

**CITY OF NORTHAMPTON  
MASSACHUSETTS**

*In the City Council, December 2, 2021*

Upon the Recommendation of the City Council Rules Select Committee

**21.370 AN ORDER**  
**TO AMEND THE COUNCIL RULES**

*Ordered that the “RULES OF THE 2020-2021 CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON” be amended as shown on the attached document.*



## RULES OF THE 2020-2021 CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON

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## 1. These Rules

- 1.1. **ADOPTION.** When adopted by the City Council, these Rules shall take effect at the time of the first Council meeting following January 1, 2020.
- 1.2. **REPEAL OR AMENDMENT.** City Council Rules may only be repealed or amended with a two-thirds majority vote of quorum present. The latest version of these Rules shall be published online.
- 1.3. **PRECEDENCE.** The City Council Meetings shall conform to parliamentary practices as set forth in the Rules of the City Council. The procedures defined in the most current version of Robert's Rules of Order will resolve questions not addressed by the Council Rules.
- 1.4. **SUSPENSION.** Suspension of these rules or any part thereof shall require a two-thirds majority of the quorum present. Nothing herein shall be construed to authorize suspension of any provision of the Charter of the City of Northampton, or any ordinance of the City of Northampton.

## 2. Organization

### 2.1. PRESIDING OFFICER

- 2.1.1. **DUTIES.** When present, the Council President shall be the presiding officer of the City Council at every meeting. The duties as presiding officer shall be only those set forth herein:
  - 2.1.1.1. To open the meeting at the appointed time by taking the chair, calling the meeting to order, and ascertaining that a quorum is present.
  - 2.1.1.2. To announce in proper sequence the business that comes before the City Council.
  - 2.1.1.3. To recognize members who are entitled to the floor.
  - 2.1.1.4. To state and to put to vote all questions that legitimately come before the City Council as motions or that otherwise arise in the course of proceedings (except questions that relate to the presiding officer as noted below), and to announce the result of each vote or, if a motion that is not in order is made, to rule it out of order; or, to refuse to recognize obviously frivolous or dilatory motions as defined by Robert's Rules;.
  - 2.1.1.5. To expedite business in every way compatible with the rights of all members of the body.

- 2.1.1.6. To respond to inquiries of City Councilors relating to parliamentary procedure or factual information bearing on the business of the City Council.
- 2.1.1.7. To declare the meeting adjourned when the City Council so votes or, when applicable, at the time prescribed in the order of business, or at any time in the event an emergency.
- 2.1.1.8. To determine whether an amendment is germane to the motion under consideration.

2.1.2. **PARTICIPATION.** The Presiding Officer may make statements, ask questions and give opinions during debate without relinquishing the chair.

2.1.3. **ORDER OF SUCCESSION.** In the absence of the Council President, the first of the following list of persons who is not absent shall preside and shall retain voting privileges:

First, the Council Vice-President

Second, the Chair of the Committee on Finance

Third, the Chair of the Committee on Legislative Matters

If none of the above are present or able to preside, the City Council shall elect by majority vote a President pro-tempore who shall preside for that meeting and shall retain voting privileges. Should the City Council fail to elect a President pro-tempore the meeting shall be adjourned.

## 2.2. ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT.

2.2.1. The City Council President and Vice-President shall be elected:

2.2.1.1. At the first City Council meeting of a two-year session; and

2.2.1.2. In the event of a vacancy for either office.

2.2.2. At any meeting when a City Council President is to be elected, the previous Council President will preside. If the previous Council President is absent or no longer a member of the Council, the longest serving member of the Council will preside. If two members of the Council are equal in seniority, a coin toss will determine which Councilor presides over the election of the Council President. If more than two members of the Council are equal in seniority they will draw lots to determine which Councilor will preside over the election of the Council President.

2.2.3. After nominations are made by members of the Council, candidates may present to the council.

2.3. **COUNCIL PRESIDENT POWERS AND DUTIES.** The powers and duties of the Council President shall include all duties pursuant to the Charter and also:

