
The Berkeley City Council Rules of Procedure and Order

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Table of Contents

I.	DUTIES	3
	A. Duties of Mayor	3
	B. Duties of Councilmembers	3
	C. Motions to be Stated by Chair	3
	D. Decorum by Councilmembers	3
	E. Voting Disqualification	3
	F. Requests for Technical Assistance and/or Reports	4
	G. City Council Policy for Naming and Renaming Public Facilities	4
II.	MEETINGS	5
	A. Call to Order - Presiding Officer	5
	B. Roll Call	5
	C. Quorum Call	5
	D. Council Meeting Schedule	5
	E. Adjournment	6
	F. City Council Recess Periods	6
	G. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag	7
	H. Ad Hoc Subcommittees	7
III.	AGENDA	8
	A. Declaration of Policy	8
	B. Definitions	8
	C. Procedure for Bringing Matters Before City Council	9
	D. Packet Preparation and Posting	13
	E. Agenda Sequence and Order of Business	14
	F. Closed Session Documents	15
IV.	CONDUCT OF MEETING	16
	A. Comments from the Public	16
	B. Consent Calendar	18
	C. Information Reports Called Up for Discussion	19
	D. Communications	19
	E. Public Hearings for Land Use, Zoning, Landmarks, and Public Nuisance Matters ..	19
	F. Work Sessions	20
	G. Public Discussions	20
	H. Protocol	20
V.	PROCEDURAL MATTERS	22
	A. Persons Authorized to Sit at Tables	22
	B. Decorum	22
	C. Enforcement of Decorum	22
	D. Precedence of Motions	22
	E. Roberts Rules of Order	23
	F. Rules of Debate	23
	G. Debate Limited	24
	H. Motion to Lay on Table	24
	I. Division of Question	24
	J. Addressing the Council	24
	K. Addressing the Council After Motion Made	25
VI.	FACILITIES	26
	A. Council Chamber Capacity	26
	B. Alternate Facilities for Council Meetings	26
	C. Signs, Objects, and Symbolic Materials	26
	D. Fire Safety	26
	E. Overcrowding	26
APPENDIX A. POLICY FOR NAMING AND RENAMING PUBLIC FACILITIES		27

I. DUTIES

A. Duties of Mayor

The Mayor shall preside at the meetings of the Council and shall preserve strict order and decorum at all regular and special meetings of the Council. The Mayor shall state every question coming before the Council, announce the decision of the Council on all subjects, and decide all questions of order, subject, however, to an appeal to the Council, in which event a majority vote of the Council shall govern and conclusively determine such question of order.

B. Duties of Councilmembers

Promptly at the hour set by law on the date of each regular meeting, the members of the Council shall take their regular stations in the Council Chambers and the business of the Council shall be taken up for consideration and disposition.

C. Motions to be Stated by Chair

When a motion is made, it may be stated by the Chair or the City Clerk before debate.

D. Decorum by Councilmembers

While the Council is in session, the City Council will practice civility and decorum in their discussions and debate. Councilmembers will value each other's time and will preserve order and decorum. A member shall neither, by conversation or otherwise, delay or interrupt the proceedings of the Council, use personal, impertinent or slanderous remarks, nor disturb any other member while that member is speaking or refuse to obey the orders of the presiding officer or the Council, except as otherwise provided herein.

All Councilmembers have the opportunity to speak and agree to disagree but no Councilmember shall speak twice on any given subject unless all other Councilmembers have been given the opportunity to speak.

The presiding officer has the affirmative duty to maintain order. The City Council will honor the role of the presiding officer in maintaining order. If a Councilmember believes the presiding officer is not maintaining order, the Councilmember may move that the Vice-Mayor, or another Councilmember if the Vice-Mayor is acting as the presiding officer at the time, enforce the rules of decorum and otherwise maintain order. If that motion receives a second and is approved by a majority of the Council, the Vice-Mayor, or other designated Councilmember, shall enforce the rules of decorum and maintain order.

E. Voting Disqualification

No member of the Council who is disqualified shall vote upon the matter on which the member is disqualified. Any member shall openly state or have the presiding officer announce the fact and nature of such disqualification in open meeting, and shall not be subject to further inquiry. Where no clearly disqualifying conflict of interest appears, the matter of disqualification may, at the request of the member affected, be decided by the other members of the Council, by motion, and such decision shall

determine such member's right and obligation to vote. A member who is disqualified by conflict of interest in any matter shall not remain in the Chamber during the debate and vote on such matter, but shall request and be given the presiding officer's permission to absent themselves. Any member having a "remote interest" in any matter as provided in Government Code shall divulge the same before voting.

F. Requests for Technical Assistance and/or Reports

A majority vote of the Council shall be required to direct staff to provide technical assistance, develop a report, initiate staff research, or respond to requests for information or service generated by an individual council member.

G. City Council Policy for Naming and Renaming Public Facilities

The City Council Policy for Naming and Renaming Public Facilities adopted on January 31, 2012, and all its successors, is incorporated by reference into the City Council Rules of Procedure and included as Appendix A to this document.

II. MEETINGS

A. **Call to Order - Presiding Officer**

The Mayor, or in the Mayor's absence, the Vice Mayor, shall take the chair precisely at the hour appointed by the meeting and shall immediately call the Council to order. Upon the arrival of the Mayor, the Vice Mayor shall immediately relinquish the chair at the conclusion of the business presently before the Council. In the absence of the two officers specified in this section, the council member present with the longest period of Council service shall preside.

B. **Roll Call**

Before the Council shall proceed with the business of the Council, the City Clerk shall call the roll of the members and the names of those present shall be entered in the minutes. The later arrival of any absentee shall also be entered in the minutes.

C. **Quorum Call**

During the course of the meeting, should the Chair note a Council quorum is lacking, the Chair shall call this fact to the attention of the City Clerk. The City Clerk shall issue a quorum call. If a quorum has not been restored within two minutes of a quorum call, the meeting shall be deemed automatically adjourned.

D. **Council Meeting Schedule**

The City Council shall hold a minimum of twenty-four (24) meetings, or the amount needed to conduct City business in a timely manner, whichever is greater, each calendar year.

Regular meetings of the City Council shall be held generally two to three Tuesdays of each month; the schedule to be established annually by Council resolution taking into consideration holidays and election dates.

