



# **CITY COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE**

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## **Section 1 – GENERAL**

Parliamentary law and the rules of procedure derived from such law are essential to all deliberative organizations so that they may consider all matters before them in an effective and efficient manner and produce results that are legal and binding. Moreover, such procedural safeguards ensure due process during deliberations among members of the organization while at the same time protecting the rights of both the group and each member. Accordingly, these rules of procedure establish guidelines to be followed by all persons attending City Council meetings, including members of the City Council, administrative staff, news media, citizens and visitors.

## **Section 2 – AUTHORITY**

The City Charter of Manor, Texas [Adopted: August 15, 2007; Amended: May 9, 2015, and Amended: November 3, 2020] provides in Article III (City Council Judge of its Members), Section 3.04. (Rule of Procedure) that “The Council shall by ordinance determine its own rules and order of business.” Thus, these rules of procedure are established. In the event of any conflict between the City Charter and these rules of procedure, the City Charter shall prevail.

The parliamentary reference for the City Council is the most recent edition of *Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised* (RONR). When any issue concerning procedure arises that is not covered by the Rules of Procedure, the City Charter or State law, the Council will refer to RONR, which shall generally determine such procedural issue. [www.robertsrules.com](http://www.robertsrules.com).

## **Section 3 – MEETINGS**

The City Council shall follow both the letter and the spirit of the Texas Open Meetings Act.

### **3.01. Regular Meetings.**

The City Council shall conduct regular meetings generally on the first (1<sup>st</sup>) and third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Wednesdays of each month. All regular meetings shall normally be scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall and are open to the public.

### **3.02. Special Meetings.**

In accordance with Section 3.07 (Meetings) of the City Charter, “special meetings may be scheduled and held as the council deems necessary to transact the business of the city.” Special meetings are open to the public.

### **3.03. Workshop Sessions.**

Workshop sessions may be scheduled by the Mayor, a majority of Council Members or by the City Manager. They are normally conducted prior to regular or special meetings but may also be conducted at other times as well. Their purpose is to exchange information between council, staff, vendors or other groups. No official action is taken by council during these sessions, but workshops shall be posted and are open to the public. The City Council may suspend the application of this rule during a workshop session by majority vote of those members present and voting and take action on any item posted on the workshop agenda.

### **3.04. Executive Sessions.**

The City Council may meet in executive session under the provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act. No vote shall be taken in an executive session on any matter under consideration nor shall any Council Member enter into a commitment with another respecting a vote to be taken subsequently in an open meeting of the City Council.

### **3.05. Public Hearings.**

Public Hearings may be scheduled to present evidence on both sides of issue(s). Some Public Hearings are required by state law such as approving an annual budget and setting a tax rate. Others are conducted voluntarily to obtain a full range of citizen input on important matters, such as a proposed bond issue. Public Hearings may be scheduled as part of a Regular Meeting or on other occasions as necessary.

### **3.06. Town Hall Meetings.**

Town Hall Meetings may be scheduled periodically for the purpose of open discussion with citizens of Manor on specific issues or general matters regarding the activities of the City. Action may not be taken by the City Council at a Town Hall Meeting. If any action is indicated, the matter will be scheduled as an agenda item at a regular meeting of the City Council. Any citizen may participate in a Town Hall Meeting, and there is no requirement to sign up to speak prior to the meeting. Town Hall Meetings will be posted according to the Texas Open Meetings Act.

### **3.07. Public Notice.**

The agenda for all meetings and the notice listing items to be considered shall be posted by the City Secretary on the City's website and on the bulletin board at City Hall in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act [Chapter 551, Texas Government Code].

### **3.08. Quorum and Attendance.**

In accordance with Section 3.06 (Quorum and Attendance) of the City Charter, "Four members of the council shall constitute a quorum for transacting business and no action of the council shall be valid or binding unless taken in an open meeting with a quorum present. Less than a quorum may adjourn any meeting, or order and compel the attendance of absent members. It shall be the duty of each member of the council to attend each regular and special council meeting and the failure of any member to attend three consecutive, regular meetings, without good and sufficient cause, shall constitute misconduct in office." [See section 5.05 Excusal from Attendance].

### **3.09. City Manager Participation.**

The City Manager shall attend all meetings of the City Council except when excused by the City Council. The City Manager may make recommendations to the City Council and shall have the right to take part in all discussions but shall not have a vote.

