an item be considered on a future agenda and, upon agreement of a majority of Council, staff will prepare a staff report if formal Council action is required.
 - b. Councilmembers may make this request verbally during a meeting or may submit a written request to the City Manager at other times.
 - c. See Section 2.C.4 “Request for Staff Resources” for further details on any associated staff work related an agenda item request.

3. Members of the Public. A member of the public may request Council action in the following ways:
 - a. Write a letter to the City Council
 - b. Speak during the Public Comment period at a City Council meeting
 - c. Attend annual Council goal setting meeting and provide input

Upon agreement of a majority of the City Council, Council will determine whether to place on a future agenda an item requested by the public.

C. Meeting Minutes

1. The preparation of accurate minutes is the responsibility of the City Clerk
 - a) In general, summary minutes are used to record proceedings. The record focuses on who spoke and the motions and votes. Video recordings are used in order to serve a number of administrative, legal and historical functions and to provide verbatim record of meetings. Failure to record does not affect the validity of any proceedings or action taken by the City Council.
 - b) The City Clerk may be directed by the presiding officer, with the consent of the City Council, to enter in the minutes a synopsis of the discussion of any matter coming before the City Council. The synopsis should be in complete sentences.
 - c) The Mayor or a Councilmember may request, through the presiding officer, the privilege of having a previously prepared written abstract summarizing the major points of his or her statement on any subject under consideration entered into the minutes. If the City Council consents, such an abstract is entered into the minutes.
 - d) Items such as letters which individuals request “to have entered into the record” are referred to in, but do not become a part of, the minutes.
 - e) Changes in substantive matters may be made only at the direction of a majority of the City Council. Clerical corrections are to be made when discovered in order to maintain accuracy

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CHAPTER VI. City Council Actions

Several different types of action may be taken by the Mayor and/or City Council.

A. Proclamations.

Proclamations are issued by the Mayor without formal action by the City Council. Proclamations are public announcements directing attention to a person, organization or event, such as Citizen of the Year, Girl Scout Week, or International Year of the Child. Proclamations may be requested by the Mayor or any Councilmember.

B. Commendations.

Commendations are acknowledgments of the activities of a person or organization, issued by the Mayor or by all Councilmembers without formal action being taken. Commendations typically acknowledge exceptional endeavors or are given to retiring employees and departing board and commission members and are presented at an appropriate function or council meeting.

C. Ordinances.

Legislative acts of the City Council are known as ordinances. Subject to certain state law exceptions, most ordinances are introduced at one meeting and are adopted by majority vote at a subsequent meeting, and go into effect 30 days after adoption.

An ordinance is necessary (1) when state law requires a regulation to be adopted by ordinance, (2) to amend or repeal provisions of the Municipal Code or any uncodified ordinances, and (3) to impose regulations on persons or property in the City.

Ordinances shall be prepared by the City Attorney. Ordinances are prepared for presentation to the City Council when ordered by a majority vote of the City Council, or when requested by the Mayor or the City Manager, or when prepared on the City Attorney's own initiative.

D. Resolutions.

Resolutions are City Council actions which become effective upon adoption and encompass the business not addressed through ordinances. They are typically used to handle routine business and administrative matters requiring some type of formal memorialization. Resolutions are used for various reasons, such as when specifically required by law, when needed as a separate evidentiary document to be transmitted to another agency, or where the frequency of future reference back to its contents warrants a separate documents to facilitate reference and research.

E. Motions.

The least formal of City Council actions, motions typically are used for procedural matters (such as to continue items) or for administrative matters (such as to accept reports). An adopted motion is as legally effective and binding as an adopted resolution but generally is recorded simply as an item entry in the minutes.

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CHAPTER VII. Communication

A. California Public Records Act.

All letters, memoranda, and email communications involving City Councilmembers and members of boards, commissions, committees and task forces, the subject of which relate to the conduct of government or the performance of any governmental function, with a few exceptions as outlined in the Public Records Act, are public records.

B. Ralph M. Brown Act

Each Councilmember should be mindful of all of the requirements of the Brown Act in communicating with each other. A majority of the Council shall not use a series of telephone calls, a conference call, mass e-mailing or any other informal session to discuss or decide substantive matters.

C. Mail Processing

1. Members of the City Council may receive mail and other materials through City Hall.
2. All mail received and specifically addressed to the Mayor or a Councilmember shall be placed in the mail drawer for that person without first being opened.
3. General correspondence addressed to Councilmembers as a whole may be opened and delivered to all Councilmembers if appropriate.

D. Correspondence

1. The City Manager or designee is authorized to receive and take administrative action on all correspondence directed to the City Council. The City Manager or designee may also respond to correspondence submitted to the full City Council on non-agenda items or authorize a staff member to respond. A courtesy copy is provided to each Councilmember.
2. Generally, correspondence relating to a specific City Council agenda item shall be distributed with the agenda report; correspondence received after the publication of agenda packets is to be compiled and distributed to the City Council prior to the City Council meeting.
3. After the City Council has taken a position on an issue, official correspondence should reflect this position. While Councilmembers who may disagree with a position are free to prepare correspondence on such issues as private citizens, City letterhead, official City Council title, and staff support should not be utilized. In addition, City letterhead and staff support cannot be utilized for personal or political purposes.

- E. City letterhead, logo, insignia and brand, as well as, staff support cannot be utilized for personal or political purposes.
- F. Council Communication to Planning Commission
 1. The Mayor and Councilmembers should be mindful not to unduly influence the decision at the Planning Commission meeting so as not to get ahead of the process.
 2. It is not appropriate for the Mayor or a Councilmember to make public comments at the Planning Commission meeting unless he/she is acting in his or her personal capacity. If/when the matter comes before the City Council, such member should recuse him or herself from the matter.

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CHAPTER VIII. Council Liaison Roles

The Mayor and Councilmembers serve on behalf of Milpitas as members of other governmental entities, committees and agencies.

A. City Council Liaison

1. All City Councilmembers shall serve as liaisons to other City Commissions which shall be approved by the full City Council. In serving as a liaison, a City Councilmember shall endeavor to attend all Commission meetings of the Commission to which he or she is assigned.
2. Statements made by the City Council liaison about the City's official position should reflect the majority opinion of the City Council, which is defined by current or past official City Council action via City Council vote or consensus.
3. If the Mayor or a Councilmember wishes to attend the meeting of a Board, Agency, Committee or Task Force to which he/she has not been appointed to serve on by the City Council, the Mayor or Councilmember, as a courtesy, should advise the City representative(s), if any, as well as the respective chair, and should be mindful of the influence of his/her presence. If the presence of the Mayor or Councilmember shall constitute a quorum of the City Council, the meeting should be noticed as that of the City Council and all Councilmembers invited. An exception to this rule is when the Mayor or Councilmember observes only and does not speak at the meeting.

B. Successor Agency to the Milpitas Redevelopment Agency, Public Financing Authority and Housing Authority Commission.

The Mayor and Councilmembers serve as the members of the Successor Agency to the Milpitas Redevelopment Agency, Public Financing Authority and Housing Authority Commission.

C. Regional Boards and Outside Agency Representatives.

1. The role of a Member on regional Boards will vary depending on the nature of the appointment.
2. Reporting. Council representatives to Regional Boards shall keep the Mayor and Councilmembers informed of ongoing business through short written reports to the Mayor and Councilmembers or update reports to the City Council during the "Announcements" opportunity on the City Council meeting agenda.
3. In the event the primary assigned liaison is unable to attend a particular meeting, he or she should notify the chair of the board/agency, and the

appointed alternate Council representative, or Mayor, should attend in the place of the primary.

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