Regular City Council meetings shall begin no later than 6:00 p.m.

The agenda for the regular business meetings shall include the following: Ceremonial; Comments from the City Manager; Comments from the Public; Consent Calendar; Action Calendar (Appeals, Public Hearings, Continued Business, Old Business, New Business); Information Reports; and Communication from the Public. Presentations and workshops may be included as part of the Action Calendar. Items removed from the Consent Calendar will be moved to the Action Calendar. The Chair will determine the order in which the item(s) will be heard with the consent of Council.

Upon request by any council member, any item may be moved from the Consent Calendar or Information Calendar to the Action Calendar. Unless there is an objection by any council member, a council member may also move an item from the Action Calendar to the Consent Calendar.

A public hearing that is not expected to be lengthy may be placed on the agenda for a regular business meeting. When a public hearing is expected to be contentious and lengthy and/or the Council's regular meeting schedule is heavily booked, the Agenda Committee, in conjunction with the staff, will schedule a special meeting

exclusively for the public hearing. No other matters shall be placed on the agenda for the special meeting. All public comment will be considered as part of the public hearing and no separate time will be set aside for public comment not related to the public hearing at this meeting.

Except at meetings at which the budget is to be adopted, no public hearing may commence later than 10:00 p.m. unless there is a legal necessity to hold the hearing or make a decision at that meeting or the City Council determines by a two-thirds vote that there is a fiscal necessity to hold the hearing.

E. Adjournment

1. No Council meeting shall continue past 11:00 p.m. unless a two-thirds majority of the Council votes to extend the meeting to discuss specified items; and any motion to extend the meeting beyond 11:00 p.m. shall include a list of specific agenda items to be covered and shall specify in which order these items shall be handled.
2. Any items not completed at a regularly scheduled Council meeting may be continued to an Adjourned Regular Meeting by a two-thirds majority vote of the Council.

F. Unfinished Business

Any items not completed by formal action of the Council, and any items not postponed to a date certain, shall be considered Unfinished Business. All Unfinished Business shall be referred to the Agenda Committee for scheduling for a Council meeting that occurs within 60 days from the date the item last appeared on a Council agenda. The 60 day period is tolled during a Council recess.

G. City Council Recess Periods

A recess period is defined as a period of time longer than 21 days without a regular or special meeting of the Council.

When a recess period occurs, the City Manager is authorized to take such ministerial actions for matters of operational urgency as would normally be taken by the City Council during the period of recess except for those duties specifically reserved to the Council by the Charter, and including such emergency actions as are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health or safety; the authority to extend throughout the period of time established by the City Council for the period of recess.

The City Manager shall have the aforementioned authority beginning the day after the Agenda Committee meeting for the last regular meeting before a Council recess and this authority shall extend through the deadline for submission of staff reports for the first meeting after the Council recess.

The City Manager shall make a full and complete report to the City Council at its first regularly scheduled meeting following the period of recess of actions taken by the City Manager pursuant to this section, at which time the City Council may make such findings as may be required and confirm said actions of the City Manager.

H. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

At the first meeting of each year following the August recess and at any subsequent meeting if specifically requested before the meeting by any member of the Council in order to commemorate an occasion of national significance, the first item on the program will be the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. Ad Hoc Subcommittees

From time to time the Council or the Mayor may appoint several of its members but fewer than the existing quorum of the present body to serve as an ad hoc subcommittee. Only Council members may become members of the ad hoc subcommittee; however, the subcommittee shall seek input and advice from the residents, related commissions, and other groups. Ad Hoc Subcommittees must be reviewed annually by the Council to determine if the subcommittee is to continue.

Upon creation of an ad hoc subcommittee, the Council shall allow it to operate with the following parameters:

1. A specific charge or outline of responsibilities shall be established by the Council.
2. A target date must be established for a report back to the Council.
3. Maximum life of the subcommittee shall be one year, with annual review and possible extension by the Council.

Subcommittees shall conduct their meetings in public and in accessible locations that are open to the public. Meetings may be held at privately owned facilities provided that the location is open to all that wish to attend and that there is no requirement for purchase to attend. Agendas for subcommittee meetings must be posted in the same manner as the agendas for regular Council meetings except that subcommittee agendas may be posted with 24-hour notice. The public will be permitted to comment on agenda items but public comments may be limited to one minute if deemed necessary by the Committee Chair. Agendas and minutes of the meetings must be maintained and made available upon request.

City staff may attend and participate in subcommittee meetings. Depending on the desires of the subcommittee members, City staff may participate the same as members of the public, or may be called upon to offer insights or provide information during discussion.

Subcommittees must be comprised of at least two members. If only two members are appointed, then both must be present in order for the subcommittee meeting to be held. In other words, the quorum for a two-member subcommittee is always two.

Certain requirements listed above may not apply to ad hoc subcommittees seeking legal advice and assistance from the City Attorney or meeting with the City Manager or his/her designees for purposes of real estate or labor negotiations.

III. AGENDA

A. Declaration of Policy

No ordinance, resolution, or item of business shall be introduced, discussed or acted upon before the Council at its meeting without prior thereto its having been published on the agenda of the meeting and posted in accordance with Section III.D.2. Exceptions to this rule are limited to circumstances listed in Section III.D.4.b and items carried over.