### **3.10. City Attorney Participation.**

The City Attorney, or designated assistant City Attorney, shall attend the meetings of the City Council upon request by the City Manager to advise the City Council on all legal matters and represent the City in all litigation (except where outside counsel is engaged) and other legal matters.

### **3.11. City Secretary Participation.**

The City Secretary shall attend each meeting of the City Council and shall keep, in a record provided for that purpose, accurate minutes of the City Council's proceedings.

### **3.12. City Department Directors Participation.**

The City staff department heads shall attend the second regular meeting of each month to respond to inquiries made by the City Council on departmental monthly reports unless excused by the City Manager. The City Council may request the presence of specific department heads or staff members, through the City Manager, for other meetings or sessions.

### **3.13. Agenda.**

- a. The Mayor, Council Members, City Manager, City Department Directors, City Attorney, and the City Secretary may place items on the agenda. Agenda items shall be submitted in written form to the City Secretary in accordance with subsection (b). The City Secretary will coordinate the placement of items on the agenda with the City Manager who will resolve any conflicts with Mayor and Council Members. Agenda items may be removed only by the Mayor and City Manager, except agenda items requested by City Council.
- b. Agenda items, including any necessary or applicable supporting documents and materials to be included in agenda packets, shall be submitted in written form to the City Secretary in accordance with this section and in order to allow compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act 72-hour notice provision. Agenda items and presentations are due on or before the Wednesday of the week preceding the next scheduled City Council meeting.
- c. The City Secretary shall submit a draft agenda to the City Manager on or before the Tuesday of the week preceding the next scheduled City Council meeting for review and revision.

- d. The agenda packets for all regular and special meetings will be delivered via email to the Mayor and Council Members on the Friday preceding the following Wednesday meeting.

**3.14. Minutes.**

Minutes of City Council meetings will be recorded and maintained by the City Secretary. The Minutes will include final motions with voting results. The Minutes will also reflect the names of those citizens presenting public comments. Minutes of meetings will generally be submitted to the City Council for approval at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

**3.15. Attendance by the Public.**

Members of the public are invited and encouraged to attend any sessions of the City Council that are not closed to the public in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

**3.16. City Legislation and Actions of Significant Public Impact and Concern.**

Any action or ordinance of the City of Manor that falls into the following three categories is considered an action of significant public impact and concern:

- a. Any action or ordinance that criminalizes behavior or creates criminal liability.
- b. Any action or ordinance that has a substantial impact on private property rights.
- c. Any action or ordinance that involves the expenditure of more than three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) and that is not a recurring expense or renewal of an expense.

The City Council shall not vote on any action of significant public impact and concern unless and until it has been presented and discussed in at least two Council meetings, which occur within a 60-day period, except as provided in Section 10.

**Section 4 - STANDARDS OF CONDUCT**

**4.01. Council Members.**

- a. During City Council meetings, Council Members shall assist in preserving order and decorum and shall neither by conversation or other activity delay or interrupt the proceedings nor refuse to obey the orders of the presiding officer or the rules of the City Council.
- b. A Council Member desiring to speak shall address the chair and, upon recognition by the presiding officer, shall confine his/her discussion to the question under debate and avoid discussion of personalities, the use of inappropriate language, making personal attacks, and verbally abusing colleagues or anyone else in attendance.

- c. Council Members may question City staff members during meetings when they are making presentations to the City Council. Council Members shall neither berate nor admonish City staff members. Questions to other City staff members who are not making presentations should first be directed to the City Manager who will then ask the appropriate City staff member to respond, or the City Manager may address the question.
- d. A Council Member, once recognized, shall not be interrupted while speaking unless called to order by the presiding officer. If a Council Member is called to order while speaking, that member shall cease speaking immediately until the question of order is determined.
- e. Council Members shall confine their questions to the particular matters before the assembly and in debate shall confine their remarks to the issues before the City Council.
- f. When there is more than one speaker on the same subject, Council Members will delay their subsequent comments until after all speakers on the subject have been heard.

#### **4.02. Council Relations with the Media.**

All City press releases, media advisories, story suggestions, or similar items should go through the City Manager's office for distribution, with exception of factual police department bulletins which designated officers may send directly to the City Manager, with a copy to the City Secretary.

