



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COUNCIL POLICY COMMITTEE AGENDA
MARCH 28, 2023
110 EAST MAIN STREET
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
5:00 PM**

*Rob Moore, Chair
Matthew Hudes, Vice Chair*

This meeting will be held in-person at the Town Council Chambers at 110 E. Main Street. Members of the public may only provide public comments for the agenda item in-person.

PARTICIPATION IN THE PUBLIC PROCESS

The Town of Los Gatos strongly encourages your active participation in the public process, which is the cornerstone of democracy. If you are interested in providing oral comments during the meeting, you must attend in-person and complete a “speaker’s card” located on the back of the chamber benches and return it to the staff. If you wish to speak to an item on the agenda, please list the item number. The time allocated to speakers may change to better facilitate the Board meeting. You are welcome to submit written comments via email to Clerk@LosGatosCA.Gov.

Public Comment During the Meeting:

- When called to speak, please limit your comments to three (3) minutes, or such other time as the Chair may decide, consistent with the time limit for speakers at a Town meeting.
- Speakers at public meetings will be asked to provide their full name and to state whether they are a resident of the Town of Los Gatos. This information is optional and not required.

Deadlines for Public Comment and Presentations are as follows:

- If you are unable to participate in person, you may email Clerk@LosGatosCA.Gov with the subject line “Public Comment Item #_” (insert the item number relevant to your comment). Persons wishing to submit written comments to be included in the materials provided to Board must provide the comments as follows:
 - For inclusion in the regular packet: by 11:00 a.m. the Friday before the Committee meeting
 - For inclusion in an Addendum: by 11:00 a.m. the Monday or Tuesday before the Committee meeting
 - For inclusion in a Desk Item: by 11:00 a.m. on the day of the Committee meeting
- Persons wishing to make an audio/visual presentation on any agenda item must submit the presentation electronically, either in person or via email to Clerk@LosGatosCA.Gov to the by 3:00 p.m. the day of the meeting.

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

RULES OF DECORUM AND CIVILITY

To conduct the business of the community in an effective and efficient manner, please follow the meeting guidelines set forth in the Town Code and State law.

The Town does not tolerate disruptive conduct, which includes but is not limited to:

- Addressing the Committee without first being recognized;
- Interrupting speakers, Committee Members, or Town staff;
- Continuing to speak after the allotted time has expired;
- Failing to relinquish the microphone when directed to do so;
- Repetitiously addressing the same subject.

Town Policy does not allow speakers to cede their commenting time to another speaker. Disruption of the meeting may result in a violation of Penal Code Section 403.

CONSENT ITEMS *(Items appearing on the Consent Items are considered routine Town business and may be approved by one motion. Any member of the Council may request to have an item removed from the Consent Items for comment and action. Members of the public may provide input on any or multiple Consent Item(s) when the Chair asks for public comments on the Consent Items. If you wish to comment, please follow the Participation Instructions contained on Page 2 of this agenda. If an item is removed, the Chair has the sole discretion to determine when the item will be heard.)*

1. Approve Minutes of the February 28, 2023 Council Policy Committee Meeting.

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS *(Members of the public are welcome to address the Committee on any matter that is not listed on the agenda. To ensure all agenda items are heard and unless additional time is authorized by the Chair, this portion of the agenda is limited to 30 minutes and no more than three (3) minutes per speaker. In the event additional speakers were not able to be heard during the initial Verbal Communications portion of the agenda, an additional Verbal Communications will be opened prior to adjournment.)*

OTHER BUSINESS *(Up to three minutes may be allotted to each speaker on any of the following items.)*

2. Discuss Proposed Changes to Council Code of Conduct Policy, and Commission Appointments, Residency and Attendance Requirements and Establishing a Quorum Policy.
3. Recommend Legislative Priorities to the Town Council.

ADJOURNMENT



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
TOWN COUNCIL
POLICY COMMITTEE**

MEETING DATE: 03/28/2023

ITEM NO: 1

**DRAFT
Minutes of the Town Council Policy Committee Meeting
February 28, 2023**

The Town Council Policy Committee of the Town of Los Gatos conducted a regular meeting utilizing teleconference and electronic means consistent with Government Code Section 54953, as Amended by Assembly Bill 361, in response to the state of emergency relating to COVID-19 and enabling teleconferencing accommodations by suspending or waiving specified provisions in the Ralph M. Brown Act (Government Code § 54950 et seq.) and Town of Los Gatos Resolution 2021-044 on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 5:01 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rob Moore, Matthew Hudes

Staff Present: Laurel Prevetti, Town Manager; Gabrielle Whelan, Town Attorney; Wendy Wood, Town Clerk; Joel Paulson, Community Development Department Director; Holly Young, Senior Management Analyst.

CONSENT ITEMS (TO BE ACTED UPON BY A SINGLE MOTION)

1. Approve Draft Minutes of the January 23, 2023 Council Policy Committee.

Approved.