B. Definitions

For purposes of this section, the terms listed herein shall be defined as follows:

1. "Agenda Item" means an item placed on the agenda (on either the Consent Calendar or as a Report For Action) for a vote of the Council by any council member, the City Manager, the Auditor, or any board/commission/committee created by the City Council, or any Report For Information which may be acted upon if a council member so requests. For purposes of this section, appeals shall be considered action items. All information from the City Manager concerning any item to be acted upon by the Council shall be submitted as a report on the agenda and not as an off-agenda memorandum and shall be available for public review, except to the extent such report is privileged and thus confidential such as an attorney client communication concerning a litigation matter.
2. Agenda items shall contain all relevant documentation, including the following as applicable:
 - a) A descriptive title that adequately informs the public of the subject matter and general nature of the item or report and action requested;
 - b) Whether the matter is to be presented on the Consent Calendar or the Action Calendar or as a Report for Information;
 - c) Recommendation of the City Manager, if applicable (these provisions shall not apply to Mayor and Council items.);
 - d) Fiscal impacts of the recommendation;
 - e) A description of the current situation and its effects;
 - f) Background information as needed;
 - g) Rationale for recommendation;
 - h) Alternative actions considered;
 - i) For awards of contracts; the abstract of bids and the Affirmative Action Program of the low bidder in those cases where such is required (these provisions shall not apply to Mayor and Council items.);

- j) Person or persons to contact for further information, with telephone number. If the author of any report believes additional background information, beyond the basic report, is necessary to Council understanding of the subject, a separate compilation of such background information may be developed and copies will be available for Council and for public review in the City Clerk Department, and the City Clerk shall provide limited distribution of such background information depending upon quantity of pages to be duplicated. In such case the agenda item distributed with the packet shall so indicate.
3. "Agenda" means the compilation of the descriptive titles of agenda items submitted to the City Clerk, arranged in the sequence established in Section III.E hereof.
 4. "Packet" means the agenda plus all its corresponding duplicated agenda items.
 5. "Emergency Matter" arises when prompt action is necessary due to the disruption or threatened disruption of public facilities and a majority of the Council determines that:
 - a) A work stoppage or other activity which severely impairs public health, safety, or both;
 - b) A crippling disaster, which severely impairs public health, safety or both. Notice of the Council's proposed consideration of any such emergency matter shall be given in the manner required by law for such an emergency pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.5.
 6. "Continued Business" Items carried over from a prior agenda of a meeting occurring less than 11 days earlier, as uncompleted items.
 7. "Old Business" Items carried over from a prior agenda of a meeting as uncompleted items.

C. Procedure for Bringing Matters Before City Council

1. Persons Who Can Place Matters on the Agenda.

Matters may be placed on the agenda by any council member, the City Manager, the Auditor, or any board/commission/committee created by the City Council. All items, other than board and commission items shall be subject to review by an Agenda Committee, which shall be a standing committee of the City Council. The Agenda Committee shall consist of the Mayor and two councilmembers, nominated by the Mayor and approved by the Council. A third council member, nominated by the Mayor and approved by the Council, will serve as an alternate on the Committee in the event that an Agenda Committee member cannot attend a meeting.

The Agenda Committee shall meet 15 days prior to each City Council meeting and shall approve the agenda of that City Council meeting. The Agenda Committee packet, including a draft agenda and Councilmember and Commission

reports shall be distributed by 5:00 p.m. 4 days before the Agenda Committee meeting.

The Agenda Committee shall have the powers set forth below.

- a) **Items Authored by a Councilmember or the Auditor.** As to items authored by the Mayor, a Councilmember, or the Auditor, the Agenda Committee shall review the item and may recommend that the matter be referred to a commission, to the City Manager, or back to the author for adherence to required form or for additional analysis as required in Section III.B.2, or suggest other appropriate action including scheduling the matter for a later meeting to allow for appropriate revisions.

The author of a “referred” item must inform the City Clerk within 24 hours of the adjournment of the Agenda Committee whether he or she prefers to: 1) hold the item for a future meeting pending modifications as suggested by the Committee; 2) have the item appear on the Council agenda under consideration as originally submitted; 3) pull the item completely; or 4) re-submit the item with revisions as requested by the Agenda Committee for the Council agenda under consideration.

In the event that the City Clerk does not receive guidance from the author of the referred item within 24 hours of the Agenda Committee’s adjournment, the recommendation of the Agenda Committee will take effect.

Items held for a future meeting to allow for modifications will be placed on the next available Council meeting agenda at the time that the revised version is submitted to the City Clerk. If changes made to the item extend beyond the scope of the Agenda Committee referral recommendations, the item must be re-submitted as a new Council item.

For authors of referred items that select option 2) above, the referred item will automatically be placed at the end of the Action Calendar under the heading “Referred Items”. The Agenda Committee shall specify the reason for the referral from the categories listed below. This reason shall be printed with the item on the agenda.

- Reason 1 – Significant Lack of Background or Supporting Information
- Reason 2 – Significant Grammatical or Readability Issues

- b) **Items Authored by the City Manager.** The Agenda Committee shall review agenda descriptions of items authored by the City Manager. The Committee can recommend that the matter be referred to a commission or back to the City Manager for adherence to required form, additional analysis as required in Section III.B.2, or suggest other appropriate action including scheduling the matter for a later meeting to allow for appropriate revisions.

If the City Manager determines that the matter should proceed notwithstanding the Agenda Committee's action, it will be placed on the agenda as directed by the Manager. All City Manager items placed on the Council agenda against the referral recommendation of the Agenda Committee or revised items that have not been resubmitted to the Agenda Committee will automatically be placed on the Action Calendar.

- c) **Items Authored by Boards and Commissions.** Council items submitted by boards and commissions are subject to City Manager review and must follow procedures and timelines for submittal of reports as described in the Commissioners' Manual. The content of commission items is not subject to review by the Agenda Committee.
- i) For a commission item that does not require a companion report from the City Manager, the Agenda Committee may act on an agendized commission report in the following manner:
1. Move a commission report from the Consent Calendar to the Action Calendar or from the Action Calendar to the Consent Calendar.
 2. Re-schedule the commission report to appear on one of the next three regular Council meeting agendas that occur after the regular meeting under consideration. Commission reports submitted in response to a Council referral shall receive higher priority for scheduling.
 3. Allow the item to proceed as submitted.
- ii) For any commission report that requires a companion report, the Agenda Committee will schedule the item on a Council agenda for a meeting occurring not sooner than 60 days and not later than 120 days from the date of the meeting under consideration by the Agenda Committee. A commission report submitted with a complete companion report may be scheduled pursuant to subparagraph c.i. above.
- d) The Agenda Committee shall have the authority to re-order the items on the Action Calendar regardless of the default sequence prescribed in Chapter III, Section E of the Rules of Procedures and Order.
2. **Scheduling Public Hearings Mandated by State, Federal, or Local Statute.** The City Clerk may schedule a public hearing at an available time and date in those cases where State, Federal or local statute mandates the City Council hold a public hearing.
3. **Submission of Agenda Items.**
- a) **City Manager Items.** Except for Continued Business and Old Business, as a condition to placing an item on the agenda, agenda items from

departments, including agenda items from commissions, shall be furnished to the City Clerk at a time established by the City Manager.