- 2.3.1. To assign councilors to serve on any committee established by the City Council.
  - 2.3.2. To remove members of a committee from a committee, or reassign them, at any time.
  - 2.3.3. To appoint members to select committees, as provided below.
  - 2.3.4. To determine seating arrangements for the members of the City Council.
  - 2.3.5. To appoint the membership of Enrollment Committee and modify the membership meeting to meeting for any reason.
  - 2.3.6. To set an agenda for the City Council.
  - 2.3.7. To hire the Administrative Assistant to the City Council and to supervise the individual in that position generally, including conducting an annual performance review. The administrative assistant appointment must be ratified by the whole City Council.
  - 2.3.8. To issue a Committee Study Request to any committee. Such a request shall require a committee to report to the full Council on a particular policy or issue area within 120 days optionally accompanied by legislation. However a committee may by majority vote decline to consider or respond to such a request.
- 2.4. COUNCIL VICE-PRESIDENT - POWERS AND DUTIES. The powers and duties of the City Council Vice-President will include all duties pursuant to the Charter.
- 2.5. ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE CITY COUNCIL
- 2.5.1. DUTIES. The Administrative Assistant shall report to the City Council President, who may assign duties in addition to the following:
- 2.5.1.1. To maintain a record of all matters and their status as they proceed through various legislative stages and committees, as well as all amendments and related documents.
  - 2.5.1.2. To provide staff support and recordkeeping to ~~all~~-standing Council committees and select committees as assigned and to assist committees with all aspects of reporting.
  - 2.5.1.3. To act as custodian of all books, documents and papers belonging to the City Council and to keep an accurate list thereof.
  - 2.5.1.4. To notify the chair of any Council committee, board, executive commission, or other body when a matter is referred to it and to provide the body with all documents relative to the matter.
  - 2.5.1.5. To ensure that all documents addressed to the Council shall be provided to each Councilor, and that any documents reviewed during the meeting become part of the permanent public record of ~~Council that meeting at which the documents are distributed.~~
  - ~~2.5.1.6. To secure two video records of meetings of the City Council that were so recorded.~~

~~2.5.1.7~~~~2.5.1.6.~~ To notify the appointees to all Council committees in writing upon their appointment.

~~2.5.1.8~~~~2.5.1.7.~~ To assist in preparing requests for proposals for an independent auditor in accordance with Sec 7-6 of the Charter.

~~2.5.1.9~~~~2.5.1.8.~~ To advise the Council President on matters of parliamentary procedure.

## 2.6. COUNCIL COMMITTEES

2.6.1. ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES. The following committees are established as described below.

### 2.6.1.1. COMMITTEE on FINANCE

~~2.6.1.1.1.~~ Process. Financial orders will be introduced at a full City Council meeting and referred to either the consent agenda or the Finance Committee for more granular discussion and recommendation. The Finance Committee will then convene separately outside of the full council meeting and before the next meeting.

~~2.6.1.1.1~~~~2.6.1.1.2.~~ Jurisdiction. Financial matters. The Committee shall review all orders authorizing a loan, supplemental appropriation, or financial transfer submitted by the Mayor in accordance with such authority by either the Massachusetts General Laws, the Charter of the City of Northampton, or the Code of Ordinances of the City of Northampton and make recommendations on ~~the matter referrals~~ to the City Council.

~~2.6.1.1.2~~~~2.6.1.1.3.~~ In addition to the outside audit provided by Section 7-6 of the Charter, the Committee may request access to all books, vouchers, notes, securities, and bonds in the possession of the Treasurer-Collector, City Auditor or any board or executive commission and make a report thereof to the City Council.

~~2.6.1.1.3~~~~2.6.1.1.4.~~ The Committee shall review all proposals to sell or lease any City-owned land or building not put to public use that are submitted to the City Council for approval and all proposals to purchase or lease real property that are submitted to the City Council for approval. The Committee shall make recommendations to the City Council on the matter. All instruments of conveyance and leases approved by the City Council shall be executed by the Mayor on behalf of the City unless otherwise provided by Massachusetts General Laws.

~~2.6.1.1.4~~~~2.6.1.1.5.~~ The Committee shall consist of four Councilors.

~~2.6.1.1.5~~~~2.6.1.1.6.~~ The Committee may hold public hearings on water, sewer, Stormwater and other municipal utility rates.

2.6.1.2. COMMITTEE on COMMUNITY RESOURCES

- 2.6.1.2.1. Jurisdiction. Matters affecting the community including economic development, local business, tourism, the environment, the arts, planning, zoning, sustainability, land use, housing and affordability, among others.
- 2.6.1.2.2. The Committee may review and make recommendations on licenses and permits.
- 2.6.1.2.3. The Committee shall consist of four Councilors.

2.6.1.3. COMMITTEE on CITY SERVICES

- 2.6.1.3.1. Jurisdiction. Matters related to the activities and operation of municipal government.
- 2.6.1.3.2. The Committee shall serve as the standing committee to review all candidates for appointment to boards and commission in accordance with Section 2-10 of the Charter.
- 2.6.1.3.3. The Committee shall consist of four Councilors.

