CHAPTER 17

CITY COUNCIL

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17.01 NUMBER AND TERM OF COUNCIL. The Council consists of five Council members elected at large for overlapping terms of four years.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 372.4 and 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 that may be specially assessed.

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

4. Public Improvements. The Council shall make all orders for the 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. No contract shall bind or be obligatory upon the City unless approved by the Council.

(Code of Iowa, Ch. 26)

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. 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 $100,000.00 on a public improvement project, or to accept public improvements and facilities upon their completion. Each Council member's vote on a measure must be recorded. A measure that fails to receive sufficient votes for passage shall be considered defeated.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 380.4)

2. Overriding Mayor's Veto. Within 30 days after the Mayor's veto, the Council may pass the measure 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 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 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. 380.1[a])

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 request of a majority of the members of the Council.
(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 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. Planning and Zoning Commission
4. Zoning Board of Adjustment

17.06 COMPENSATION. The salary of each Council member is $25.00 for each meeting of the Council attended, payable annually, up to a total of 17 meetings or $425.00 per year..
(Code of Iowa, Sec. 372.13[8])