- b) **Council and Auditor Items.** The deadline for reports submitted by the Auditor, Mayor and City Council is 5:00 p.m. on Monday, 22 days before each Council meeting.
- c) **Time Critical Items.** A Time Critical item is defined as a matter that is considered urgent by the sponsor and that has a deadline for action that is prior to the next meeting of the Council and for which a report prepared by the City Manager, Auditor, Mayor or council member is received by the City Clerk after established deadlines and is not included on the Agenda Committee's published agenda.

The author of the report shall bring any reports submitted as Time Critical to the meeting of the Agenda Committee. Time Critical items must be accompanied by complete reports and statements of financial implications. If the Agenda Committee finds the matter to meet the definition of Time Critical, the Agenda Committee may place the matter on the Agenda on either the Consent or Action Calendar.

- d) The City Clerk may not accept any agenda item after the adjournment of the Agenda Committee meeting, except for items carried over by the City Council from a prior City Council meeting occurring less than 11 days earlier, which may include supplemental or revised reports, and reports concerning actions taken by boards and commissions that are required by law or ordinance to be presented to the Council within a deadline that does not permit compliance with the agenda timelines in BMC Chapter 2.06 or these rules.

4. **Submission of Supplemental and Revised Agenda Material.**

Berkeley Municipal Code Section 2.06.070 allows for the submission of supplemental and revised agenda material. Supplemental and revised material cannot be substantially new or only tangentially related to an agenda item. Supplemental material must be specifically related to the item in the Agenda Packet. Revised material should be presented as revised versions of the report or item printed in the Agenda Packet. Supplemental and revised material may be submitted for consideration as follows:

- a) Supplemental and revised agenda material shall be submitted to the City Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. seven calendar days prior to the City Council meeting at which it is to be considered. Supplemental and revised items that are received by the deadline shall be distributed to Council in a supplemental reports packet and posted to the City's website no later than 5:00 p.m. five calendar days prior to the meeting. Copies of the supplemental packet shall also be made available in the office of the City Clerk and in the main branch of the Berkeley Public Library. Such material may be considered by the Council without the need for a determination that

the good of the City clearly outweighs the lack of time for citizen review or City Council member evaluation.

- b) After 5:00 p.m. seven calendar days prior to the meeting, supplemental or revised reports may be submitted for consideration by delivering a minimum of 42 copies of the supplemental/revised material to the City Clerk for distribution at the meeting. Each copy must be accompanied by a completed supplemental/revised material cover page, using the form provided by the City Clerk. Revised reports must reflect a comparison with the original item using track changes formatting. The material may be considered only if the City Council, by a two-thirds roll call vote, makes a factual determination that the good of the City clearly outweighs the lack of time for citizen review or City Council member evaluation of the material. Supplemental and revised material must be distributed and a factual determination made prior to the commencement of public comment on the agenda item in order for the material to be considered.

5. Scheduling a Presentation.

Any request for a presentation to the Council will be submitted as an agenda item and follow the time lines for submittal of agenda reports. The agenda item should include general information regarding the purpose and content of the presentation; information on the presenters; contact information; and the length of the presentation. The request may state a preference for a date before the Council. The Agenda Committee will review the request and recommend a presentation date and allotted time based on the Council's schedule.

The City Clerk will notify the presenters of the date and time of the presentation and will coordinate use of any presentation equipment and receipt of additional written material.

D. Packet Preparation and Posting

1. Preparation of the Packet.

Not later than the thirteenth day prior to said meeting, the City Clerk shall prepare the packet, which shall include the agenda plus all its corresponding duplicated agenda items. No item shall be considered if not included in the packet, except as provided for in Section III.C.4 and Section III.D.4. Reports carried over, as Continued Business or Old Business need not be reproduced again.

2. Distribution and Posting of Agenda.

- a) The City Clerk shall post each agenda of the City Council regular meeting no later than 11 days prior to the meeting and shall post each agenda of a special meeting at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting in the official bulletin board. The City Clerk shall maintain an affidavit indicating the location, date and time of posting each agenda.
- b) The City Clerk shall also post agendas and annotated agendas of all City Council meetings and notices of public hearings on the City's website.

- c) No later than 11 days prior to a regular meeting, copies of the agenda shall be mailed by the City Clerk to any resident of the City of Berkeley who so requests in writing. Copies shall also be available free of charge in the City Clerk Department.

3. Distribution of the Agenda Packet.

The Agenda Packet shall consist of the Agenda and all supporting documents for agenda items. No later than 11 days prior to a regular meeting, the City Clerk shall:

- a) distribute the Agenda Packet to each member of the City Council;
- b) post the Agenda Packet to the City's website;
- c) place copies of the Agenda Packet in viewing binders in the office of the City Clerk and in the main branch of the Berkeley Public Library; and
- d) make the Agenda Packet available to members of the press.

4. Failure to Meet Deadlines.

- a) The City Clerk shall not accept any agenda item or revised agenda item after the deadlines established.
- b) Matters not included on the published agenda may be discussed and acted upon as otherwise authorized by State law or providing the Council finds one of the following conditions is met:
 - A majority of the Council determines that the subject meets the criteria of "Emergency" as defined in Section III.B.5.
 - Two thirds of the Council determines that there is a need to take immediate action and that the need for action came to the attention of the City subsequent to the posting of the agenda as required by law.
- c) Matters listed on the printed agenda but for which support materials are not received by the City Council on the eleventh day prior to said meeting as part of the agenda packet, shall not be discussed or acted upon.

E. Agenda Sequence and Order of Business

The Council agenda for a regular business meeting is to be arranged in the following order:

1. Preliminary Matters: (Ceremonial, Comments from the City Manager, Public Comment)
2. Consent Calendar
3. Action Calendar
 - a) Appeals
 - b) Public Hearings

- c) Continued Business
 - d) Old Business
 - e) New Business
 - f) Referred Items
4. Information Reports
 5. Communications
 6. Adjournment

Action items may be reordered at the discretion of the Chair with the consent of Council.

The Agenda Committee shall have the authority to re-order the items on the Action Calendar regardless of the default sequence prescribed in this section.