2.6.1.4. COMMITTEE on LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

- 2.6.1.4.1. Jurisdiction. Upon referral by the City Council, the Committee shall have the power to make recommendations on ordinances, orders, resolutions and the rules of the City Council. Such recommendations shall be made in consultation with the City Solicitor.
- 2.6.1.4.2. The Committee may choose to be the last committee to review any matter that is also referred to another Council committee. The Committee shall not be required to wait to receive the report of any executive commission.
- 2.6.1.4.3. The Committee shall consist of four Councilors.

2.6.2. POWERS AND DUTIES OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES. The following shall apply to all committees unless otherwise stated:

- 2.6.2.1. Election of officers. Council Committees shall elect officers from among their members, such as Chair and Vice-Chair. At a committee's first meeting, the member who was first in the order of those announced by the Council President to serve on the committee shall preside until a Chair is elected.
- 2.6.2.2. Meetings. Committees shall meet as required by the City Council, the Committee's Chair, or at the request of two members. Committees shall hold an initial meeting no later than three months



after the appointment of its members.

- 2.6.2.3. Requests to appear before committees. A committee may make information requests pursuant Section 2-7 of the Charter.
  - 2.6.2.3.1. Notice. A committee shall give a minimum of 7 days notice to a person it may require to appear before it. No person shall be required to respond to any question not related to those questions presented in advance and in writing. The Committee will notify the Mayor of any Information Request under this section.
  - 2.6.2.4. Committees shall have the power to hold hearings on and develop, review and recommend policies on any matter within their jurisdiction.
  - 2.6.2.5. Power to amend. Council committees may recommend amendments to any measure. However, when a measure has been referred to the Committee on Legislative Matters, the Committee on Legislative Matters shall consider all amendments previously proposed by other committees and report one version of an amended measure to City Council.
  - 2.6.2.6. Duty to report. “To report” shall mean transmitting a positive/favorable, negative/neutral or neutral recommendation and associated votes as well as any suggested textual amendments and related documents.
    - 2.6.2.6.1. For matters referred to the Committee on Legislative Matters, among others: All committees other than the Committee on Legislative Matters shall report to the Committee on Legislative Matters and the City Council within 60 days, whereupon the Committee on Legislative Matters shall report to the full City Council within an additional 30 days.
    - 2.6.2.6.2. For matters referred to the Committee on Legislative Matters exclusively: The Committee on Legislative Matters shall report to the full City Council within 60 days.
    - 2.6.2.6.3. For matters referred to committees not including the Committee on Legislative Matters: Committees shall report to the full City Council within 90 days.
    - 2.6.2.6.4. Committees shall make all reports in writing.

- 2.6.3. **SELECT COMMITTEES.** The City Council may establish select committees for the purpose of considering a particular policy or issue or for other purposes. Such committees may make recommendations and may sponsor ordinances, resolutions or other matters. Such committees may be created by resolution approved by a two-thirds vote of a quorum. The resolution shall specify the composition and scope of the select committee. No such committee shall exist beyond the current term of the Council. The Council President shall appoint all members to such committees, and may appoint members of the public who are residents of the City of Northampton or city employees provided the Mayor approve the appointment of any city employee. Select Committees shall elect their own Chair and other officers from among those appointed. At the first meeting, the person whose appointment was first announced by the Council President shall serve as temporary Chair until elections occur.
- 2.6.4. A majority of those appointed and serving on a committee shall constitute a quorum.

### 3. Duties and Powers of the City Council.

The City Council shall have those duties and powers pursuant the Charter and also:

- 3.1. **SELECTION OF AN OUTSIDE AUDITOR.** Pursuant Section 7-6 of the Charter, the City Council shall select an independent auditor according to the following provisions:
- 3.1.1. The Council shall by October 1 of the fiscal year for which the audit is to be done establish a Select Committee for the purpose of making a recommendation on an independent auditor to the full Council.
- 3.1.2. The Council shall award a contract to audit on or before March 1 of the fiscal year for which the audit is to be done.
- 3.1.3. The Council shall require the report of the audit to be filed in final form with the Council not later than January 15 in the year following its award.