#### **4.03. City Staff.**

- a. Members of the City staff and employees of the City shall observe the same rules of procedures and decorum applicable to members of the City Council.
- b. Although the presiding officer has the authority to preserve decorum in meetings, the City Manager also is responsible for the orderly conduct and decorum of all City staff members under the City Manager's direction and control.
- c. The City Manager shall take such disciplinary action as may be necessary to ensure that decorum is preserved at all times by City staff members in City Council meetings.
- d. All staff members addressing the City Council, including the City Manager, other staff members, or members of the public shall be recognized by the presiding officer and shall limit their remarks to the matter under discussion.
- e. All remarks and questions addressed to the City Council by staff members shall be addressed to the City Council as a whole and not to any individual member.



#### **4.04. Members of the Public**

- a. Members of the Public are invited to attend all open meetings of the City Council and will be admitted to the Council Chambers or other room(s) in which the City Council is meeting, but not to exceed the fire safety capacity of the room(s). All members of the public attending and/or speaking at a City Council Meeting are required to abide by the Council Rules of Procedure.
- b. City Council Meetings are conducted for the official business of the City Council. Members of the public attending City Council meetings shall observe the same rules of civility, decorum and respectful conduct applicable to members of the City Council. To ensure meetings are conducted in a professional and courteous manner which enables the order conduct of business, all persons in attendance or who participate in such meetings shall conduct themselves in a manner that does not interfere with the ability of others to observe and, when allowed, to participate without disruption or fear of intimidation, threats or hostility.
- c. All persons shall remove hats and all individuals shall refrain from private conversations in the chambers while the City Council is in session.
- d. Members of the public desiring to address the City Council shall be recognized by the Chair and shall state his or her name and address in an audible tone for the record and shall limit his or her remarks to an agenda item.
- e. The public has the right to criticize policies, procedure, programs or services of the City or of the actions or omission of the City Council or City staff. A member of the public addressing the City Council shall not engage in any disorderly conduct which disrupts the orderly conduct of any City Council meeting. The Chair may rule a public speaker out of order and in violation of the Council Rules if: (a) the speaker is speaking beyond the allocated time limit and refuses to yield the floor; (b) the speaker's remarks are not relevant to an agenda item or City business or affairs; (c) the speaker repeatedly interrupts a Council Member; (d) the speaker's remarks are disruptive so as to disturb the peace and good order of the meeting, through use of, without limitation, loud, threatening, hostile, abusive, vulgar or obscene language, racial or ethnic slurs directed any person or group of persons, or any other actions that disturb or are calculated to disturb the meeting; (e) the speaker engages in any conduct with the intent to break up the meeting of the City Council or urges other to commit acts or engage in conduct to break up the meeting, including unreasonably loud and prolonged yelling, screaming, clapping or noise-creating acts which render it impossible or difficult for the City Council to conduct or continue with the meeting; or (f) the speaker willfully refuses or fails to comply with any Council Rule of Procedure or with any reasonable order of the Chair.
- f. Reactions from the audience following the recognition and rewarding of citizens and special guests is considered appropriate and encouraged. Reactions from the audience during staff presentations to the Council and during debate between Council Members are not appropriate and not permitted. The presiding officer will ensure that the decorum of the meeting is maintained and is appropriate.
- g. No placards, banners, signs, demonstrations, or activities which disturb the peace and good order of the meeting will be permitted in the Council Chamber or in any other room in which the City Council is meeting. Exhibits, displays, and visual aids used in connection with presentations to the City Council, however, are permitted.

- h. Members of the Public attending Council meetings are not allowed to bring food or drink into the Council Chamber or into any other room in which the City Council is meeting.

**4.05. Recording of Meetings.**

Operation of equipment, such as tape recorders, video cameras, or other mechanism of audio and/or video recording is limited to the area designated for recording equipment that is established by the City Council from time to time.

**4.06. Enforcement.**

- a. The sergeant-at-arms (Manor Police Officer) attending the City Council meetings, shall ensure that a safe environment exists for the City Council to conduct its meetings and shall furnish whatever assistance is needed to enforce the rules of the City Council.
- b. The Chair shall have the authority to preserve order at all City Council meetings and enforce the Council Rules of Procedure, including the authority to revoke the permission granted to any individual to speak if such individual is disruptive or does not adhere to Council Rule of Procedure, to remove or cause the removal of any person from any meeting of the City Council for disorderly conduct, and to exclude a person from returning to that same meeting from which the individual was removed.
- c. If the Chair determines that the Council Rules of Procedure are not being followed, one warning will be given to the individual(s). If the Council Rules of Procedure continue to be violated after one warning, the Chair may revoke the individual's speaking privileges and may remove, or cause to be removed by security personnel, the individual from the Council Chamber. Any individual ordered to be removed from a meeting shall be excluded from returning to that meeting from which the individual was removed and shall be barred from further audience before the City Council during that session of the City Council.

