



COUNCIL ACTION SUMMARY SHEET

MEETING DATE: September 13, 2025
TOPIC Revision of Village Council Rules

BACKGROUND BRIEF:

Sometime in the past the Village Council Rules of Procedure were amended to prohibit Village Council Members from access to the Village Attorney with the exception of the Village Council President and President Pro Tem.

This change is show below:

Item G, Page 6

“Only the Village Manager shall direct or issue requests of the Village consultants and department heads. Except that only the President and President Pro Tem may initiate contact with the Village Attorney insofar as their duties for the Council are concerned. Village consultants shall include the Attorney, Planner, and Engineer.”

I believe the in the case of the Village Attorney, this rule is defective, in violation of the charter and detrimental to a Village Council Member being able to perform their duties.

No requirement of being a Council Member requires us to be conversant on law. This is the primary reason the Village Attorney directly works for the Village Council in order that they may advise the Village Council Members on matters of law.

In order for a Council Member to make a decision they require access, at a minimum, to simple inquiry to the Village Attorney. It should be up to the Village Attorney to inform the Council Member if a question requires a more complex review or official opinion and advise them the question needs to be directed to the Village Manager for address by the Village Council as a whole. I think an appropriate allowance in the budget for this would be standard policy.

The Charter does not give preferential authority to the Village Council President in this regard.

“Section 3.6 DUTIES OF PRESIDENT.

(a) Insofar as required by law, and for all ceremonial purposes, the President shall be recognized as the executive head of the village and shall preside over Council meetings. He shall have an equal voice and vote in the proceeding of the Council, but shall have no veto power.

(b) He shall be a conservator of the peace, and may exercise within the village the powers conferred upon sheriffs to suppress disorder, and shall have the power to command the assistance of all able-bodied citizens to aid in the enforcement of the ordinances of the village, and to suppress riot and disorderly conduct.

(c) He shall authenticate by his signature such instruments as the Council, this Charter, or the laws of the State of Michigan or of the United States shall require.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION:

Described above

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Remove section from Village Council Rules of Procedure

ATTACHMENTS:

Village Council Rules of Procedure