### 4. Order

- 4.1. **QUORUM.** The presence of 5 members shall constitute a quorum of the City Council.
- 4.2. **CALLING MEETINGS TO ORDER.** The presiding officer shall call the City Council to order at the time appointed for the meeting or to which it may have adjourned, if a quorum be present, which shall be determined by calling the roll. The names of members not present at the meeting shall be recorded by the Administrative Assistant to the City Council.
- 4.3. **RECOGNITION OF MAYOR AND DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES.** The Mayor and all City department representatives are recognized at all Council Meetings.
- 4.4. **CONSENT AGENDA**
  - 4.4.1. When any item of business requires action by the City Council, but is of a routine nature, such item may be presented at a regular meeting of the City Council as part of the Consent Agenda. Items eligible for consideration on the Consent Agenda include: approval of minutes, appointments, licenses, and petitions.
  - 4.4.2. The Consent Agenda may be introduced by a motion “To approve the Consent Agenda,” and may be considered by the City Council as a single item.
  - 4.4.3. The presiding officer shall read the title of each item contained in the Consent Agenda before a vote.
  - 4.4.4. There shall be no debate or discussion by any City Council member regarding any item on the Consent Agenda, beyond asking questions for simple clarification.
  - 4.4.5. Any item may be removed from the Consent Agenda upon the request of any City Council member prior to the taking of a vote on the motion to approve it. All such items will be considered individually, in the order in which they were removed, immediately following consideration of the Consent Agenda.
  - 4.4.6. Approval of the motion to approve the Consent Agenda shall be fully equivalent to approval, adoption, referral or enactment of each item of business thereon, exactly as if each had been acted upon individually.
  - 4.4.7. When an appointment has not received a recommendation from the standing committee pursuant Sec 2-10 of the Charter, a vote within the Consent Agenda shall be equivalent to a motion to refer it to said standing committee. Otherwise a vote shall be equivalent to approval.
- 4.5. **ORDER OF BUSINESS.**

- 4.5.1. The order of business at every regular meeting of the Council shall be as follows unless otherwise decided by the Presiding Officer:

Roll Call

Public Hearings

Public Comment

~~Roll Call~~Announcements from Councilors and the Mayor

~~Public Hearings~~

~~Recognitions and One Minute Announcements by Councilors~~

~~Communications and Proclamations from the Mayor~~

~~Resolutions~~

Presentations

Consent Agenda

- Approval of minutes
- Licenses and Petitions
- Appointments

~~Recess for Committee on Finance~~

Financial Orders

Orders

Ordinances (Not Yet Referred)

Ordinances

Resolutions

~~Updates from Council President and Committee Chairs~~

Information Requests (Charter Provision 2-7) and Committee Study

Requests

New Business

- 4.5.2. The agenda shall be published in this manner and adhered to at all meetings. The presiding officer may implement a change in the order of business unless any single Councilor objects, in which case the rules may be suspended as provided in these Rules.

- 4.6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING. The Administrative Assistant to the City Council shall submit the minutes of the previous meeting with the Council agenda for the next regular scheduled meeting of the City Council.
- 4.7. CONDUCT. City Councilors and members of the public shall conduct themselves with civility and respect at all times.
- 4.8. PUBLIC COMMENT. Members of the public may address the Council and all Council Committees on any matter for a period of ~~three~~two minutes. This period may be extended or reduced at the discretion of the presiding officer. Public comment may be accepted for no more than 90 minutes. Whenever language translation is required for a member of the public to address the City Council, such person shall be provided ~~six~~four minutes. Individuals wishing to speak will be recognized by the presiding officer and shall state their name and

city or town of residence and, optionally, their address. Councilors will not respond to any comments from the public. The City Council will take public comment in person or by remote participation as the technology allows.

- 4.9. NEW BUSINESS. Any Councilor may introduce any written proposed order, ordinance, or resolution to be considered by the Council at the next meeting, but not to be debated during new business.
- 4.10. RECESS. Any Councilor may call for and be granted a recess the length of which will be determined by the presiding officer.
- 4.11. ORDER AND MANNER OF SPEAKING. No City Councilor shall speak more than once on a question, to the prevention of any other who has not spoken,— and is desirous of speaking. The presiding officer may allow a brief immediate response to any statement posed directly to a particular City Councilor by a City Councilor. The presiding officer may request that any speaker discontinue any overly lengthy speech, but the right of a City Councilor to speak shall not be limited unless a formal motion is passed to set limits to debate for all City Councilors.
- 4.12. ORDER DURING DEBATE. No member should be interrupted while speaking, but by a call to order, or a request for information, or a question of privilege to appeal a decision from the presiding officer, or for the correction of a mistake, nor shall there be any conversation among the members while a paper is being read, or a question stated from the presiding officer
- 4.13. VOTING
  - 4.13.1. DECIDING VOTES. The presiding officer shall decide all votes, but if a member rises to doubt a vote the presiding officer shall order a roll call vote.
  - 4.13.2. VOTES REQUIRED TO PASS MEASURES
    - 4.13.2.1. The affirmative vote, taken by roll call, of 6 members shall be required to adopt an appropriation order or transfer.
    - 4.13.2.2. The affirmative vote, taken by roll call, of 6 members shall be required to adopt a zoning ordinance.
    - 4.13.2.3. In the absence of statutory requirements providing otherwise, the affirmative vote, taken by roll call, of 5 members shall be required to adopt any other ordinance.
    - 4.13.2.4. In the absence of statutory requirements providing otherwise, an affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum shall pass any other measure.
  - 4.13.3. ROLL CALL VOTES.