**Section 5 - DUTIES AND PRIVILEGES OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**5.01. Seating Arrangement.**

In meetings where the Council is seated at the dais, the Mayor shall be seated at the center of the dais; the City Manager shall be seated adjacent to the Mayor, Council Members are seated by Place No. 1-6 and City Secretary shall be seated on the table to the right of the dais.

## **5.02. Right of the Floor.**

A Council Member desiring to speak must first be recognized by the presiding officer. No Council Member shall address the presiding officer or demand the floor while a vote is being taken.

## **5.03. Conflict of Interest.**

In accordance with Section 12.04 (Conflict of Interest) of the City Charter, “No elected or appointed officer or employee of the city shall participate in the deliberation or decision on any issue, subject or matter before the council or any board or commission, if the officer or employee has a personal financial or property interest, direct or indirect, in the issue, subject or matter that is different from that of the public at large. An interest arising from job duties, compensation or benefits payable by the city shall not constitute a personal financial interest.”

Further, in accordance with Chapter 171, Texas Local Government Code (Chapter 171), no City Council member and no City officer may vote or participate in discussion of a matter involving a business entity or real property in which the City Council member or City officer has a substantial interest (as defined by Chapter 171) and action on the matter will have a special economic effect on the business entity or real property that is distinguishable from the effect on the general public.

An affidavit in the form attached hereto in Annex F disclosing the conflict of interest must be filled out and filed with the City Secretary before the matter is discussed.

A City Council member prevented from voting by a conflict of interest, shall remove themselves from the dais.

## **5.04. Voting.**

- a. In accordance with Section 3.08 (Voting) of the City Charter, “All members of the council present shall vote upon every issue, subject or matter properly before the council and requiring a council vote; provided that, if any member of the council has a conflict of interest, that fact shall be stated in the minutes and such member shall abstain from discussion and voting on the issue. No ordinance, resolution, order, action, matter or issue shall be passed, approved, adopted, taken or consented to except by a majority vote of the members of council present and voting, and not less than four affirmative votes shall be required to pass, approve, adopt, take action on or consent to any ordinance, resolution, action, matter, issue or motion.” Any reference to an action of the City Council requiring a majority vote of the members present and voting shall be subject to the requirement set forth in Section 3.08 of the City Charter that not less than four affirmative votes shall be required to pass, approve, adopt, take action on, or consent to the action.
- b. After the result of a vote is announced, a member may not change a vote unless, before the adjournment of that meeting, permission is given to change the vote by a majority vote of the members present and voting.

- c. A tie vote results in a lost motion. In such an instance, any member of the City Council may offer a motion for further action. If there is not an affirmative vote, the result is no action.

#### **5.05. Excusal from Attendance.**

Council Members are expected to attend meetings and remain in attendance during each meeting. Should a Council Member be unable to attend, the Mayor, City Council, City Manager, and the City Secretary should be notified prior to that meeting and the reason for missing the meeting should be provided. Council absence at special meetings, workshop meetings, emergency meetings, regular meetings, and committee meetings to which the Council Member is assigned shall only be excused by a majority vote of council taken during roll call. A Council Member who fails to give prior notice of their absence at a meeting as required by this section shall be counted as absent without good and sufficient cause. In the event that a City Council member is absent from thirty percent (30%) of all special meetings, workshop meetings, emergency meetings, regular meetings, and committee meetings to which the Council Member is assigned, the City Council may revoke its approval of prior excused absences and deem such absences to be without good and sufficient cause for the purposes of Sections 3.04 and 3.08 of the City Charter. A Council Member may not have excused absences revoked until they have been in office at least six months.

#### **5.06. Excusal During Meetings.**

A Council Member needing to be excused during an ongoing session should advise the presiding officer prior to departing the session.

#### **5.07. Confidential Information**

The City Council shall not disclose confidential or proprietary information, or any information they have acquired or obtained in the course of any fiduciary capacity or relationship, that could adversely influence the property, government, or affairs of the city, nor directly or indirectly use his or her position to secure official information about any person or entity for the financial benefit or gain of such public servant or any third party. The City Council shall not release confidential, proprietary or privileged information for any purpose other than the performance of official responsibilities. It shall be a defense to any complaint under this section that the release of information serves a legitimate public purpose, as opposed to the private financial or political interest of the public servant or any third party or group. Failure of a member to comply with this Section shall constitute misconduct in office.

