

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. 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. 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) 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 a subsequent effective date is provided within the measure.

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

17.04 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 regular meetings of the Council are on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at seven o'clock (7:00) p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. If such day falls on a legal holiday or Christmas Eve, the meeting is held on such different day or time as determined by 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])

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.

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. Planning and Zoning Commission
5. Parks and Recreation Board
6. Cable Regulatory Commission
7. Water Superintendent
8. Sewer Superintendent
9. Zoning Board of Adjustment
10. Health Officer

17.06 COMPENSATION. The salary of each Council member is fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each meeting of the Council attended.

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