

## **Special Working Council Session Minutes**

Wednesday, January 17 2024 – 6 PM Council Chambers

Item	Presented By:	Action	Topic	Report
Roll Call for Quorum				The Village Council convened a special in-person meeting on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 6 PM with xxx presiding.  The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the rules of council for the new term.  Roll call of Council Members:  Ms. Bruewer: Present  Ms. Chaney: Present  Mr. Fischer: Present  Ms. Kreimer: Present  Ms. Kreimer: Present  Ms. Mayle: Present  Ms. Snyder: Present
New Business		Discussion	• Rules of Council	Mr. Butler explained the previous rules of council indicate the Mayor appoints chairs to committees.  Ms. Mayle indicated that Council Rules can be changed to limit appointment of chair.  Mr. Butler asked whether council would like to continue the practice of limiting contact to the Solicitor through Mr. Hirth.  Ms. Bruewer asked for a metric on the monthly finance report to see solicitor's usage by council members. Mr. Pridonoff explained a specific line item exists to indicate current appropriations for the solicitor.  Ms. Kreimer suggested adding information to the rules about emails, texts, and other communications that are subject to the Sunshine Laws.  Ms. Bruewer confirmed that the version of Council Rules should be based on those passed in Jan. 2022. <a href="https://www.golfmanoroh.gov/wp-content/pdf/Rules%20of%20Order%20and%20Procedure%20Governing%20Village%20of%20Golf%20Manor_R011022.pdf">https://www.golfmanoroh.gov/wp-content/pdf/Rules%20of%20Order%20and%20Procedure%20Governing%20Village%20of%20Golf%20Manor_R011022.pdf</a>

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Ms. Kreimer suggested the meeting go section by section to change or add language.

"Changes to meeting schedule: Meetings of the Council and its committees, board, and commissions can only be rescheduled in the following circumstances due to federal, state, and local holidays, religious holidays of its members that would prevent attendance at said meeting, or preplanned vacations that would prevent quorum to be reached. Decisions to reschedule meetings must be debated and recorded in a full Council meeting to allow sufficient time for communication to the public.

For cancellation of meetings under special circumstances, the Admin, Mayor (if Admin unavailable), or Vice-mayor (if Admin and Mayor are unavailable) are authorized (in succession) to announce cancellation."

Ms. Snyder asked about the requirement of Recording Clerk to take minutes for committees and commissions. Mr. Butler explained that council could appoint someone to take minutes. Mr. Kreimer recommended asking committee members to appoint their own scribe.

Ms. Bruewer asked what procedure will be helpful for reporting minutes. Mr. Hirth indicated at least 48 hours before the next meeting is an important standard. Mr. Densmore recommended 2 business days before a meeting instead of 48 hours. Mr. Pridonoff suggested end of business day preceding 2 business days before the next meeting.

Mr. Hirth suggested accountability to the recorder for minutes of all meetings, if Recording Clerk is not present. Mr. Bruewer said this will be taken care of in a later section.

Ms. Snyder suggests deleting the last sentence from the Meeting Procedures, Quorum paragraph.

Ms. Snyder suggests adding to the Robert's Rules of Order section to include all committees and commissions.

Ms. Kreimer asked whether the document "Rules of Order" is also "Rules of Council". She recommended adopting one phrase.

Ms. Mayle indicated Economic Development and Community Engagement should not be grouped together. Mr. Densmore expressed Economic Development should be a part of Finance.

Ms. Kreimer suggests adding the language of committees defining their own mission. Mr. Butler asked, if the Mayor created a committee, does he not also define he mission? Ms. Kreimer asked for committees to define their own priorities to be presented to council.

Mr. Densmore explained the current description on the website of the three appointed committees.

Ms. Bruewer asked for a structured dialogue of committee descriptions.

Ms. Snyder suggested deleting the last sentence in first paragraph of Village Council Committees.

Ms. Snyder asked whether reason for absence must be stated.

Ms. Snyder recommended "Village Council Behavior and Decorum" should apply discipline for 3 unexcused absences per calendar year, including Council, committees, and commissions.

Conflict of interest/abstentions: Ms. Bruewer recommends council members self-report outside business activity disclosure that could create liability to the Village, including non-profit board membership. This should be reported every first council meeting in January. Any changes should be reported within 30 days.