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS

Abc123 commented that the meeting was not on the calendar system on the Town website.

Lee Quintana commented that the meeting is on the Town's agenda calendar, but not on the monthly calendar.

OTHER BUSINESS

2. Confirm 2023 Work Plan Items for the Council Policy Committee.

Laurel Prevetti, Town Manager, presented the staff report.

Opened public comment.

Lee Quintana commented that the second to last item of reexamining the Policy Committee's enabling resolution should be moved up in importance because it has to do with the role of the Committee itself.

Closed Public Comment.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to adopt the items as listed in loose priority order with staff using discretion to group items together and the following adjustments:

- Move the two items regarding labor negotiations recommended by the Finance Commission (items 4 and 5) down the list to just above the last item;
- Move the item regarding reexamining the Policy Committee's enabling resolution up the list to the #5 position;
- Delete the commercial rent control item; and
- Add a review of Senate Bill 1439 to the review of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policies item.

3. Discuss and Provide Direction to Potentially Modify Town Council Policy 2-04: Town Council Code of Conduct, Town Council Policy 2-05: Planning Commission Policies and Procedures, Town Council Policy 2-11: Commission Appointments, Residency and Attendance Requirements, and Establishing a Quorum, and the Commissioner Handbook.

Laurel Prevetti, Town Manager, and Gabrielle Whelan, Town Attorney, presented the staff report.

Opened public comment.

Karen Delaney commented that in 2018, she asked the Committee to revise the Code of Conduct, requested that a third party be brought in to investigate violations, and said that the policy should meet or exceed best practices.

Lee Quintana commented that the Code of Conduct policy should be clarified with definitions of minor and major infractions, minor infractions should be handled privately, there should be appropriate actions for varying degrees of major infractions, a third party should investigate major infractions, and the subject of a violation should be treated as an appellant.

Susan Burnett commented that errors in judgment should be defined and that many minor errors should be considered a major error. She commented that errors should be documented as to how they should be handled and that censures should be specified as written or verbal.

Closed Public Comment.

After discussion, the Committee asked staff to return to the Committee with a revised Code of Conduct Policy that includes: a fair process for discipline of varying degrees, specific definitions/examples, clear enforcement direction, a process for the subject of a violation to be able to present facts to the Council, clarification regarding speaking on behalf of a Commission versus as an individual, use of a third party to review major violations, and other adjustments. The Committee asked that staff consolidate disciplinary items to the Code of Conduct and remove similar guidance from the other policies.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the February 28, 2023 meeting as approved by the Town Council Policy Committee.

Holly Young, Senior Management Analyst



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COUNCIL POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 03/28/2023

ITEM NO: 2

DATE: March 22, 2023
TO: Council Policy Committee
FROM: Gabrielle Whelan, Town Attorney
SUBJECT: Discuss Proposed Changes to Council Code of Conduct Policy, and
Commission Appointments, Residency and Attendance Requirements and
Establishing a Quorum Policy

RECOMMENDATION:

Discuss proposed changes to Town Council Policy 2-04, the "Code of Conduct" as well as potential changes to Town Council Policy 2-11, "Commission Appointments, Residency, and Attendance Requirements and Establishing a Quorum" and provide direction to staff.

BACKGROUND:

At its February meeting, the Policy Committee discussed potential modifications to Town Council Policy 2-04, "Code of Conduct." The Committee preferred that all guidance pertaining to discipline of Commissioners be contained in a single policy.

DISCUSSION:

The Policy Committee's discussion focused on Town Council Policy 2-04, "Code of Conduct." Specifically, the Policy Committee discussed:

- 1) Clarifying that the Code of Conduct applies to members of Town Boards, Commissions, and Committees in addition to Town Councilmembers;
 - 2) Potentially changing the current composition of the Evaluation Committee to consist primarily of elected officials;
 - 3) Providing examples of what will constitute major and minor violations of the Code of Conduct;
 - 4) In the event that a public hearing is held regarding recommended discipline, providing the subject of the complaint with ten minutes to make an introductory statement and five minutes at the end of the public hearing to make an additional statement.
 - 5) Specifying that censure consists of a written statement.
-

Reviewed by: Town Manager

DISCUSSION (continued):

Staff has the following additional questions for the Policy Committee's consideration:

- 1) Several sections of the existing policy are unrelated to "conduct." These are sections pertaining to: the Mayoral and Vice Mayoral Selection Process and Mayoral and Vice Mayoral Roles, Responsibilities, and Relationships. Does the Policy Committee recommend that these topics move to separate policies?
- 2) The Section titled "Maintaining Civility at Council Meetings" duplicates language in the Council's "Agenda Format and Rules Policy." Does the Policy Committee recommend removing this Section from the "Code of Conduct Policy?"
- 3) A subsection regarding "Training" lists the type of training that will be provided. Should this section be revised to state that members of legislative bodies are required to attend training that is provided in the listed subject areas?
- 4) The Code of Conduct Policy currently provides that investigations will be conducted by contract attorneys. Does the Policy Committee recommend using contract attorneys or non-lawyer investigators or either?
- 5) Town Council Policy 2-11, "Commission Appointments, Residency, and Attendance Requirements and Establishing a Quorum" currently provides that Commissioners may be removed by a majority vote of the Town Council for violations of the Code of Conduct. Other jurisdictions have policies providing that Commissioners may be removed by a majority vote of the Town Council for any or no reason. Does the Policy Committee recommend revising Policy 2-11 to provide that Commissioners may be removed by majority vote of the Town Council for any or no reason? Alternatively, this Policy could be modified to refer matters of discipline and removal to the Code of Conduct Policy.