4.13.3.1. REQUEST. Any member may request a roll call vote on any question before the City Council and the Administrative Assistant to the City Council shall take the census of the Council in that manner.

4.13.3.2. METHOD OF RECORDING. Roll call votes shall be conducted by this method. The first roll call vote of every session of the City Council shall be in alphabetical order. Each roll call vote after that shall progress to the next City Councilor in the alphabet to be the first Councilor voting, so that at the end of every nine roll call votes each Councilor has by alphabetical progression voted first in one of the nine roll call votes.

4.13.4. RECONSIDERATION.

4.13.4.1. When a vote has passed, except for adjournment or to lay on the table, any member voting with the majority may move a reconsideration, to be acted upon at the same meeting. Any member voting with the minority may move a reconsideration to be acted upon at the next meeting.

4.13.4.2. Minority reconsideration shall have priority over majority reconsideration. Minority reconsideration shall be used to allow time for the submission of new or additional information. Reconsideration shall not be used in a dilatory manner as defined in Robert's Rules of Order.

4.13.4.3. No motion shall be twice reconsidered.

4.14. REMOTE MEETING PARTICIPATION. Councilors may participate remotely in meetings pursuant to the following regulations:

4.14.1. Requirements

4.14.1.1. Any Councilor who participates remotely and all persons present at the meeting location shall be clearly audible to each other;

4.14.1.2. A quorum including the presiding officer shall be physically present at the meeting location;

4.14.1.3. Any Councilor who participates remotely may vote and shall not be deemed absent.

~~4.14.1.4. Any Councilor may not participate remotely more than six times in a calendar year.~~

4.14.2. Permissible Reasons for Remote Participation. Any Councilor may participate remotely if the presiding officer determines that one or more of the following factors make the participation of the Councilor's physical attendance unreasonably difficult:

4.14.2.1. Personal Illness;

4.14.2.2. Personal Disability;

4.14.2.3. Emergency;

4.14.2.4. Military Service; or

4.14.2.5. Geographic Distance

4.14.2.5-4.14.2.6. Family Illness or Family Caretaking

#### 4.14.3. Technology

4.14.3.1. The following media are acceptable methods for remote participation. Remote participation by any other means is not permitted. Accommodations shall be made for any Councilor who requires TTY service, video relay service, or other form of adaptive communications.

4.14.3.1.1. Telephone, Internet, or satellite-enabled audio or video conferencing;

4.14.3.1.2. Any other technology that enables the remote participation and all persons present at the meeting location to be clearly audible to one another.

4.14.3.2. When video technology is in use, the remote participant shall be clearly visible to all persons present in the meeting location.

4.14.3.3. The presiding officer may decide how to address technical difficulties that arise as a result of utilizing remote participation, but is encouraged, wherever possible, to call a brief recess while reasonable efforts are made to correct any problem that interferes with a remote participant's ability to hear or be heard clearly by all persons present at the meeting location. If technical difficulties result in a remote participant being disconnected from the meeting, that fact and the time at which the disconnection occurred shall be noted in the meeting minutes.

4.14.3.4. All costs associated with remote participation, if any, shall be borne by the Councilor remotely participating.

#### 4.14.4. Procedures

4.14.4.1. Any Councilor who wishes to participate remotely shall, as soon as reasonably possible prior to a meeting, notify the presiding officer of their desire to do so and the reason for and facts supporting their request.

4.14.4.2. At the start of the meeting, the presiding officer shall announce the name of any member who will be participating remotely and the reason for their remote participation. This information shall be recorded in the meeting minutes.

4.14.4.3. All votes taken during any meeting in which a member participates remotely shall be by roll call vote.

4.14.4.4. Any Councilor participating remotely may participate in executive session, but shall state at the start of any such session that no other person is present and/or able to hear the discussion at the remote location. Any Councilor participating remotely who cannot certify that no other person is present and/or able to hear the discussion at the remote location may not participate in executive session.

