

PROCEDURAL ORDINANCE

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF DIAMONDHEAD, Mississippi.

Sec. 1-1 Meetings - - Regular.

- (a) Time. The city council shall hold its regular meetings on the first Tuesday of each month beginning at 6:00 p.m. The council may, by resolution adopted not less than one week prior thereto, change its regular time of meeting. If the day fixed for any regular meeting of the council falls upon a day designated by law as a legal or national holiday, such meeting shall be held the same hour on the next succeeding day not a holiday.
- (b) Place. Regular meetings of the council shall be held in the council chambers at City Hall; provided, that the council may adjourn any meeting to such other place as it may deem necessary, desirable or convenient for the holding of its session; provided further that if such meeting is adjourned to some other place, notice of the place the meeting is being held shall be affixed to the door of the council chambers.

Sec. 1-2 Meetings - Second Regular.

The city council will hold its second regular meeting on the third Tuesday of each month at the same time and place as set for the regular meeting with the same provisions and exceptions as stated for the regular meeting.

Sec. 1-3 Meetings - Recessed.

Any first or second regular meeting of the council may be recessed by appropriate board action to reconvene on a day and time fixed by order of the board and duly entered in the minutes of the meeting which is recessed.

Sec. 1-4 Meetings – Special.

Special meetings may be called at any time by the mayor or two (2) councilmembers on at least two (2) days' notice to the mayor and each member of the council. To call the special meeting a summons or written notice calling the meeting, including its date, time and place, signed by the mayor or board members calling it, must be served by an officer of the police department to the mayor and/or members to the board who have not signed it. The notice must be served at least three hours before the time of the meeting fixed upon the notice.

Sec. 1-5. Agenda.

All items of business or other matters to be officially considered for action of the council shall be submitted to the city clerk, or his designee, on the Request for Council Action (RCA) by noon on the Wednesday prior to each council meeting, whereupon the city clerk shall immediately arrange a list of such business items or matters according to the order of business as set forth in Sec. 1-10 of this procedural ordinance, furnishing each member of the council, the city manager, and the city attorney with a copy of the same at least sixteen (16) hours prior to the council meeting, and as far in advance of the meeting, as time for preparation will permit. All matters of Planning & Zoning shall automatically be placed on the action agenda. An RCA may be removed or withdrawn only by the submitting councilmember. Any member of the council may, however, bring before the council any urgent or

emergency matter, not on such agenda, subject to the approval of the mayor and other council members to hear and/or be acted upon.

An agenda in draft form shall be sent to the mayor and Council on Thursday morning preceding the meeting, or as soon as reasonably possible. The final agenda with all supporting documentation shall be provided on Friday as soon as reasonably possible; and no later than 5:00 p.m., to the council via email with hardcopies placed in each member's mailbox at City Hall. In addition, the final agenda and supporting documentation shall be made available at City Hall for public review and shall be posted to the city's website. No additions or deletions (changes) to the agenda shall be made; however, amendments to the agenda may be made at the meeting as appropriate.

Sec. 1-6. Presiding Officer.

The presiding officer of the city council shall be the mayor or, in his absence the mayor pro tempore. The presiding officer shall preserve strict order and decorum at all regular and special meetings of the council. He 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 membership shall govern and conclusively determine such question of order. Such appeal shall be immediately presented and voted upon by the council.

Sec 1-7. Calling of Meetings to Order.

The mayor, or in his absence, the mayor pro tempore, shall take the chair precisely at the hour appointed for the council meeting, and shall immediately call the city council to order. In the absence of the mayor and mayor pro tempore, the city clerk or his assistant shall call the council to order, whereupon a temporary chairman shall be elected by the members of the council present. Upon the arrival of the mayor or mayor pro tempore, the temporary chairman shall immediately relinquish the chair upon conclusion of the business immediately before the council.

Sec. 1-8. Roll Call.

Before proceeding with the business of the city council, the clerk or his/her deputy shall take roll of the members. The names of those present shall be entered in the minutes. The clerk will announce those present and absent at the call of the mayor during the roll call order of business.

Sec. 1-9. Quorum.

At least four members of the council shall constitute a quorum at any regular or special meeting of the council. No official business may be transacted by the council in the absence of a quorum at any time after the meeting has been called to order.

Sec. 1-10. Order of Business.