CONCLUSION:

Based on the Policy Committee's feedback, staff will make additional proposed edits to the Code of Conduct Policy and conforming edits to any other affected Policies and the Commissioner Handbook and either return to the Policy Committee or schedule the revisions for consideration by the Town Council.

COORDINATION:

The preparation of this report was coordinated with the Town Manager's Office.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Potential modifications to Council Policies and the Commissioner Handbook have no fiscal impact.

PAGE 3 OF 3

SUBJECT: Proposed Changes to Council Code of Conduct Policy and Related Policies

DATE: March 22, 2023

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

This is not a project as defined in the California Environmental Quality Act, and no further action is required.

Attachment:

1. Redline of Council Code of Conduct Policy



TITLE: ~~Town Council~~ Code of Conduct for Town Council and Board, Commission, and Committee Members

POLICY NUMBER: 2-04

EFFECTIVE DATE: 5/3/2004

PAGES: 8

ENABLING ACTIONS: 2004-059; 2006-111; 2021-047

REVISED DATES: 12/17/2012; 3/3/2015; 12/17/2019; 11/2/2021, [2023]

APPROVED:

I. Preamble

The legal responsibilities of the Los Gatos Town Council, -as well as Town Board, Commission, and Committee members, are set forth by applicable state and federal laws. In addition, the Town Council has adopted regulations, including this Code of Conduct Policy, that hold Council ~~m~~Members and Board, Commission, and Committee members to standards of conduct above and beyond what is required by law. This Policy is written with the assumption that Council ~~m~~Members, through training, are aware of their legal and ethical responsibilities as elected officials. This Code of cese expectations of conduct also applies to all members of the Town's Boards, Commisssiontees, and Committeessions.

II. Form of Government

The Town of Los Gatos operates under a Council-Manager form of government as prescribed by Town Code, Section 2.30.305. Accordingly, members of the Council are elected at-large, provide legislative direction, set Town policy, and ultimately answer to the public. The Town Manager serves as the Town's chief administrative officer and is responsible for directing the day-to-day operations of the Town and implementing policy direction. **The Town's Boards, Commissions, and Committees are advisory to the Town Council with additional responsibilities given to the Planning Commission in the Town Code.**

III. Town Council Roles and Responsibilities

The role of the Town Council is to act as a legislative and quasi-judicial body. Through its legislative and policy authority, the Council is responsible for assessing and achieving the community's desire for its present and future and for establishing policy direction to achieve its desired outcomes. All members of the Town Council, including those who serve as Mayor and Vice Mayor, have equal votes.

Members of the Town Council fulfill their role and responsibilities through the relationships they have with each other and the public. Town Council Members should approach their work,

each other, and the public in a manner that reflects ethical behavior, honesty and integrity. The commitment of Town Council Members to their work is characterized by open constructive communication, innovation, and creative problem solving.

IV. Mayoral and Vice Mayoral Selection Process

Per Town Municipal Code, Section 2.20.035, the selection of the Mayor and Vice Mayor occurs annually at a special meeting in December by majority vote of the Town Council. The Mayor and Vice Mayor serve at the pleasure of the Town Council and may be replaced by a majority vote of the Council. [FOR CONSIDERATION: Would this section fit better in a separate operational policy?]

V. Mayoral and Vice Mayoral Roles, Responsibilities, Relationships [FOR CONSIDERATION: Would this section fit better in a separate operational policy?]

The following outlines some of the key roles, responsibilities, and relationships as they relate to the positions of Mayor and Vice Mayor:

Mayor

- A. The Mayor is the presiding officer of the Town Council. In this capacity, the Mayor is responsible for developing Council agendas in cooperation with the Town Manager and leading Council meetings.
- B. The Mayor recommends various standing committee appointments to the Council for approval.¹ This will be done at a Council meeting in December of each year. When making committee recommendations, the Mayor should attempt to balance shared responsibilities and opportunities among Council Members. The Mayor may also appoint citizens to committees not established by Town ordinance or resolution as s/he deems appropriate.
- C. The title of Mayor carries with it the responsibility of communicating with the Town Council, Town Manager, and members of the public. In this capacity, the Mayor serves as the Town “spokesperson” representing the Council in official and ceremonial occasions.
- D. As the official Town spokesperson, the Mayor performs special duties consistent with the Mayoral office, including, but not limited to: signing of documents on behalf of the Town, issuing proclamations, serving as the official voting delegate for various municipal advocacy groups, and delivering the State of the Town Address at his or her discretion.² The Town Council will determine any additional authority or duties that the Mayor shall perform.
- E. Special duties consistent with the Mayoral office may be delegated to the Vice Mayor or any other member of the Town Council.

