

CHAPTER 17

COUNCIL

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17.01 NUMBER AND TERM OF COUNCIL. The Council consists of five (5) Council members elected at large for overlapping terms of four (4) years.
(Code of Iowa, Sec. 372.4 & 376.2)

17.02 POWERS AND DUTIES. The powers and duties of the Council include, but are not limited to the following:

1. General. All powers of the City are vested in the Council except as otherwise provided by law or ordinance.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.2[1])

2. Wards. By ordinance, the Council may divide the City into wards based upon population, change the boundaries of wards, eliminate wards or create new wards.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 372.13[7])

3. Fiscal Authority. The Council shall apportion and appropriate all funds, and audit and allow all bills, accounts, payrolls and claims, and order payment thereof. It shall make all assessments for the cost of street improvements, sidewalks, sewers and other work, improvement or repairs which may be specially assessed.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.2[1], 384.16 & 384.38[1])

4. Public Improvements. The Council shall make all orders for the doing of work, or the making or construction of any improvements, bridges or buildings.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.2[1])

5. Contracts. The Council shall make or authorize the making of all contracts, and no contract shall bind or be obligatory upon the City unless either made by ordinance or resolution adopted by the Council, or reduced to writing and approved by the Council, or expressly authorized by ordinance or resolution adopted by the Council.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.2[1] & 384.95 through 384.102)

6. Employees. The Council shall authorize, by resolution, the number, duties, term of office and compensation of employees or officers not otherwise provided for by State law or the Code of Ordinances.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 372.13[4])

7. Records. The Council shall require the Clerk to maintain records of its proceedings.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 372.13[3])

8. Setting Compensation for Elected Officials. By ordinance, the Council shall prescribe the compensation of the Mayor, Council members, and other elected City officers, but a change in the compensation of the Mayor does not become effective during the term in which the change is adopted, and the Council shall not adopt such an ordinance changing the compensation of any elected officer during the months of November and December in the year of a regular City election. A change in the compensation of Council members becomes effective for all Council members at the beginning of the term of the Council members elected at the election next following the change in compensation.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 372.13[8])

17.03 EXERCISE OF POWER. The Council shall exercise a power only by the passage of a motion, a resolution, an amendment, or an ordinance in the following manner:

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.3[1])

1. Approved Action by Council. Passage of an ordinance, amendment, or resolution requires an affirmative vote of not less than a majority of the Council members. A motion to spend public funds in excess of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) on any one project, or a motion to accept public improvements and facilities upon their completion also requires an affirmative vote of not less than a majority of the Council members. Each Council member's vote on an ordinance, amendment or resolution must be recorded.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 380.4)

2. Overriding Mayor's Veto. Within thirty (30) days after the Mayor's veto, the Council may repass the ordinance or resolution by a vote of not less than two-thirds of the Council members, and the ordinance or resolution becomes effective upon repassage and publication.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 380.6[2])

3. Measures Become Effective. Measures passed by the Council, other than motions, become effective in one of the following ways:

A. If the Mayor signs the measure, a resolution becomes effective immediately upon signing and an ordinance or amendment becomes a law when published, unless a subsequent effective date is provided within the measure.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 380.6[1])

B. If the Mayor vetoes a measure and the Council repasses the measure after the Mayor's veto, a resolution becomes effective immediately upon repassage, and an ordinance or amendment becomes a law when published, unless a subsequent effective date is provided within the measure.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 380.6[2])

C. If the Mayor takes no action on the measure a resolution becomes effective fourteen (14) days after the date of passage and an ordinance or amendment becomes law when published, but not sooner than fourteen (14) days after the day of passage, unless subsequent effective date is provided within the measure.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 380.6[3])

17.04 MEETINGS. Meetings of the Council shall be as follows:

1. Regular Meetings. The time and place of the regular meetings of the Council shall be fixed by resolution of the Council.

2. Special Meetings. Special meetings shall be held upon the call of the Mayor or upon the written request of a majority of the members of the Council submitted to the Clerk. Notice of a special meeting shall specify the date, time, place and subject of the meeting and such notice shall be given personally or left at the usual place of residence of each member of the Council. A record or the service of notice shall be maintained by the Clerk.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 372.13[5])

3. Quorum. A majority of all Council members is a quorum.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 372.13[1])

4. Rules of Procedure. The Council shall determine the rules of its own proceedings by resolution and the Clerk shall keep such rules on file for public inspection.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 372.13[5])

5. Compelling Attendance. Any three (3) members of the Council can compel the attendance of the absent members at any regular, adjourned or duly called meeting, by serving a written notice upon the absent members to attend at once.

6. Notice of Meetings. The Council shall give reasonable notice, as defined by State law, of the time, date and place of each meeting, and its tentative agenda.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 21.4)

7. Meetings Open. All meetings shall be held in open session unless closed sessions are held as expressly permitted by State law.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 21.3)

8. Minutes. Minutes shall be kept of all meetings showing the date, time and place, the members present, and the action taken at each meeting. The minutes shall show the results of each vote taken and information sufficient to indicate the vote of each member present. The vote of each member present shall be made public at the open session. The minutes shall be public records open to public inspection.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 21.3)

9. Closed Session. A closed session may be held only by affirmative vote of either two-thirds of the Council or all of the members present at the meeting in accordance with Chapter 21 of the Iowa Code.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 21.5)

10. Cameras and Recorders. The public may use cameras or recording devices at any open session.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 21.7)

11. Electronic Meetings. A meeting may be conducted by electronic means only in circumstances where such a meeting in person is impossible or impractical and then only in compliance with the provisions of Chapter 21 of the Iowa Code.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 21.8)

17.05 APPOINTMENTS. The Council shall appoint the following officials and prescribe their powers, duties, compensation and term of office:

1. City Clerk
2. City Attorney
3. City Administrator
4. City Treasurer
5. Zoning Board of Adjustment
6. Zoning Administrator

17.06 COMPENSATION. The salary of each Council Member is two hundred fifty (\$250.00) per month. Beginning on January 1, 2014, the Council shall be paid at a rate of three hundred fifty (\$350.00) per month.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 372.13[8])

17.07 DEPARTMENT AND ORGANIZATIONS OF INTEREST TO THE CITY

LIAISONS. The Mayor shall assign each of the Council members the responsibility of being a liaison of one or more departments or organizations of interest to the City. These departments or organizations of interest to the City may include but are not limited to: Sewer Treatment; Water Treatment; Library Board, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, Cemetery; Street Department; Planning and Zoning Commission, Metro Advisory Council (MAC), Council Roundtable, Metro Waste Authority (MWA), Economic Development, Polk County Sheriff's Department and Fire & Rescue.

The Council member/department liaison shall have the responsibility for attending all meetings of their assigned department or organization of interest to the City, and shall report on the recommendations or actions of the department or organization of interest to the Council whenever requested to do so. A Council member who has a relative within the third degree of sanguinity who is an employee of the City shall not be assigned the responsibility of being the department liaison for the relative/City employee's department.