All meetings of the city council shall be open to the public. Promptly at the hour set by law on the day of each regular meeting, the members of the council, the city clerk, the city attorney and the city manager shall take their regular stations in the council chambers, and the business of the council shall be taken up for consideration and disposition in the following order:

- (1) Call to order
 - a. Prayer and The Pledge of Allegiance
 - b. Roll call and establishment of quorum
 - c. Confirm or Adjust Agenda
- (2) Presentation Agenda:
 - a. Announcements
 - b. Presentations
 - c. City Manager's Report and Council Questions to City Manager
- (3) Public comment related to Agenda items
- (4) Council Comments
- (5) Policy Agenda:
 - a. Approval of minutes of previous meeting
 - b. Reports of standing and special committees
 - c. Public Hearing
 - d. Ordinances
 - e. Resolutions
 - f. Consent Agenda
 - g. Action Agenda
- (6) Routine Agenda:
 - a. Claims docket or payment of expenses
 - b. Financial Reports
 - c. Departmental Reports
- (7) Public comment related to non-agenda items
- (8) Council Comments
- (9) Executive Session, if necessary.
- (10) Adjournment

Sec. 1-11. Minutes.

A copy of the minutes of the previous regular meeting, and any intervening meeting, of the city council duly recorded and prepared according to the Mississippi Statutes shall be made available to all city council members along with agenda packets for the meeting at which the minutes are to be adopted.

Sec. 1-12. Approval of Minutes.

The approval of the minutes of the previous city council meeting, and any appropriate intervening special meetings, may be approved by general consent as printed and distributed to the city council, unless their reading is requested by a member of the council. Corrections to the printed minutes will be requested and considered at the time of their approval on the council meeting agenda.

Sec. 1-13. Record of Voting.

All actions of the city council requiring a vote shall be recorded in the minutes by individual council member as either "For," "Opposed" or "Abstained." Members introducing and seconding motions will also be recorded. While abstentions are recorded by name, the number of those abstaining is always counted on the "prevailing" side of the numerical vote count when calculating percentages needed for a

majority, 2/3's majority, or unanimous call. Should the city clerk, mayor, or any council member be uncertain as to the individual disposition of the votes, a Division of the council or Roll Call vote may be called.

Sec. 1-14. Robert's Rules of Order.

Unless otherwise specified or changed by a specific provision of this article, the city council shall be governed in all matters of procedure by that compilation of rules of procedure known as "Robert's Rules of Order." Each member of the council, the attorney, the city manager and the city clerk shall have provided by the city and for their reference a Robert's Rules in Plain English, Second Edition. In addition, any agenda item failing to obtain a second shall automatically be removed from the agenda at the next meeting and not be eligible for reconsideration for at least two (2) months after failing for lack of a second. Further, any agenda item that is tabled must be removed from the table for consideration either during the next regular council meeting or subsequent council meeting or it will automatically be removed from the agenda. Any such tabled item may be brought back before the council at any time thereafter by the city manager or by a councilmember's RCA.

Sec. 1-15. Rules of Debate.

- (a) The presiding officer and councilmembers may debate and vote as allowed by Mississippi statutes. The mayor or such other members of the city council as may be presiding may move, second and debate from the chair, subject only to such limitations of debate as are imposed by these rules on all members, and shall not be deprived of any of the rights and privileges of a councilmember by reason of his acting as the presiding officer, except as provided by Mississippi statutes.
- (b) Every member desiring to speak shall address the chair, and upon recognition by the presiding officer, shall confine himself to the question under debate, avoiding all personalities and indecorous language.
- (c) Interruptions. A member, once recognized, shall not be interrupted when speaking, unless it is to call him to order as otherwise provided in this article.
- (d) Limitation on debate.
 - (1) At such time council enters debate or discussion, public comment is prohibited unless specifically requested.
 - (2) No member shall speak more than once on any subject under discussion until all other members of the council have had the opportunity to speak. If a member of the council desires to have a second opportunity to speak or comment, a request may be made to the presiding officer.
 - (3) The presiding officer shall give the floor to the council member making the motion, thence to the councilmember having seconded the motion; debate shall then continue beginning by Ward, At-Large, and the mayor.
- (e) A council member may request through the mayor or presiding officer that an abstract of his statement on any subject under consideration by the council be entered in the minutes. Any council member shall likewise have the right to have the reason for his dissent or protest against any action of the city council entered on the minutes.
- (f) Procedure for introduction and passage of ordinances, etc.
 - (1) Ordinances, resolutions, and other matters or subjects requiring action by the council may be introduced by and sponsored by any member of the council and by no other person. The city attorney, city clerk or city manager may present ordinances, resolutions, and other matters to

the council, and any council member may assume sponsorship thereof by introducing same and moving its adoption.

- (2) Each ordinance, resolution or other matters or subjects requiring action by the council shall be introduced in the form of a motion, duly seconded and discussed prior to voting on the measure. Discussion shall follow formal introduction of motions, if deemed necessary by the presiding officer.
- (g) Motion to Reconsider. A motion to reconsider an action taken by the council may be made only during the meeting such action was taken or during the next subsequent recessed or adjourned meeting. Such motion must be made by a council member who voted on the prevailing side.
- (h) Suspension of the Rules. A motion to suspend the procedural rules of the council may be introduced when it is desired to temporarily suspend the operation of some standing rule in order to take emergency action, or action which is determined to enhance the efficient dispensation of business before the council.