Mr. Densmore asked whether some conflicts of interest can be acceptable with a suggested remedy. Mr. Butler indicated that would have to be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Mr. Bruewer suggested being more stringent on conflict of interest moving forward, and readdress the subject at the Jan 2025 meeting.

Village Council Behavior/Decorum should apply to all Councils, Commissions, Committees, and Boards.

Ms. Snyder suggested use of the work "member" to indicate members of councils, commissions, committees, and boards.

Ms. Bruewer asked about holding members accountable for behavior in a public forum.

Ms. Snyder suggested this is applicable when acting in official capacity. Mr. Butler concurred.

Ms. Kreimer recommended the following language from the City of Cincinnati.

"Members of Council shall give our residents and guests a courteous and respectful hearing of their views. Residents and guests shall be made to feel welcome with an appropriate greeting at the beginning of each Council and Committee meeting. Members of Council recognizes that residents and guests make significant personal sacrifices to attend Council and Committee meetings as well as public hearings. Members of Council shall be respectful of the time being given by residents and guests and shall hear from them in a prompt and timely manner. Members of Council recognizes that residents and guests coming before Council may not always agree with the views of Members of Council. All points of view shall be heard respectfully without reproach or admonition. In any debate of public issues, differences of opinion are to be expected and the civil, respectful, and transparent airing of those differences is encouraged in order to test ideas and develop consensus. Debate shall not become a personal attack on the speaker. Letters to Members deserve serious consideration and a timely, appropriate response. Letters to the Village Administator, even those that may be critical, shall be made a part of the record of Council. Decorum and civility shall be observed at all times by Members of Council. This includes prompt and regular attendance at all meetings of Council, including those times dedicated to public comment, neither the Mayor nor Members of Council shall engage in lengthy side conversations. Such conversations shall occur outside

Council meetings. Those attending meetings of Council and Committees shall be respectful of other residents, guests, staff, the Mayor, and Members. Members of Council shall hold themselves and each other accountable for complying with these standards".

Ms. Kreimer suggested use of HRC for complaints. Mr. Butler warned about referring potential liability against the Village outside the solicitor's office.

Ms. Bruewer recommended complaint resolutions should be a separate section.

Ms. Snyder questioned the procedure for handling complaints. Mr. Butler recommended complaints should be forwarded to the mayor for investigation by Administration.

Ms. Bruewer suggested outlining a procedure for same-day registration for public speakers.

Ms. Chaney referenced Cincinnati School Board rules for same-day registration.

Ms. Bruewer recommended limiting department/committee reports to 10 minutes. This refers to content delivered, but not questions or follow up from Council.

Ms. Kreimer asked for department/committee reports to be submitted a week in advance. Mr. Butler indicated this may be very difficult practically. Ms. Kreimer asked that it be considered a goal. Mr. Butler recommended 3 days in advance, rather than a week. Mr. Densmore asked whether the rule for minutes should extend to other reports, (e.g. end of business preceding two business days). Ms. Snyder indicated this may be outside of the rules of council, since the Chiefs are not members of council, but that the request should be made in a Council meeting.

Ms. Bruewer recommended implementing graduated discipline procedures. Ms. Bruewer recommended procedure for censure should be established. Mr. Butler recommended adding language to include possibilities discipline may consist, but not limitation. Ms. Chaney asked whether 5 votes is appropriate. Mr. Butler indicated 5 would be appropriate to avoid a simple majority.

Ms. Kreimer recommends the following language under the heading Discipline:

"Any Member of Village Council may be subject to discipline by the remainder of Village Council for disorderly conduct, violation of its rules, or unexcused absences from any three (3) meetings of the Village Council, Committees, or Commissions in a calendar year, may be cause to suspend such Member's monthly compensation, removal from committee, or commission, and/or begin the process for removal from office. Discipline may consist of warning, censure, or dismal and maybe in the form of a public or private reprimand or action under the Charter and by law to remove a member. Any disciplinary measures will be by support of five (5) voting members or supermajority of voting members."

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Approvals:		
	Date:	
Submitted by Eric Pridonoff, Fiscal Officer		
	Date:	
Stefan Densmore, Mayor		
	Date:	
Carolynne Johnson Asst Clerk		

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