¹ Council Agenda Format and Rules Policy

² Council Commendation and Proclamation Policy

- F. In the event that one or more members of a Town Board, Commission, or Committee acts in a manner contrary to approved Board/Commission/~~Committee~~ policies and procedures, the Mayor may counsel those members ~~about the rules set forth in the Town Commissioner Handbook.~~³

Vice Mayor

- A. In the Mayor's absence, the Vice Mayor shall perform the formal duties of the Mayor.⁴
- B. When the Vice Mayor performs the duties of the Mayor in his/her absence, the Vice Mayor also carries the responsibility of communicating with the Town Manager, Town Council, and members of the public.

VI. Council Conduct in Public Meetings

To ensure the highest standards of respect and integrity during public meetings, ~~Councilm~~ Members and Board, Commission, and Committee members should:

- A. *Use formal titles.* ~~MembersThe Council~~ should refer to one another formally during public Council meetings such as Mayor, Vice Mayor or Council Member, Chairperson, or Mr., Mrs., or Ms., followed by the individual's last name.
- B. *Practice civility and decorum in discussions and debate.* Difficult questions, tough challenges to a particular point of view, and criticism of ideas and information are legitimate elements of free democracy in action. During public discussions, ~~membersCouncil Members~~ should be respectful of others and diverse opinions and allow for the debate of issues.
- C. *Honor the role of the presiding officer in maintaining order and equity.* Respect the Mayor/Chair's efforts to focus discussion on current agenda items.
- D. ~~DCouncil decisions~~ *should be reserved until all applicable information has been presented.*
- E. *Conduct during public hearings.* During public testimony, ~~mCouncil Members~~ should refrain from engaging the speaker in dialogue. Speakers at public meetings will be asked to provide their full name and to state whether they are a resident of the Town of Los Gatos. This information is optional but not required. For purposes of clarification, ~~mCouncil Members~~ may ask the speaker questions. Member Council comment and discussion should commence upon the conclusion of all public testimony

VII. Maintaining Civility at PublicCouncil Meetings [FOR CONSIDERATION: This language appears in the Council's "Agenda Format and Rules Policy" – should it remain in this Policy?]

³ Resolution 1999-167

⁴ Council Agenda Format and Rules Policy

The public is welcome to participate at public-Town Council meetings and the Mayor/Chairperson should remind the public of the Town's expectations for civility in order for the business of the Town to be completed efficiently and effectively. These expectations include and are not limited to:

- A. For the benefit of the entire community, the Town of Los Gatos asks that all speakers follow the Town's meeting guidelines by treating everyone with respect and dignity. This is done by following meeting guidelines set forth in State law, in the Town Code, and on the cover sheet of the Council agenda.
- B. The Town embraces diversity and strongly condemns hate speech and offensive, hateful language or racial intolerance of any kind at Council Meetings.
- C. Town Council/**Commission members** and staff are well aware of the public's right to disagree with their professional opinion on various Town issues. However, anti-social behavior, slander, hatred, and bigotry statements are completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated in any way, shape or form at ~~Town Council~~ **public** meetings.
- D. All public comments at the Town Council/**Commission** meeting must pertain to items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Town and shall not contain slanderous statements, hatred, and bigotry against non-public officials.
- E. The Town will go through the following steps if a disturbance results from a member of the public not following these rules:
 1. If participating remotely, Town staff may mute the individual with an explanation for the record of why muting occurred consistent with this Policy.
 2. If participating in-person, the Mayor may call a recess for violation of this Policy, resulting in the immediate cessation of the audio and video recording and the Council/**Commission** exiting the Chamber. Staff will determine if the individual should be removed or if all members of the public should leave depending on the extent of the disturbance. In the event that all public members exit, only the press would be allowed back in the meeting. Once the individual(s) leave, the Council/**Commission** would return to the Chamber and the Mayor would resume the meeting.
 3. Persons disrupting a Council meeting may be cited for violation of the California Penal Code Section 403.

VIII. Legal Requirements

The Town Council and Boards, Commissions, and Committees operates under a series of laws that regulate ~~its-their~~ operations as well as the conduct of ~~theirits~~ members. Councilmembers and Board, Commission, and Committee members shall adhere to these regulations. The Town Attorney serves as the Town's legal officer and is available to advise the Council, Boards, Commissions, and Committees on these matters.