Sec. 1-16. Citizens addressing the Council.

- (a) The mayor or presiding officer of the city council shall provide opportunity during council meetings for discussion by interested persons or their authorized representatives on any council bill or other matter before the council prior to final passage; provided, that the preference shall be given to any person, who has made such request to the clerk and signed the register made available prior to the meeting in order to do so.
- (b) Any person may direct a written communication to the city council on any matter concerning the city's business by directing the communication to any councilmembers prior to the meeting or to the council through the city clerk.
- (c) The presiding officer of the council shall, from time to time, make such rules as he may deem necessary to fulfill and carry out the intent of the provisions of this section. Said rules shall be voted upon by the council prior to enactment.

Sec. 1-17. Manner of addressing council:

- (a) Time Limit. Each person addressing the city council shall have made request to the clerk, signed the register, and if granted shall approach the podium when called to do so by the presiding officer of the council, shall give his/her name and address of residence for the records. Unless further time is granted by the council, each person shall limit their address to three minutes. All remarks shall be addressed to the council as a body and not to any member thereof. No person, other than the council and the person having the floor shall be permitted to enter into any discussion or asking a question of a council member either directly or through a member of the council, without the permission of the mayor or presiding officer.
- (b) Speakers may not give (donate or yield) their time to another person. In the event there are numerous public comments on a single issue before the council; persons addressing the council with duplicative comments should refrain from repeating other's comments and, upon stating their name and address, should simply state that they support or agree with the comments of a person who has previously addressed the council.

Sec. 1-18. Decorum – Generally.

- (a) By council members.

While the city council is in session, the members shall preserve decorum and order, and no member shall, by conversation or otherwise, delay or interrupt the proceedings or the peace of the council, nor disturb any member while speaking, nor refuse to obey the orders of the council or its presiding officer, except as otherwise provided in this article.

(b) By other persons.

1. No person shall make personal, impertinent, profane or slanderous remarks, nor otherwise disturb the order and decorum of any council meetings. The sergeant-at-arms, at the direction of the mayor, shall remove any person violating the provisions of the subsection.
2. No person shall make personal attacks or comment about specific employees of the city by name or position. In the event a resident has a concern about a specific employee of the city, they should contact the employee's supervisor, the city Manager.
3. Planning and Zoning Agenda Items: If there is a planning and zoning item on the agenda which had a public hearing as part of the process with the planning and zoning commission, the presiding officer will not ask for public comment, as the opportunity to do so was made available at the public hearing with the planning and zoning commission.
4. Public comment periods are opportunities for the councilmembers and administration in Diamondhead to hear from the residents; however, there are multiple other opportunities afforded to residents including: social media accounts of the city and elected officials; email; in person meetings with councilmembers and administration; and other forms as may be utilized by residents. During council meetings, councilmembers/city staff will not entertain questions from the public nor engage in discussion with those who seek to make comment. However, the chair may request the administration provide brief factual information or contact information, if appropriate.
5. In addition to the limits specified above, the council may vote to set other reasonable, viewpoint neutral limits to prevent disruption of council business.

Sec. 1-19. Decorum - - Preservation; Sergeant-At-Arms.

The chief of police or such members of the police department as he may designate shall be sergeant-at-arms of the city council meetings. He shall carry out all orders and instructions given by the mayor or presiding officer for the purpose of maintaining order and decorum at the council meetings.

The presiding officer shall caution or limit demonstrations (booing, hissing, and clapping). Members of the public may not disrupt the meeting. Disruptive members of the public will be given one (1) warning to cease from the disruptive behavior before being asked to leave the meeting.

Any person engaging in threatening speech or conduct will be required to leave the meeting immediately.

Speakers will not continue to address the council once they have left the podium and will not engage in conversation with the council from their seats.

Sec. 1 21. Committees Reserved. The City of Diamondhead follows state law with respect to the establishment and governance of Committees.

Sec. 1-20 Public Hearings.

All public hearings shall be properly noticed. If a public hearing is included on the agenda as order of business during a council meeting, the mayor or presiding officer shall announce the matter at-hand for public comment. The presiding officer opens the floor for public comment and calls aloud a minimum of three (3) times for the interested parties to present. Anyone addressing the council shall sign the register with the clerk. They shall approach the podium when called to do so by the presiding officer of the council, shall give his/her name and address of residence for the records. Unless further time is granted by the council, each person shall limit their address to three minutes. Public hearings afford residents the opportunity to share comments about a particular matter and are not intended as an open platform for questions and answers. Public hearings will close with council comments in order by Ward, At-Large and the mayor.

Sec. 1-21. Motions to adjourn.

A motion to adjourn shall always be in order and shall be decided without debate.

Passed at meeting: _____

Mayor

Attest: _____ City Clerk

Approved as to form: _____ City Attorney

Approved for Council action: _____ City Manager