4.14.4.5. When feasible, the presiding officer shall distribute to remote participants, in advance of the meeting, copies of any documents of exhibits that they reasonably anticipates will be used during the meeting. If used during the meeting, such documents shall be a part of the official record of the meeting, and shall be listed in the

meeting minutes and retained in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30A Section 22.

- 4.14.5. Application. This rule shall apply to Council Committees.
- 4.14.6. Amendment. This section may not be amended unless it is in accordance with the Mayor's Remote Meeting Participation Policy, Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30A Sections 18-25 and 940 Code of Massachusetts Regulations 29.10.
  
- 4.15. MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE SESSION. The City Council shall create and maintain accurate minutes of all executive sessions in accordance with the following:
  - 4.15.1. The minutes shall set forth the day, time and place, the members present or absent, a summary of the discussions on each subject, a list of documents and other exhibits used at the meeting, the decisions made and the actions taken at each meeting, including the record of all votes.
  
  - 4.15.2. Any vote taken in an executive session shall be recorded by roll call and entered into the minutes.
  
  - 4.15.3. The minutes of any executive session and the notes, or other materials used in the preparation of such minutes, and all documents and exhibits used at the session may be withheld from disclosure to the public in their entirety, according to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 4 § 7 (26) (a), as long as publication would defeat the lawful purposes of the executive session, but no longer.
  
  - 4.15.4. Approving minutes.
    - 4.15.4.1. Votes to approve executive session minutes may be, but are not required to be, taken in executive session.
    - 4.15.4.2. Review of, deliberation on and amendments to executive session minutes shall be done in executive session.
  
  - 4.15.5. Releasing minutes.
    - 4.15.5.1. As provided in MGL Ch 30A, Sec 22(g)(1), The Council President, with the assistance of the Administrative Assistant to the City Council and City Solicitor, shall, at reasonable intervals, not to exceed three months, review the minutes of executive sessions to determine if the relevant statutory provisions warrant continued nondisclosure. Such determination shall be announced at the City Council's next meeting and such announcement shall be included in the minutes of that meeting.
    - 4.15.5.2. Whenever the Council President requests that a vote of the Council be taken to determine whether to release executive session minutes, that vote must be taken in executive session.



4.15.6. Upon request by any person to inspect or copy the minutes of an executive session or any portion thereof, the Council shall respond to the request within 10 days following receipt and shall release any such minutes that would not defeat the lawful purposes of the executive session.

4.15.7. Any notes, documents or other exhibits used in the preparation of the minutes of executive sessions shall be retained for at least 60 days following the approval of the minutes of the executive session by the Council. The Council President shall periodically review said notes and other documents prior to the discarding or destruction thereof.

## 5. Legislative Process

### 5.1. PROPOSED MATTERS

5.1.1. Matters proposed for inclusion in City Council agendas shall be filed with the Administrative Assistant to the City Council. Agendas shall be published in accordance with the Open Meeting Law.

5.1.2. **COMMUNICATION WITH MAYOR’S OFFICE.** The Administrative Assistant to the City Council shall serve as a point of contact with the Mayor’s office regarding the City Council’s agendas.

5.1.3. **ADDING MATTERS TO COUNCIL AGENDA.** The Council President shall have discretion over the items added to Council agendas, except that if the addition of an item has been once requested by a member of the City Council or the Mayor and at the discretion of the Council President that item is not placed on an agenda of a regular Council meeting, then before the next regular Council meeting any two members of the City Council may petition the Council President who shall then add the item to the agenda of the next regular Council meeting.

### 5.1.4. PRESENTATION AND ENACTING STYLE OF MATTERS

5.1.4.1. Matters shall be presented in a format as indicated in the table below:

Line	Ordinances	Orders	Resolutions
1. Date	“In the Year 2016”	“In the City Council, February 2, 2016.”	“In the Year 2016”
2. Sponsorship	“Upon the recommendation of...”		
3. ID Number	Not prefaced	Prefaced by “O”	Prefaced by “R”
4. Type of Matter	“An Ordinance”	“An Order”	“A Resolution”
5. Short Title	“Relative to...” “Entitled the ...	“To...” et al.	“To...”, “In support of...”, et al.

	Ordinance of 2016”, or “To ...” et al.		
6. Enacting Clause	“Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Northampton in City Council assembled, as follows”	“Ordered, that”	“Be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Northampton in City Council assembled, as follows”

5.1.4.2. Administrative ID Number. The Administrative Assistant to the City Council shall assign each matter, upon formal submission, a unique identification number, in the form of the last two digits of the calendar year followed by an incrementally increasing number. The incrementally increasing portion shall reset to “1” every Council session.