F. Closed Session Documents

This section establishes a policy for the distribution of, and access to, confidential closed session documents by the Mayor and Members of the City Council.

1. Confidential closed session materials shall be kept in binders numbered from one to nine and assigned to the Mayor (#9) and each Councilmember (#1 to #8 by district). The binders will contain confidential closed session materials related to Labor Negotiations, Litigation, and Real Estate matters.
2. The binders will be maintained by City staff and retained in the Office of the City Attorney in a secure manner. City staff will bring the binders to each closed session for their use by the Mayor and Councilmembers. At other times, the binders will be available to the Mayor and Councilmembers during regular business hours for review in the City Attorney's Office. The binders may not be removed from the City Attorney's Office or the location of any closed session meeting by the Mayor or Councilmembers. City staff will collect the binders at the end of each closed session meeting and return them to the City Attorney's Office.
3. Removal of confidential materials from a binder is prohibited.
4. Duplication of the contents of a binder by any means is prohibited.
5. Confidential materials shall be retained in the binders for at least two years.
6. This policy does not prohibit the distribution of materials by staff to the Mayor and Councilmembers in advance of a closed session or otherwise as needed, but such materials shall also be included in the binders unless it is impracticable to do so.

IV. CONDUCT OF MEETING

A. Comments from the Public

Public comment will be taken in the following order:

- An initial ten-minute period of public comment on non-agenda items, after the commencement of the meeting and immediately after Ceremonial Matters and City Manager Comments.
- Public comment on the Consent and Information Calendars.
- Public comment on action items, appeals and or public hearings as they are taken up under procedures set forth in the sections governing each below.
- Public comment on non-agenda items from any speakers who did not speak during the first round of non-agenda public comment at the beginning of the meeting.

Speakers are permitted to yield their time to one other speaker, however no one speaker shall have more than four minutes. A speaker wishing to yield their time shall stand, shall be recognized by the chair, and announce publicly their intention to yield their time. Disabled persons shall have priority seating in the front row of the public seating area.

A member of the public may only speak once at public comment on any single item, unless called upon by the Mayor or a Councilmember to answer a specific inquiry.

1. Public Comment on Consent Calendar and Information Items.

The Council will first determine whether to move items on the agenda for “Action” or “Information” to the “Consent Calendar,” or move “Consent Calendar” items to “Action.” Items that remain on the “Consent Calendar” are voted on in one motion as a group. “Information” items are not discussed or acted upon at the Council meeting unless they are moved to “Action” or “Consent.”

The Council will then take public comment on any items that are either on the amended Consent Calendar or the Information Calendar. A speaker may only speak once during the period for public comment on Consent Calendar and Information items. No additional items can be moved onto the Consent Calendar once public comment has commenced.

At any time during, or immediately after, public comment on Information and Consent items, any Councilmember may move any Information or Consent item to “Action.” Following this, the Council will vote on the items remaining on the Consent Calendar in one motion.

For items moved to the Action Calendar from the Consent Calendar or Information Calendar, persons who spoke on the item during the Consent Calendar public comment period may speak again at the time the matter is taken up during the Action Calendar.

2. Public Comment on Action Items.

After the initial ten minutes of public comment on non-agenda items and public comment and action on consent items, the public may comment on each remaining item listed on the agenda for action as the item is taken up.

The Presiding Officer will request that persons wishing to speak, line up at the podium to be recognized and to determine the number of persons interested in speaking at that time.

If ten or fewer persons are interested in speaking, each speaker may speak for two minutes. If there are more than ten persons interested in speaking, the Presiding Officer may limit the public comment for all speakers to one minute per speaker. Speakers are permitted to yield their time to one other speaker, however no one speaker shall have more than four minutes.

3. Appeals Appearing on Action Calendar.

With the exception of appeals from decisions of the Zoning Adjustments Board and Landmarks Preservation Commission, appeals from decisions of City commissions appear on the "Action" section of the Council Agenda. Council determines whether to affirm the action of the commission, set a public hearing, or remand the matter to the commission. Appeals of proposed special assessment liens shall also appear on the "Action" section of the Council Agenda. Appeals from decisions of the Zoning Adjustments Board and Landmarks Preservation Commission are automatically set for public hearing and appear on the "Public Hearings" section of the Council Agenda.

Time shall be provided for public comment for persons representing both sides of the action/appeal and each side will be allocated seven minutes to present their comments on the appeal. Where the appellant is not the applicant, the appellants collectively shall have seven minutes to comment and the applicant shall have seven minutes to comment. Where the appellant is the applicant, the applicant/appellant shall have seven minutes to comment and the persons supporting the action of the board or commission on appeal shall have seven minutes to comment. In the case of an appeal of proposed special assessment lien, the appellant shall have seven minutes to comment.

After the conclusion of the seven-minute comment periods, members of the public may comment on the appeal. Comments from members of the public regarding appeals shall be limited to one minute per speaker. Any person that addressed the Council during one of the seven-minute periods may not speak again during the public comment period on the appeal. Speakers may yield their time to one other speaker, however, no speaker shall have more than two minutes. Each side shall be informed of this public comment procedure at the time the Clerk notifies the parties of the date the appeal will appear on the Council agenda.

4. Public Comment on Non Agenda Matters.

Immediately following Ceremonial Matters and the City Manager Comments and prior to the Consent Calendar, persons will be selected by lottery to address matters not on the Council agenda. If five or fewer persons submit speaker cards for the lottery, each person selected will be allotted two minutes each. If more than five persons submit speaker cards for the lottery, up to ten persons will be selected to address matters not on the Council agenda and each person selected will be allotted one minute each. Persons wishing to address the Council on matters not on the Council agenda during the initial ten-minute period for such comment, must submit a speaker card to the City Clerk in person at the meeting location and prior to commencement of that meeting.

The remainder of the speakers wishing to address the Council on non-agenda items will be heard at the end of the agenda. Speaker cards are not required for this second round of public comment on non-agenda matters.

Persons submitting speaker cards are not required to list their actual name, however they must list some identifying information or alternate name in order to be called to speak.