- A. Training [this seems like it belongs in a different policy]
Biannual training in the following areas shall be provided ~~by staff~~ to Council and Board, Commission, and Committee Members:

1. The Ralph M. Brown Act
2. Town / CA State Law on Conflict of Interest (AB 1234)
3. Government Section 1090
4. Incompatible Offices
5. The Fair Political Practices Commission Forms
6. Bias
7. Town / CA State Law on Harassment (SB 1343)

B. Procurement

Unless authorized by the Town Council, ~~Council Members and Board, Commission, and Committee members~~ shall not become involved in administrative processes for acquiring goods and services.

C. Land Use Applications

The merits of an application shall only be evaluated on information included in the public record. ~~Council Members and Board, Commission, and Committee members~~ shall disclose ex parte communication and any information obtained outside of the public record that may influence ~~their~~ his/her decision on a matter pending before the Town Council or Board, Commission, or Committee. ~~Council disclosure shall occur prior to consideration of the agenda item, after the Public Hearing section of the agenda, and before Council deliberations.~~

D. Code of Conduct Policy

Newly elected ~~Council members and Board, Commission, and Committee members~~ ~~shall be strongly encouraged to~~ sign a statement affirming they have read and understand the Town of Los Gatos Council Code of Conduct Policy.

E. Non-Profit Organizations

~~Council Members and Board, Commission, and Committee members~~ may not sit on boards of directors of non-profit organizations which receive funding or in-kind contributions from the Town, unless the role serves a legitimate Town purpose, such as the League of California Cities, and the participation is approved by the full Council.

IX. Council Participation in Boards, Commissions and Committees, and Reporting Requirements

There are several committees that Town Council Members have been appointed to or have an interest in, including but not limited to: Town Council standing and ad hoc committees, Town boards and commissions, regional boards and commissions, and community-generated committees.

Primary Council representatives should update the Council about board, commission, and committee activities. When serving as the primary Council representative on any board,

commission, or committee, Councilmembers should periodically provide updated reports to the Council during the "Council Matters" opportunity on the Council meeting agenda.

Recommended actions by Council Committees should be reported to the Council. When serving on a Council Committee, whether standing or ad hoc, all work undertaken by the Committee must be directed by the Council, and all recommended actions of a Council Committee shall be reported to the Council.

X. Council and Board, Commission, and Committee Relationships with Town Staff

The Town Council has adopted a Council-Manager form of government. The Town Manager's powers and duties are outlined in the Town Code, Section 2.30.295.

Council Conduct and Communication with Town Staff

To enhance its working relationship with staff, Councilmembers and Board, Commission, and Committee members should be mindful of the support and resources needed to accomplish Town Council goals. When communicating and working with staff, membersCouncil should follow these guidelines:

- A. TCouncil Members should treat staff as professionals. Clear, honest communication that respects the abilities, experience, and dignity of each individual is expected. As with Council colleagues, practice civility and decorum in all interactions with Town staff.
- B. DCouncil Members should direct questions about policy, budget, or professional opinion to the Town Manager, Town Attorney or Department Directors. Council Members can direct questions and inquiries to any staff for information that is readily available to the general public or easily retrievable by staff.
- C. The Town Manager and staff are responsible for implementing Town policy and/or Council action. The processing of Council policy and decisions takes place with the Town Manager and staff. Council should not direct policy/program administrative functions and implementation; rather it should provide policy guidance to the Town Manager.
- D. Council Members should attempt to communicate questions, corrections, and/or clarifications about reports requiring official action to staff prior to Council meetings. Early feedback will enable staff to address Council questions and incorporate minor corrections or changes to a Council report, resulting in a more efficient Council meeting discussion; however, this does not preclude mCouncil Members from asking questions at public mCouncil Meetings.
- E. Councilm Members should not direct the Town Manager to initiate any action, change a course of action, or prepare any report without the approval of Council. The Town Manager's responsibility is to advise on resources available and required for a particular course of action as it relates to the direction of the majority of the Council.
- F. Councilm Members should not attend department staff meetings unless requested by the Town Manager.

- G. *All Council~~m~~Members should have the same information with which to make decisions. Information requested by one Council~~m~~Member will be shared with all members of the Council.*
- H. *Concerns related to the behavior or work of a Town employee should be directed to the Town Manager. Council~~m~~Members should not reprimand employees.*
- I. *Per California Government Code, Sections 3201-3209, Council~~me~~Members should not solicit financial contributions from Town staff or use promises or threats regarding future employment. Although Town staff may, as private citizens with constitutional rights, support political candidates, such activities cannot take place during work hours, at the workplace, or in uniform.*

XI. ~~Council~~ Communication with the Public and other Council, Board, Commission, or Committee Members

The ~~p~~Public has a reasonable expectation that it may engage ~~its~~ Council~~m~~Members and Board, Commission, and Committee members on matters of community concern. In response, ~~m~~CouncilMembers may express a preliminary opinion on issues or projects raised. Any such preliminary statement shall not constitute a prejudgment or create a presumption of bias on any issue or a project. In addition, ~~m~~CouncilMembers may from time to time express opinions regarding broad policy matters which may be in conflict with currently adopted Council policies. Such statements are permissible if clearly characterized as personal opinion or policy change objectives.

