

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. 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])

3. Public Improvements. The Council shall make all orders for the construction of any improvements, bridges or buildings.

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

4. Contracts. The Council shall make or authorize the making of all contracts. No contract shall bind the City unless approved by the Council.

5. 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])

6. Setting Compensation for Elected Officers. 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. Action by Council. Passage of an ordinance, amendment or resolution requires a majority vote of all of the members of the Council. Passage of a motion requires a majority vote of a quorum of the Council. A resolution must be passed to spend public funds in excess of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) on any one project, or to accept public improvements and facilities upon their completion. Each Council member's vote on a measure must be recorded. A measure which fails to receive sufficient votes for passage shall be considered defeated.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 380.4)

2. Overriding Mayor's Veto. Within thirty (30) days after the Mayor's veto, the Council may pass the ordinance, amendment, or resolution again by a vote of not less than two-thirds of all of the members of the Council.

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

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

- A. An ordinance or amendment signed by the Mayor becomes effective when the ordinance or a summary of the ordinance is published, unless a subsequent effective date is provided within the ordinance or amendment.

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

- B. A resolution signed by the Mayor becomes effective immediately upon signing.

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

- C. A motion becomes effective immediately upon passage of the motion by the Council.

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

- D. If the Mayor vetoes an ordinance, amendment or resolution 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 the ordinance or a summary of the ordinance is published, unless a subsequent effective date is provided within the ordinance or amendment.

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

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

date is provided within the ordinance or amendment.

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

"All of the members of the Council" refers to all of the seats of the Council including a vacant seat and a seat where the member is absent, but does not include a seat where the Council member declines to vote by reason of a conflict of interest.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 380.4)

17.04 COUNCIL MEETINGS.

Procedures for giving notice of meetings of the Council and other provisions regarding the conduct of Council meetings are contained in Section 5.06 of this Code of Ordinances. Additional particulars relating to Council meetings are the following:

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 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 of 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 its own rules and maintain records of its proceedings.

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

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. Planning and Zoning Commission

17.06 COMPENSATION.

The salary of each Council member is fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each regular meeting and twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per special or committee meeting of the Council attended.

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

17.07 ELIGIBILITY FOR APPOINTMENT.

A councilman is not eligible for appointment to any city office if the office has been created or the compensation of the office has been increased during the term for which he is elected.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 372.13(9))

17.08 GENDER BALANCE.

1. The Iowa Code requires that all appointive boards, commissions, committees and councils of the State established by the Code, if not otherwise provided by law, shall be gender balanced. No person shall be appointed or reappointed to any board, commission, or committee established by the Code if that appointment or reappointment would cause the number of members of the board, commission, committee, or council of one gender to be greater than one-half the membership of the board, commission, or committee plus one if the board, commission, or committee is composed of an odd number of members. If such board, commission, or committee is composed of an even number of members, not more than one-half of the membership shall be of one gender.
2. All appointive boards, commissions, and committees of the City, if not otherwise provided by law, shall be gender balanced as provided in subsection 1 unless the City has made a good faith effort to appoint a qualified person to fill a vacancy on a board, commission, or committee in compliance with this section for a period of three months but has been unable to make a compliant appointment. In complying with the requirements of this subsection, the City shall utilize a fair and unbiased method of selecting the best qualified applicants. This subsection shall not prohibit an individual whose term expires prior to January 1, 2012, from being reappointed even though the reappointment continues an inequity in gender balance. Gender balance is applicable to appointive boards, commissions, and committees of the City on and after January 1, 2012.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 69.16A)

17.09 COUNCIL COMMITTEES.

The mayor shall appoint with approval of the council any council standing committees established by council resolution, and any special committees of the council. The standing committees shall consist of three council members; the first named shall be chairman. The mayor shall name the chairman of special committees and such other members as he deems appropriate. The mayor shall be an ex-official member of each committee. The mayor shall appoint the standing committees at the first meeting in January following each municipal election. Special committees may be named by the mayor when deemed useful to the city.