For the second round of public comment on non-agenda matters, the Presiding Officer retains the authority to limit the number of speakers by subject. The Presiding Officer will generally request that persons wishing to speak, line up at the podium to be recognized to determine the number of persons interested in speaking at that time. Each speaker will be entitled to speak for two minutes each unless the Presiding Officer determines that one-minute is appropriate given the number of speakers.

According to the current Rules and Procedures, no Council meeting shall continue past 11:00 p.m. unless a two-thirds majority of the Council votes to extend the meeting to discuss specified items. If any agenda item remains unfinished at 11:00 p.m. or the expiration of any extension after 11:00 p.m., it will be referred to the Agenda Committee for scheduling pursuant to Chapter II, Section F. In that event, the meeting shall be automatically extended for up to fifteen (15) minutes for public comment on non-agenda items.

5. Ralph M. Brown Act Pertaining to Public Comments.

The "Brown Act" prohibits the Council from discussing or taking action on an issue raised during Public Comment, unless it is specifically listed on the agenda. However, the Council may refer a matter to the City Manager.

B. Consent Calendar

There shall be a Consent Calendar on all regular meeting agendas on which shall be included those matters which the Mayor, councilmembers, boards, commissions, City Auditor and City Manager deem to be of such nature that no debate or inquiry will be necessary at the Council meetings. Ordinances for second reading may be included in the Consent Calendar.

It is the policy of the Council that councilmembers wishing to ask questions concerning Consent Calendar items should ask questions of the contact person identified prior to the Council meeting so that the need for discussion of consent calendar items can be minimized.

Consent Calendar items may be moved to the Action Calendar by the Council. Action items may be reordered at the discretion of the Chair with the consent of Council.

C. Information Reports Called Up for Discussion

Reports for Information designated for discussion at the request of any council member shall be added to the appropriate section of Reports for Action and may be acted upon at that meeting or carried over as pending business until discussed or withdrawn. The agenda will indicate that at the request of any council member a Report for Information may be acted upon by the Council.

D. Communications

Letters from the public will not appear on the Council agenda as individual matters for discussion but will be distributed as part of the Council agenda packet with a cover sheet identifying the author and subject matter and will be listed under "Communications."

All such communications must have been received by the City Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. fifteen days prior to the meeting in order to be included on the agenda.

In instances where an individual forwards more than three pages of email messages not related to actionable items on the Council agenda to the Council to be reproduced in the "Communications" section of the Council packet, the City Clerk will not reproduce the entire email(s) but instead refer the public to the City's website or a hard copy of the email(s) on file in the City Clerk Department.

All communications shall be simply deemed received without any formal action by the Council. A council member may refer a communication to staff for action, if appropriate, or prepare a consent or action item for placement on a future agenda.

E. Public Hearings for Land Use, Zoning, Landmarks, and Public Nuisance Matters

The City Council, in setting the time and place for a public hearing, may limit the amount of time to be devoted to public presentations. Staff shall introduce the public hearing item and present their comments.

Following any staff presentation, each member of the City Council shall verbally disclose all ex parte contacts concerning the subject of the hearing. Members shall also submit a report of such contacts in writing prior to the commencement of the hearing. Such reports shall include a brief statement describing the name, date, place, and content of the contact. Written reports shall be available for public review in the office of the City Clerk prior to the meeting and placed in a file available for public viewing at the meeting.

This is followed by five-minute presentations each by the appellant and applicant. Where the appellant is not the applicant, the appellants collectively shall have five

minutes to comment and the applicant shall have five minutes to comment. Where the appellant is the applicant, the applicant/appellant shall have five minutes to comment and the persons supporting the action of the board or commission on appeal shall have five minutes to comment. In the case of a public nuisance determination, the representative(s) of the subject property shall have five minutes to present.

The Presiding Officer will request that persons wishing to speak, line up at the podium to be recognized and to determine the number of persons interested in speaking at that time.

If ten or fewer persons are interested in speaking, each speaker may speak for two minutes. If there are more than ten persons interested in speaking, the Presiding Officer may limit the public comment for all speakers to one minute per speaker. Speakers are permitted to yield their time to one other speaker, however no one speaker shall have more than four minutes. The Presiding Officer may with the consent of persons representing both sides of an issue allocate a block of time to each side to present their issue.

F. Work Sessions

The City Council may schedule a matter for general Council discussion and direction to staff. Official/formal action on a work session item will be scheduled on a subsequent agenda under the Action portion of the Council agenda.

In general, public comment at Council work sessions will be heard after the staff presentation, for a limited amount of time to be determined by the Presiding Officer.

The Presiding Officer will request that persons wishing to speak, line up at the podium to be recognized and to determine the number of persons interested in speaking at that time. If ten or fewer persons are interested in speaking, each speaker may speak for two minutes. If there are more than ten persons interested in speaking, the Presiding Officer may limit the public comment for all speakers to one minute per speaker. Speakers are permitted to yield their time to one other speaker, however no one speaker shall have more than four minutes.

After Council discussion, if time permits, the Presiding Officer may allow additional public comment. During this time, each speaker will receive one minute. Persons who spoke during the prior public comment time may be permitted to speak again.

G. Public Discussions

The City Council may, from time to time, schedule a matter for public discussion and may limit the amount of time to be devoted to said discussions. At the time the public discussion is scheduled, the City Council may seek comment from others if they so determine.

H. Protocol

People addressing the Council may first give their name in an audible tone of voice for the record. All remarks shall be addressed to the Council as a body and not to any member thereof. No one other than the Council and the person having the floor

shall be permitted to enter into any discussion, either directly or through a member of the Council, without the permission of the Presiding Officer. No question shall be asked of a council member except through the Presiding Officer.

V. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

A. Persons Authorized to Sit at Tables

No person, except City officials, their representatives and representatives of boards and commissions shall be permitted to sit at the tables in the front of the Council Chambers without the express consent of the Council.

B. Decorum

No person shall disrupt the orderly conduct of the Council meeting. Prohibited disruptive behavior includes but is not limited to shouting, making disruptive noises, such as boos or hisses, creating or participating in a physical disturbance, speaking out of turn or in violation of applicable rules, preventing or attempting to prevent others who have the floor from speaking, preventing others from observing the meeting, entering into or remaining in an area of the meeting room that is not open to the public, or approaching the Council Dais without consent. Any message to or contact with any member of the Council while the Council is in session shall be through the City Clerk.