XII. Enforcement

A. Purpose

This ~~e~~ ~~Council~~ Code of Conduct Policy establishes ~~guiding principles~~ **expectations for** appropriate conduct and behavior and sets forth the expectations of Council~~m~~members and Committee, Commission, and Board members. The purpose of this ~~Section~~ **policy language** is to establish a process and procedure that:

- 1. Allows the public, Town Council, **Town Committee/Commission/Board members**, and Town employees to report Code of Conduct policy violations or other misconduct.
- 2. Set standards for the evaluation of ~~Provides guidelines to evaluate~~ Code of Conduct policy violations or other misconduct and ~~implement~~ appropriate disciplinary ~~action~~ when necessary.

B. Procedures

- 1. Reporting of Complaints

The following section outlines the process for reporting Councilm-~~Member~~ or Committee, Commission and Board member Code of Conduct Policy violations or other misconduct:

- a. Complaints made by members of the public, the Town Manager, and Town Attorney should be reported to the Mayor. If a complaint involves the Mayor, it should be reported to the Vice Mayor.
- b. Complaints made by Councilm-~~Members~~ should be reported to the Town Manager or Town Attorney to adhere to Brown Act requirements.
- c. Complaints made by Town employees should be reported to the Town Manager, who will direct them to the Mayor or Vice Mayor.

2. Evaluation of Complaints Alleging Violations

Upon the Town's receipt ~~report~~ of a written complaint, the Town Manager and Town Attorney will join the Mayor ~~and~~ Vice Mayor as an evaluation committee ~~to~~ ("Committee") [OPTION: The Committee could consist of Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Town Manager with technical support from the Town Attorney – or another variation] to determine the validity of the complaint and, if appropriate, an initial course of action as discussed below. If the Town Manager or Town Attorney is the complainant, the longest serving uninvolved Councilm-~~Member~~ will replace the Town Manager or Town Attorney on the ~~Cevaluation~~ committee [FOR CONSIDERATION: This would be revised if the recommendation is to change the composition of the Evaluation Committee]. If the Mayor or Vice Mayor is the complainant, the longest serving uninvolved Councilmember will replace the Mayor or Vice Mayor on the Committee.

Within ~~seventy-two (72) hours~~ five days of receipt of the complaint by the Mayor or Vice Mayor, the Councilm-~~Member~~ or Board, Committee, or Commission member in question shall be notified of the reported complaint by the Mayor or ~~their~~ his/her designee. The notification shall include a copy of the written complaint and supporting documentation, if any, the identity of the complainant and nature of the complaint.

3. Allegations of Major Violations

If the reported violation is major, the matter shall be referred to outside legal counsel [this could also be an investigator] selected by the Committee for the purpose of conducting an initial interview with the subject member. The outside counsel shall report their initial findings back to the Committee. Examples of major violations are:

- a. Breach of attorney-client privilege confidentiality;
- b. Violation of Council policies, including but not limited to, instances of harassment;
- c. Use of Town resources for other than Town business;
- d. Violation of local, state, or federal laws, including conflict of interest laws;
- e. Abusive conduct, personal charges, or verbal attacks upon the character or motives of other members of the Town Council, Boards, Commissions, Committees, staff, or the public.

f. Repeated minor violations.

If the Committee then determines that an investigation is warranted, the Committee shall direct the outside legal counsel [FOR CONSIDERATION: This could be a non-lawyer investigator] to conduct an investigation. The investigation process would include, but is not limited to, the ascertainment of facts relevant to the complaint through interviews and the examination of any documented materials.

3.4. Unsubstantiated or Minor Violations

If the majority of the Committee agrees that the reported violation is without substance, no further action will be taken and the complainant will be informed. If the reported violation is deemed valid but minor ~~in nature~~, the Mayor or Vice Mayor shall counsel and, if appropriate, either verbally admonish the Council ~~m~~ Member or Board, Commission, or Committee member privately or send a written reprimand to resolve the matter. Admonishment is ~~considered to be~~ a reproof or warning directed to a ~~m~~ Council Member about a particular type of behavior that violates Town policy. Minor violations are any violations other than major violations as described above.

4. Allegations of Major Violations

~~If the reported violation is considered to be serious in nature, the matter shall be referred to outside legal counsel selected by the Committee for the purpose of conducting an initial interview with the subject Council Member. The outside counsel shall report his/her initial findings back to the Committee.~~

~~If the Committee then determines that an investigation is warranted, the Committee shall direct the outside legal counsel to conduct an investigation. The investigation process would include, but is not limited to, the ascertainment of facts relevant to the complaint through interviews and the examination of any documented materials.~~

5. Report of Findings Regarding Major Violation

At the conclusion of the investigation, outside legal counsel [FOR CONSIDERATION: This could be an investigator who is not an attorney] shall report back to the Committee in writing. The report shall either (1) recommend that the ~~m~~ Council Member be exonerated based on a finding that the investigation did not reveal evidence of a ~~major~~ serious violation of the Code of Conduct, or (2) recommend disciplinary proceedings based on findings that there has been a major violation as described above in Section B.3 ~~have been violated~~. In the latter event, the report shall specify the provisions violated along with the facts and evidence supporting each finding.