5.1.4.3. Additions to the Code of Ordinances shall be indicated in bold and/or underline. Deletions shall be indicated by striking through.

5.1.5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS. Maps and visuals, along with all other supportive evidence essential to a matter, shall be presented in a clear and intelligible way.

5.2. REFERRAL OF MATTERS

5.2.1. In general, all matters may be referred to Council committees or executive multiple-member bodies, which shall constitute a request for a report on such matters.

5.2.2. Financial orders. No order or resolution authorizing a loan, the levying of a tax or the expenditure of money (with the exception of the printing of the annual reports) shall be voted on by the City Council until it has been considered by the Committee on Finance. It shall be the duty of such committee to report on the relation of such order, resolution, levy or expenditures to the finances of the City, but new provisions shall not be added to such resolution, order, levy or expenditure by the Committee unless directly connected with the financial features thereof, and then by recommendation only.

5.2.3. Ordinances. No ordinance shall be voted on by the City Council until it has been considered by the Committee on Legislative Matters.

5.2.4. Licenses and permits. Licenses and permits may be referred to the Committee on Community Resources for the committee’s recommendation.

5.2.5. Should a committee fail to report within the time set forth in Section 2.6.2.6, or if a multiple-member body fails to report within 45 days of

referral to that body, the City Council shall be authorized to proceed with the matter in absence of such report.

5.3. SOLICITOR REVIEW OF ORDINANCES. At or before the meeting at which the Committee on Legislative Matters considers any matter for approval and/or recommendation the City Solicitor shall be requested to examine the matter's form and legal character.

5.4. WITHDRAWAL OF MATTERS. If the Council has previously acted on a matter, the matter may be withdrawn by this method. At the written request of any sponsor(s) of a matter, a matter shall be withdrawn from consideration in the City Council and in all City Council Committees to which the matter had been referred provided the withdrawal be placed on the agenda of a City Council meeting. No vote shall be required. However, if at that meeting all sponsors of a matter do not unanimously agree to withdraw a matter, the matter shall not be withdrawn. However at that time any Councilor shall upon their request have their individual sponsorship removed.

5.5. MATTERS REQUIRING TWO ~~VOTES~~ READINGS. ~~To be approved, every matter shall have two separate votes on two separate days unless otherwise provided in these Rules. Before a vote on a matter may be held, it must first have been introduced at a prior City Council meeting. Introduction shall include a description of purpose and effects. Council discussion is allowed for questions and clarification~~

5.6. MATTERS REQUIRING ONE ~~VOTE~~ READING. The following shall require only one ~~vote~~ reading of the Council:

~~5.6.1. Administrative orders submitted by the Mayor for either approval or disapproval~~

~~5.6.2.~~ 5.6.1. Licenses

~~5.6.3.~~ 5.6.2. Approval of minutes

~~5.6.4.~~ 5.6.3. Acceptances of reports

~~5.6.5.~~ 5.6.4. Petitions, and orders to grant petitions

~~5.6.6.~~ 5.6.5. Appointments, and

~~5.6.7.~~ 5.6.6. Orders to adopt or amend the Council Rules.

5.7. ENROLLMENT COMMITTEE. When matter has passed the required number of votes, it shall be signed by the Administrative Assistant to the City Council and signed by the Enrollment Committee consisting of two City Councilors.

5.8. AUTOMATIC CARRYOVER. Matters that have not passed the required number of votes by the end of the current session shall automatically carry over to the next session of the City Council and shall remain in the Council and in all committees and executive commissions to which they have been referred at the start of the next session unless:

5.8.1. A matter has already failed on the first of two required votes; or

- 5.8.2. A matter has received a negative recommendation from the Committee on Legislative Matters; or
- 5.8.3. The City Council votes to prevent automatic carryover of a matter to the next session. For this purpose, at the request of any City Councilor, the City Council President shall place any such pending matter on the agenda at the final meeting of the session. Only one vote shall be required to prevent automatic carryover, but 2/3 majority of the full Council shall be required; or
- 5.8.4. None of the sponsors of a matter will be serving in the next session of the City Council.

## 6. APPENDICES

### 6.1 SPECIAL PERMIT GRANTING AUTHORITY

#### Chair/Moderator

##### I. Selection of a Chair/Moderator

The City Council President will serve as the presiding officer of the hearing.

#### MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

##### II. Notice of Public Hearings

Notice of hearings shall be advertised as required by the provisions of General Law Chapter 40A. In addition to the legally required notices the City Council will make every

effort to publish this notice broadly so the public will be fully informed, methods might include the City website, email distribution list and Northampton Community Television.