### **Section 6 - CHAIR AND DUTIES**

#### **6.01. Chair.**

The Mayor, if present, shall preside as chair at all meetings of the City Council. In the absence of the Mayor, the Mayor ProTem shall preside. In the absence of both the Mayor and Mayor ProTem, the remaining Council Members shall, in accordance with the City Charter, by election, designate one member as acting Mayor to preside for that session. The term “presiding officer” when used in these Rules of Council shall mean the chair.

## **6.02. Call to Order.**

The sessions of the City Council shall be called to order by the Mayor or, in the Mayor's absence, by the Mayor ProTem or, in the Mayor ProTem's absence, by the acting Mayor. In the absence of both the Mayor and Mayor ProTem, the City Manager will temporarily preside over the meeting until the Council selects an acting Mayor to preside over the meeting.

## **6.03. Preservation of Order.**

The Chair shall preserve order and decorum, call upon the sergeant-at-arms as necessary to enforce compliance with the rules, and confine Council Members in debate to the question under discussion. It is the responsibility of the Chair to keep the comments of Council Members on topic during public meetings.

## **Section 7 - ORDER OF BUSINESS**

### **7.01. Regular and Special Meetings.**

Regular and special meetings will generally adhere to the following agenda:

- Call to Order and Announce a Quorum is Present
- Invocation
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Presentations/Proclamations/Recognitions/Events (as appropriate)
- Workshop Sessions (as appropriate)
- Non-Agenda Item Public Comments (related to any matter not on the agenda, no action taken)
- Agenda Item Comments (related to matters on the agenda)
- Public Hearings (as appropriate)
- Reports (as appropriate)
- Consent Agenda (may be moved to Regular Agenda by the Mayor or a Council Member)
- Regular Agenda
- Executive Session (as appropriate)
- Reconvene in Open Session (as appropriate)
- Adjournment

The policy and procedure for presentation of an invocation is found in Annex G and incorporated herein.

### **7.02. Workshops, Executive Sessions and Town Hall Meetings.**

Workshops and executive sessions will normally be conducted in a less formal manner than regular sessions as follows:

- Call to Order
- Overview of matter(s) to be discussed
- Discussion of matter(s)

- Summation
- Adjournment

Town Hall meetings will generally be conducted in the following agenda:

- Call to Order
- Purpose for the meeting
- City Council or City staff presentation (if any)
- Open discussion (facilitated by the Councilmember calling the Meeting)
- Summation
- Adjournment

### **7.03. Public Hearings.**

The City Manager shall schedule public hearings on the City Council’s agenda to be held at least two weeks before the City Council must vote on the matter (unless the law requires otherwise, in which case, Public Hearings shall be conducted as provided by state law). In addition to this requirement, when conducted as part of a Regular Meeting, a vote may be taken on the matter at that same meeting. When a Public Hearing is conducted as a stand-alone meeting and not part of a Regular Meeting, the vote may be taken at a subsequent Regular or Special Meeting.

### **7.04. Addressing the City Council.**

Members of the public are invited and encouraged to attend any sessions of the City Council that are not closed to the public in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act. It is the desire of the City Council that citizens actively participate in the City’s governance system and processes. Therefore, public input to the City Council, both oral and written, is encouraged.

#### **a. Public Comments.**

(1) Prior to the meeting being called to order, the person wishing to speak shall complete a speaker card and present it to the City Secretary. Late cards will not be accepted. The presiding officer shall call upon those who have submitted cards. No person shall be permitted to speak on an item unless they previously registered to speak and are recognized by the Chair. When called upon to speak by the presiding officer, the person shall come to the podium, state his/her name and address for the record, and, if speaking for an organization or group, identify the group represented. *No formal action can be taken by the City Council during the public comments.*

(2) Public comments on non-agenda items shall take place during the agenda item entitled “Non-Agenda Item Public Comments”. Public comments on agenda items that do not include a public hearing shall take place during the agenda item entitled “Agenda Item Public Comments”. Public comments on agenda items that include a public hearing shall take place during the public hearing for that agenda item. Speakers will have a total of three (3) minutes to complete his or her comments on

all non-agenda items. Speakers will have a total of five (5) minutes to complete his or her comment on any non-agenda and agenda items combined. Speakers during public hearings will have a total of two (2) minutes complete his or her comments. The City Council may reduce the time allotted to each speaker for such reasons as the time allocated for the meeting, the number and complexity of agenda items, or the number of persons wishing to address the City Council. A member of the public who addresses the body through a translator shall be given twice the amount of time as a member of the public who does not require the assistance of a translator. The Chair or designee shall maintain the time and advise the speaker when his/her time has expired. The speaker shall then complete his sentence and take his/her seat.