The Committee shall review the report and its recommendations. If the consensus of the Committee is to accept the report and recommendations, the Committee shall implement the recommendations. Where the recommendation is exoneration, no further action shall be taken.

Where the recommendation is for discipline~~to initiate disciplinary proceedings~~, the matter shall be referred to the Council. Where there is no consensus of the Committee regarding the recommendations, the matter shall be referred to the Council.

The subject Council Member shall be notified in writing of the Committee's decision within 72 hours. Where the decision is to refer the matter to the Council, a copy of the full report, including documents relied on by the investigator shall be provided with the notification, and a copy of both shall be provided to the whole Council.

6. Proceedings

Investigative findings and recommended proceedings and disciplinary action that are brought forward to Council as a result of a major significant policy violation shall be considered at a public hearing **either at a regular or special meeting**. The public hearing should be set far enough in advance to allow the subject ~~Council Member in question~~ reasonably sufficient time to prepare a response.

Investigative findings shall be presented to the Town Council at a public hearing. The rules of evidence do not apply to the public hearing. It shall not be conducted as an adversarial proceeding. However, at the subject's option, the subject can present an introductory statement of up to ten minutes and an additional statement of up to five minutes at the end of the public hearing.

C. Disciplinary Action

1. Considerations in Determining Disciplinary Action

Disciplinary action may be imposed by Council for major violations ~~upon Council Members who have violated the Council Code of Conduct Policy~~ **as described in Section B.3. above.**

Disciplinary action ~~is or sanctions are~~ considered when a major serious violation of Town policy has occurred ~~by a Council Member~~. In determining the type of discipline to be sanction imposed, the following factors may be considered:

- a. Nature of the violation
- b. Prior violations by the same individual
- c. Other factors which bear upon the seriousness of the violation

2. Types of Discipline~~Sanctions~~

At the discretion of the Council, disciplinesanctions may be imposed for violating the Code of Conduct, **other Town policies**, or engaging in other misconduct **as described in Section B. 3 above**. These actions may be applied individually or in combination. They include, but are not limited to:

- a. *Public Admonishment* – A verbal reproof or warning directed to a ~~m~~Council Member about a particular ~~violation~~type of behavior that violates Town policy.
- b. *Revocation of Special Privileges* – A revocation of a member's ~~Council Member's Council Committee~~ assignments, including standing and ad hoc committees, regional boards and commissions, and community-generated board/committee appointments. Other revocations may include temporary suspension of official travel, conference participation, and ceremonial titles.
- c. *Censure* – A written~~formal~~ statement ~~or in a~~ resolution by the Council officially reprimanding a Council Member.
- d. *Removal* – A Commission, Board, or Committee member could be removed by a majority of the Town Council.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Gabrielle Whelan, Town Attorney



TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COUNCIL POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

MEETING DATE: 03/28/2023

ITEM NO: 3

DATE: March 23, 2023
TO: Council Policy Committee
FROM: Laurel Prevetti, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Recommend Legislative Priorities to the Town Council

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend legislative priorities to the Town Council.

BACKGROUND:

In 2016, the Town Council adopted Council Policy #2-18: Legislative Policy (Attachment 1). This Policy sets forth the procedures for engagement in the legislative process and the types of issues that are appropriate for the Town to state a position.

Last year, the Policy Committee requested that staff prepare a list of potential legislative priorities for the Committee to discuss and forward to the Town Council. Due to other workload, this item was not completed in 2022 and carried over to the 2023 Policy Committee work plan. These priorities are intended to be helpful to Town Council members as they engage in discussions with State legislators and as the Town considers which bills it chooses to endorse, oppose, or recommend amendments.

DISCUSSION:

Consistent with the Legislative Policy, the following draft legislative priorities align with proposals that clearly impact our Town and funding resources:

- **Concealed Weapons:** In light of the recent Supreme Court ruling, the Town should advocate for legislation that clarifies the concealed carry weapons process and protects sensitive places from the presence of concealed weapons. Senate Bill (SB) 2 is an example of a such a bill. The Town is currently working to update its concealed carry weapons ordinance and a draft sensitive places ordinance.

Reviewed by: Town Attorney and Finance Director

DISCUSSION (continued):

- Clarifications regarding SB 9: The Town may want to advocate for legislation that clarifies SB lot splits and developments in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, affordability requirements, and the attestation of intent to occupy.
- Reform of Proposition 47 and 57: Several bills are expected to address the unintended consequences of these ballot measures. For example, AB 1708 would increase accountability for repeat theft offenders and offer pathways for pre-plea diversion programming.
- Protect Vehicle License Fee (VLF) and Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF): As the State considers how it will address expected budget shortfalls, it is critical that the State not take funding from local government. In the past, these two funding sources have been redirected to the State for its own budgeting purposes.
- Internet Sales Tax: With the exception of our Measure G district sales tax, internet sales tax goes into a pool and is distributed based on a jurisdiction's share of the overall sales tax collected in the respective County. In contrast, the Measure G district sales tax is distributed based on the buyer's location, yielding higher revenue for the Town. Changes to the general distribution of sales tax would benefit Los Gatos.