C. Enforcement of Decorum

When the public demonstrates a lack of order and decorum, the presiding officer shall call for order and inform the person(s) that the conduct is violating the Rules of Order and Procedure and provide a warning to the person(s) to cease the disruptive behavior. Should the person(s) fail to cease and desist the disruptive conduct, the presiding officer may call a five (5) minute recess to allow the disruptions to cease.

If the meeting cannot be continued due to continued disruptive conduct, the presiding officer may have any law enforcement officer on duty remove or place any person who violates the order and decorum of the meeting under arrest and cause that person to be prosecuted under the provisions of applicable law.

D. Precedence of Motions

When a question is before the Council, no motion shall be entertained except:

1. To adjourn,
2. To fix the hour of adjournment,
3. To lay on the table,
4. For the previous question,
5. To postpone to a certain day,
6. To refer,
7. To amend,
8. To substitute, and
9. To postpone indefinitely.

These motions shall have precedence in order indicated. Any such motion, except a motion to adjourn, amend, or substitute, shall be put to a vote without debate.

E. Roberts Rules of Order

Roberts Rules of Order have been adopted by the City Council and apply in all cases except the precedence of motions in Section V.D shall supercede.

F. Rules of Debate

1. Presiding Officer May Debate.

The presiding officer may debate from the chair; subject only to such limitations of debate as are by these rules imposed on all members, and shall not be deprived of any of the rights and privileges as a member of the Council by reason of that person acting as the presiding officer.

2. Getting the Floor - Improper References to be avoided.

Members desiring to speak shall address the Chair, and upon recognition by the presiding officer, shall confine themselves to the question under debate.

3. Interruptions.

A member, once recognized, shall not be interrupted when speaking unless it is to call a member to order, or as herein otherwise provided. If a member, while speaking, were called to order, that member shall cease speaking until the question of order is determined, and, if in order, the member shall be permitted to proceed.

4. Privilege of Closing Debate.

The council member moving the adoption of an ordinance or resolution shall have the privilege of closing the debate. When a motion to call a question is passed, the council member moving adoption of an ordinance, resolution or other action shall have three minutes to conclude the debate.

5. Motion to Reconsider.

A motion to reconsider any action taken by the Council may be made only on the day such action is taken. It may be made either immediately during the same session, or at a recessed or adjourned session thereof. Such motion must be made and seconded by one of the prevailing sides, and may be made at any time and have precedence over all other motions or while a member has the floor; it shall be debatable. Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent any member of the Council from making or remaking the same or other motion at a subsequent meeting of the Council.

6. Repeal or Amendment of Action Requiring a Vote of Two-Thirds of Council, or Greater.

Any ordinance or resolution which is passed and which, as part of its terms, requires a vote of two-thirds of the Council or more in order to pass a motion pursuant to such an ordinance or resolution, shall require the vote of the same percent of the Council to repeal or amend the ordinance or resolution.

G. Debate Limited

1. Except as provided in Section V.F.b hereof, consideration of each matter coming before the Council shall be limited to 20 minutes from the time the matter is first taken up, at the end of which period consideration of such matter shall terminate and the matter shall be dropped to the foot of the agenda, immediately ahead of Good of the City; provided that either of the following two not debatable motions shall be in order:
 - a) A motion to extend consideration which, if passed, shall commence a new twenty-minute period for consideration; or
 - b) If there are one or more motions on the floor, the previous question, which, if passed, shall require an immediate vote on pending motions.
2. The time limit set forth in subparagraph a.1 hereof shall not be applicable to any public hearing, public discussion, Council discussion or other especially set matter for which a period of time has been specified (in which case such specially set time shall be the limit for consideration) or which by applicable law (e.g. hearings of appeals, etc.), the matter must proceed to its conclusion.
3. In the interest of expediting the business of the City, failure by the Chair or any council member to call attention to the expiration of the time allowed for consideration of a matter, by point of order or otherwise, shall constitute unanimous consent to the continuation of consideration of the matter beyond the allowed time; provided, however, that the Chair or any council member may at any time thereafter call attention to the expiration of the time allowed, in which case the Council shall proceed to the next item of business, unless one of the motions referred to in subparagraph a.1 hereof is made and is passed.

H. Motion to Lay on Table

A motion to lay on the table shall preclude all amendments or debate of the subject under consideration. If the motion shall prevail, the consideration of the subject may be resumed only upon a motion of a member voting with the majority and with consent of two-thirds of the members present.

I. Division of Question

If the question contains two or more propositions, which can be divided, the presiding officer may, and upon request of a member shall, divide the same.

J. Addressing the Council

Any person desiring to address the Council shall first secure the permission of the presiding officer to do so. Under the following headings of business, unless the presiding officer rules otherwise, any qualified and interested person shall have the right to address the Council in accordance with the following conditions and upon obtaining recognition by the presiding officer:

1. Written Communications.

Interested parties or their authorized representatives may address the Council by written communications in regard to matters of concern to them.

Communications pertaining to an item on the agenda which are received by the City Clerk after the deadline for inclusion in the Council Agenda packet and through 5:00 p.m. seven calendar days prior to the meeting shall be compiled into a supplemental communications packet. The supplemental communications packet shall be made available to the City Council, public and members of the press no later than five days prior to the meeting.

Communications received by the City Clerk after the aforementioned deadline and by noon on the day of a Council meeting shall be duplicated by the City Clerk and submitted to the City Council at the meeting if related to an item which is on the agenda for that meeting. Communications submitted at the Council meeting will be included in the public viewing binder and in the Clerk Department the day following the meeting.

2. Public Hearings.

Interested persons or their authorized representatives may address the Council by reading protests, petitions, or communications relating to matters then under consideration.

3. Public Comment.

Interested persons may address the Council on any issue concerning City business during the period assigned to Public Comment.

K. Addressing the Council After Motion Made

When a motion is pending before the Council, no person other than a council member shall address the Council without first securing the permission of the presiding officer or Council to do so.

VI.FACILITIES

A. Council Chamber Capacity

Council Chamber attendance shall be limited to the posted seating capacity thereof. Entrance to the City Hall will be appropriately regulated by the City Manager on occasions when the Council Chamber capacity is likely to be exceeded. While the Council is in session, members of the public shall not remain standing in the Council Chamber except to address the Council, and sitting on the floor shall not be permitted. The Council proceedings may be conveyed by loudspeaker to those who have been unable to enter the Council Chambers.