- (3) All remarks shall be addressed to entire City Council and not directed to individual Council Members or members of the city staff.
- (4) Questions or requests for information shall be directed to the presiding officer who shall then determine whether, and in what manner, a response will be provided.
- (5) During comments regarding agenda items, Council members may request the floor to respond to any citizen comment with information or to ask follow up questions as appropriate. Councilmembers may only direct comments and questions to the speaker and may not take the opportunity to discuss matters among themselves.

**b. Written Correspondence and Telephone Calls.**

- (1) Member of the Public may direct written comments to the individual Council Member by addressing their letter to City Hall at: Manor City Hall, 105 E. Eggleston Street, Manor, Texas 78653. The Mayor and each Council Member has an email address listed on the City's website at [www.manortx.gov](http://www.manortx.gov).
- (2) Citizens should expect a timely acknowledgement of their letters and e-mail messages. Telephone calls should be returned in a timely manner, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and official state and national holidays.
- (3) If a matter cannot be resolved within a few days, an interim reply should be expected from City Hall explaining the delay and providing a date when a final reply should be expected.

**c. Media Inquiries.**

- (1) The recognized local media sources may direct questions to members of the City Council through the City Manager.
- (2) Other legitimate regional, state and national media sources are expected to coordinate questions to Council Members and staff through the City Manager.
- (3) All media questions will be initially directed to the City Manager, the Chief of Police, or the Public Information Officer (if one is designated).

**d. Legal Settlements in Regard to Any Claims Against the City.**

All offers for legal settlements for claims or litigation against the City must be submitted in writing.

**Section 8 – RULES OF ORDER**

**8.01. General.**

These rules, consistent with the City Charter and any applicable city ordinance, statute or other legal requirement, shall govern the proceedings of the City Council.

**8.02. Authority of the Chair.**

- a. Subject to appeal of the full City Council, the Chair shall have the authority to prevent the misuse of motions, the abuse of any privilege, or the obstruction of the business of the City Council by ruling any such matter out of order. In so ruling, the Chair shall be courteous and fair and should presume that the moving party is acting in good faith.
- b. The Chair will perform the role of facilitator to assist the City Council in focusing agenda discussions and deliberations.
- c. Any member of the City Council may move to require enforcement of the rules, and the affirmative vote of a majority of the City Council present and voting shall require the Chair to act.

**8.03. Obtaining the Floor.**

Any Council Member wishing to speak must first obtain the floor by being recognized by the presiding officer. The presiding officer must recognize any Council Member who seeks the floor appropriately entitled to do so.

**8.04. Council Deliberations and Order of Speakers.**

- a. The presiding officer shall control the debate and the order of speakers.
- b. Speakers shall generally be called upon in the order of their request to speak.
- c. With the concurrence of the presiding officer, a Council Member holding the floor may address a question to another Council Member, the City Manager, or the City Attorney (if present). The Council Member or City Manager may respond while the floor is still held by the Council Member asking the question.
- d. With the concurrence of the presiding officer, a Council Member holding the floor may address questions to an individual making a presentation to the City Council, e.g., city staff member, consultants, and citizens making public comments.
- e. Comments and questions shall be conducted in rounds to ensure that Council Members have the opportunity to make their comments and then respond to the comments they have heard from their fellow Council Members.
- f. The presiding officer shall only terminate deliberations and debate after all Council



Members have been provided a reasonable time and opportunity to participate and prepare them to render a reasonable and responsible vote on the question.

- g. During presentations by the staff or special guests on agenda items, Council Members may obtain the floor from the presiding officer to ask questions of the presenters regarding details of their presentations.
- h. Following a motion and second of an agenda item, Council Members may enter into additional discussions about the item as described below in subsection 8.08(d).