### III. Calling of Public Hearing

All hearings held by the Council as a Special Permit Granting Authority Shall be open to the public.

### IV. Public Hearings

1. Public hearings, when called, will be conducted in the following manner:
  - A. The presiding officer will announce that it is time for a Public Hearing and will announce the subject of such hearing.
  - B. The presiding officer will review evidence of adequate advertisement and legal notice and, if found to be appropriate and proper according to law, will have the advertisement read into the record. The presiding officer will then explain the procedure to be followed, including the time limits on speakers' and the fact that each speaker shall give their name and address for the record. By majority vote the City Council may extend the time granted to a particular speaker by the presiding officer. The chair may limit testimony that is repetitive.
  - C. The presiding officer will report on any new or changed information pertinent to the subject, if any, and then have read into the record all memoranda, opinions, comments and recommendations or City departments or boards pertinent to the matter.
  - D. The applicant will be given a reasonable amount of time to make a presentation regarding the matter.
  - E. Other persons supporting the position of the proponents will then be allowed to express the fact of their support and to present such supportive information as was not included in the initial or previous presentations. A five-minute time limit shall apply but the Council could extend the time on a majority vote.
  - F. Before opponents to an application or petition are called to speak, a member of the Council may move for invocation of a summary procedure and, if seconded and approved by a majority of the quorum, may subsequently move to deny the request made by the applicant, based on a finding that the evidence presented was not adequate to justify the request. If the motion for denial is then seconded and is approved by the quorum, the public hearing may be deemed complete.
  - G. Those persons speaking in opposition to the position taken by the principal proponent are then allowed to speak, each being allowed to express the fact of their opposition and to present such supportive information as was not included in previous presentations before the Council. A five-minute time limit shall apply and the Council could extend the time on a majority vote.
  - H. After all opponents have been heard, the presiding officer will then allow the proponent and or project staff person to respond to any issues/questions raised by the opponents.

- I. After the proponents have responded to the opponents, the opponents shall have an additional opportunity to respond, the presiding officer shall determine which opponent shall respond at which time. A three minute time limit shall apply but the Council may extend the time by majority vote. The motion to extend time is non-debatable.
- J. The presiding officer will then enter all documents received concerning the matter into the record. The applicant or project staff may then answer any questions raised in the letters.
- K. If new information is presented the presiding officer or the Council may allow additional time for the appropriate party to respond. Immediately or in writing later but before the close of the public hearing.
- L. The presiding officer will then hear questions from the general public regarding aspects/issues that have not been addressed in previous testimony. The presiding officer shall refer questions to the appropriate person and may rule questions out of order if the subjects of the questions have already been addressed. Questions may also be submitted in writing.
- M. At any point, a public hearing may be continued or postponed to a time, place and date certain, provided that these rules and procedures are adhered to when it is resumed, or may be continued or postponed to a time, place and date not certain, providing required advertising and notice procedures are followed to announce the time, place and date of resumption. Each meeting is a continuation of the same public hearing.

#### V. Votes of the Council

All votes for Special Permits shall require a 2/3 majority of the Council to pass.

#### Applications before the City Council

#### VI. Permit Applications

Applications for a Special Permit before the City Council shall be prepared in accordance with the procedures in the Northampton Zoning Ordinance and the instruction on and attached to the application form. Every application for action by the Council shall be made on the official application form, and as approved by the Council and adopted by reference in these Bylaws and Rules of Procedure.

#### 6.2 Examples of Presentation and Enacting Styling of Matters

*In the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen*

Upon the Recommendation of Councilor J. Calvin Coolidge

**15.073**

**AN ORDINANCE**

**RELATIVE TO ZONING IN CENTRAL BUSINESS (OR)  
ENTITLED THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF 2016 (OR)  
TO REVISE SEC. 000 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES**

*Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Northampton, in City Council assembled, as follows:*

*In the Year Two Thousand and Fifteen*

Upon the Recommendation of Councilor J. Calvin Coolidge

**R-15.003**

**A RESOLUTION**

**IN SUPPORT OF DEMOCRACY (OR)  
TO CREATE A SELECT COMMITTEE TO RECOMMEND A  
STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

*Be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Northampton, in City Council*

*In the City Council, January 1, 2016*

Upon the Recommendation of Councilor J. Calvin Coolidge

**O-15.001**  
**AN ORDER**

**TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FROM COMMUNITY  
PRESERVATION ACT FUNDING**

*Ordered, that:*