B. Alternate Facilities for Council Meetings

The City Council shall approve in advance a proposal that a Council meeting be held at a facility other than the City Council Chambers.

If the City Manager has reason to anticipate that the attendance for a meeting will be substantially greater than the capacity of the City Council Chambers and insufficient time exists to secure the approval of the City Council to hold the meeting at an alternate facility, the City Manager shall make arrangements for the use of a suitable alternate facility to which such meeting may be recessed and moved, if the City Council authorizes the action.

If a suitable alternate facility is not available, the City Council may reschedule the matter to a date when a suitable alternate facility will be available.

Alternate facilities are to be selected from those facilities previously approved by the City Council as suitable for meetings away from the City Council Chambers.

C. Signs, Objects, and Symbolic Materials

Objects and symbolic materials such as signs which do not have sticks or poles attached or otherwise create any fire or safety hazards will be allowed within the Council Chamber during Council meetings.

D. Fire Safety

Exits shall not be obstructed in any manner. Obstructions, including storage, shall not be placed in aisles or other exit ways. Hand carried items must be stored so that such items do not inhibit passage in aisles or other exit ways. Attendees are strictly prohibited from sitting in aisles and or exit ways. Exit ways shall not be used in any way that will present a hazardous condition.

E. Overcrowding

Admittance of persons beyond the approved capacity of a place of assembly is prohibited. When the Council Chambers have reached the posted maximum capacity, additional attendees shall be directed to the designated overflow area.

APPENDIX A. POLICY FOR NAMING AND RENAMING PUBLIC FACILITIES

Purpose

To establish a uniform policy regarding the naming and renaming of existing and future parks, streets, pathways and other public facilities.

Objective

- A. To ensure that naming public facilities (such as parks, streets, recreation facilities, pathways, open spaces, public building, bridges or other structures) will enhance the values and heritage of the City of Berkeley and will be compatible with community interest.

Section 1 – Lead Commission

The City Council designates the following commissions as the ‘Lead Commissions’ in overseeing, evaluating, and ultimately advising the Council in any naming or renaming of a public facility. The lead commission shall receive and coordinate comment and input from other Commissions and the public as appropriate.

Board of Library Trustees

Parks and Recreation Commission –Parks, recreation centers, camps, plazas and public open spaces

Public Works Commission –Public buildings (other than recreation centers), streets and bridges or other structures in the public thoroughfare.

Waterfront Commission –Public facilities within the area of the City known as the Waterfront, as described in BMC 3.36.060.B.

Section 2 – General Policy

- A. Newly acquired or developed public facilities shall be named immediately after acquisition or development to ensure appropriate public identity.
- B. No public facility may be named for a living person, but this policy can be overridden with a 2/3 vote of the City Council.
- C. Public facilities that are renamed must follow the same criteria for naming new facilities. In addition, the historical significance and geographical reference of the established name should be considered when weighing and evaluating any name change.
- D. The City encourages the recognition of individuals for their service to the community in ways that include the naming of activities such as athletic events, cultural presentations, or annual festivals, which do not involve the naming or renaming of public facilities.
- E. Unless restricted by covenant, facilities named after an individual should not necessarily be considered a perpetual name.

Section 3 – Criteria for Naming of Public Facilities

When considering the naming of a new public facility or an unnamed portion or feature within an already named public facility (such as a room within the facility or a feature within an established park), or, the renaming of an existing public facility the following criteria shall be applied:

- A. Public Facilities are generally easier to identify by reference to adjacent street names, distinct geographic or environmental features, or primary use activity. Therefore, the preferred practice is to give City-owned property a name of historical or geographical significance and to retain these names.
- B. No public facility may be named for a living person, but this policy can be overridden with a 2/3 vote of the City Council.
- C. The naming of a public facility or any parts thereof in recognition of an individual posthumously may only be considered if the individual had a positive effect on the community and has been deceased for more than 1 year.
- D. When a public facility provides a specific programmatic activity, it is preferred that the activity (e.g. skateboard park, baseball diamond) be included in the name of the park or facility.
- E. When public parks are located adjacent to elementary schools, a name that is the same as the adjacent school shall be considered.
- F. When considering the renaming of an existing public facility, in addition to applying criteria A-E above, proper weight should be given to the fact that: a name lends a site or property authenticity and heritage; existing names are presumed to have historic significance; and historic names give a community a sense of place and identity, continuing through time, and increases the sense of neighborhood and belonging.

Section 4 –Naming Standards Involving a Major Contribution

When a person, group or organization requests the naming or renaming of a public facility, all of the following conditions shall be met:

- A. An honoree will have made a major contribution towards the acquisition and/or development costs of a public facility or a major contribution to the City.
- B. The honoree has a record of outstanding service to their community
- C. Conditions of any donation that specifies that name of a public facility, as part of an agreement or deed, must be approved by the City Council, after review by and upon recommendation of the City Manager.

Section 5 –Procedures for Naming or Renaming of Public Facilities

- A. Any person or organization may make a written application to the City Manager requesting that a public facility or portion thereof, be named or renamed.
 - 1. Recommendations may also come directly of the City Boards or Commissions, the City Council, or City Staff.
- B. The City Manager shall refer the application to the appropriate lead commission as defined in Section 1 of the City's policy on naming of public facilities, for that commission's review, facilitation, and recommendation of disposition.
 - 1. The application shall contain the name or names of the persons or organization making the application and the reason for the requested naming or renaming.
- C. The lead commission shall review and consider the application, using the policies and criteria articulated to the City Policy on Naming and Renaming to make a recommendation to Council.
 - 1. All recommendations or suggestion will be given the same consideration without regard to the source of the nomination
- D. The lead commission shall hold a public hearing and notify the general public of any discussions regarding naming or renaming of a public facility.

1. Commission action will be taking at the meeting following any public hearing on the naming or renaming.
- E. The commission's recommendation shall be forwarded to Council for final consideration.

The City of Berkeley Policy for Naming and Renaming Public Facilities was adopted by the Berkeley City Council at the regular meeting of January 31, 2012.