CONCLUSION:

The Committee is encouraged to discuss these and other potential priorities.

COORDINATION:

The preparation of this report was coordinated with all Town Department Directors and the Town Attorney.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with recommending legislative priorities to the Town Council.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

This is not a project defined under CEQA, and no further action is required.

Attachment:

1. Council Policy #2-18: Legislative Policy



Title: Legislative Policy

Policy Number: 2-18

Effective Date: 10/5/16

Pages: 3

Enabling Actions:

Revised Date:

Approved:

Barbara Spate

PURPOSE

The purposes of the Legislative Policy are to: identify opportunities for the Town to participate in state, federal, and regional legislation and other policy matters, and describe a process for Town positions, actions, and related activities.

BACKGROUND

Council Members have the opportunity to learn of legislative issues from their work on the Council, general awareness of current topics, and their service on other Board and Committees as representatives of the Town. The Town Manager encourages all Town Departments to monitor and be knowledgeable of any legislative issues related to their disciplines. The Town Manager and Town Attorney similarly stay engaged with their professions as well as monitor the activities of the League of California Cities and other organizations. The Town benefits from a Legislative Policy to articulate overarching legislative principles to guide the Town's engagement in the legislative process as outlined in this Policy.

LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

The Town should take a position and advocate for the position when proposed federal, state, County, or other agency legislative or measure has a potential direct impact on the Town. Direct impact includes and is not limited to issues of local control, revenue reductions, grant eligibility, unfunded mandates and regulatory burdens.

POLICY GOALS

1. Advocate the Town's legislative interests at the federal, state, regional, and County levels.
2. Inform and provide information to our legislators, Town Council, and staff on the key issues and legislation that could have potential impact on the Town.
3. Serve as an active participant with other local governments, the League of California Cities, local profession organizations, and/or other entities on legislative/regulatory issues that are important to the Town and our region.
4. Seek grant and funding assistance for Town projects, services, and programs to enhance services for our community.

LEGISLATIVE STRATEGIES

1. Communicate legislative positions on proposed federal, state, and County legislation, measures, initiatives, and governmental regulations.
2. Work with Town Departments to develop positions on proposed federal and state legislative measures based on analysis done by the League of California Cities, communication with legislators' offices, and other local government/professional associations in formulating our positions.
3. Take positions only on proposals that clearly impact our Town or are a threat to local control.
4. Actively track key bills through the legislative process, utilizing various legislative websites, government/professional associations, and other means.
5. Communicate the Town's position to our federal, state, regional, and County members, bill author(s), Committees, and/or other governmental bodies through correspondence, testimony, and in-person meetings.
6. Work cooperatively with other cities, associations and the League of California Cities on advocating our legislative positions.
7. As necessary, participate in the drafting and amending of proposed federal, state, regional, and/or County measures that have the potential to significantly impact the Town.
8. Meet with legislators and their representatives, as well as other federal, state, regional, and/or County government officials on a regular basis to discuss local government issues, proposed legislation, requests for funding assistance, and Town programs and services.
9. Seek federal, state, and County funding through earmarks, grants, and other discretionary funding for Town projects, services, and programs.
10. Annually identify Town projects for potential submittal for federal earmark consideration and develop a submittal packet for legislators that provides information and need for the projects.
11. Provide information to Town Departments on potential grant funding opportunities and recognition programs.
12. Advocate and request letters of support for Town projects and grant applications or other resources that are being considered for federal, state, regional, and/or County funding.

LEGISLATIVE POSITION PROCESS

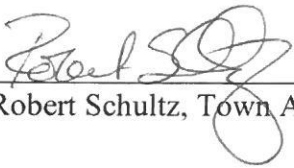
The process for responding to legislative proposals is as follows:

1. Once the Town Manager and/or Town Attorney determines that a legislative proposal may impact the Town, a letter outlining the Town's position (support, neutral or oppose) will be drafted for the Mayor's signature.
2. The Town Manager will circulate the draft position letter to the Town Council for review.
3. If there is Council objection, the position letter will be placed on the next Town Council agenda for consideration.

Title: Legislative Policy	Page: 3 of 3	Policy Number: 2-18
---------------------------	-----------------	------------------------

4. If there is no objection, staff will finalize the position letter for the Mayor's signature and forward the signed letter to the bill's author, the League of California Cities, and other stakeholders as deemed appropriate.
5. A copy of the final letter will be distributed to the Town Council.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Robert Schultz, Town Attorney