#### **8.05. Length of Comments.**

Council Members shall govern themselves as to the length of the comments, questions, or presentations. As a courtesy, the presiding officer will signal by hand to a Council Member who has been speaking for over five minutes. This procedure is not meant to limit debate or to cut comments short, but rather to assist Council Members in their efforts to communicate concisely.

#### **8.06. Limit Deliberations to Item at Hand.**

Council Members shall limit their comments and questions to the subject matter, time, or motion being currently being considered by the City Council.

#### **8.07. Motions.**

In accordance with Section 1.05.037 (Motions; deferring action) of the City Charter, “(a) A motion may be made by any member other than the presiding officer.” The presiding officer shall, prior to offering a motion, however, ensure that other Council Members have the opportunity to make the motion. Any member of the City Council, other than the person offering the motion, may second a motion. See Annex B (Chief Purposes of Motions), Annex C (Parliamentary Strategy), Annex D (Basic Information on Motions), and Annex E (Parliamentary Terms).

#### **8.08. Procedures for Motions.**

The following is the general procedure for making motions:

- a. Before a motion can be considered or debated, it must be seconded. If there is no second, the motion fails.
- b. A Council Member who wishes to make a motion should do so through a verbal request to the presiding officer.
- c. A Council Member who wishes to second a motion should do so through a verbal request to the presiding officer.
- d. Once a motion has been properly made and seconded, the presiding officer shall open the matter for additional discussion offering the first opportunity to the moving party and, thereafter, to any Council Member properly recognized by the presiding officer.

### **8.09. Amendments to Motions.**

- a. When a motion is on the floor and an amendment is offered, the amendment shall be acted upon prior to action on the main motion.
- b. No proposal of a subject different from that under consideration shall be admitted as a motion or amendment to a motion.
- c. A motion to amend an amendment shall be in order, but one to amend an amendment to an amendment shall not be in order.
- d. Action shall be taken on the amended amendment prior to any other action to further amend the main motion.

### **8.10. Motion to Continue.**

A motion to continue will leave the motion in its present condition for consideration on a date and time certain.

### **8.11. Motion to Remove.**

A motion to remove will take the matter off the agenda and will not be considered by the Council for an indefinite period of time.

### **8.12. Motion to Table.**

A motion to table will delay consideration of the item being discussed by the City Council.

### **8.13. Motion to Refer.**

A motion to refer forwards the item under consideration to the named group, committee, or board for further study.

### **8.14. Withdrawal of Motion.**

A withdrawal of motion indicates a motion may be withdrawn or modified by the Council Member who originally made the motion at any time prior to its passage. If the motion is modified, the Council Member who seconded the motion may withdraw his/her second. If a motion that has received a second is withdrawn by one of the Council Members making the motion, the motion must be seconded by another Council Member to proceed, or it will die for lack of a second.

### **8.15. Motion for Reconsideration.**

- a. A motion to reconsider any action of the City Council may be made, seconded, and voted on not later than the next succeeding regular meeting of the City Council. If reconsideration of the Council action has not been posted on the Council agenda for the meeting at which the motion to reconsider is made, however, actual reconsideration of the item must be delayed until the next regular meeting after the posting requirements of the Texas Open Meetings Act are met.

- b. A motion to reconsider an action of the City Council may only be made by a member who voted with the prevailing side. Any member can second it. No question shall be twice reconsidered except by unanimous vote of the City Council. Actions relating to any contract may be reconsidered at any time before the final execution thereof.

## **Section 9 – CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

### **9.01. Committees Established.**

- a) The City Council can establish standing committees or ad hoc committees when necessary. All committees will be advisory committees. Standing Committees will be established by ordinance.
- b) Each advisory committee shall review matters in its area of responsibility that are referred to it by the City Council, the City Manager, or an individual City Council Member. An advisory committee may recommend action to the City Council, but committee recommendation is not necessary for a matter to be placed on the City Council agenda. The committee chair may make a statement on behalf of the committee on an item in a briefing or voting meeting of the City Council.
- c) City Council shall determine the number of members, not to exceed two (2) council members per committee and appoint a chair to the advisory committee.

### **9.02. Ad Hoc Committees.**

The Mayor may appoint ad hoc committees from time to time to study and review specific issues. The Mayor shall determine the number of members and appoint a chair of ad hoc committees. The ad hoc committees shall be established for a designated period of time, which may be extended by the Mayor and shall meet as needed. The Mayor shall formally announce the establishment of any ad hoc committee along with his appointments to that committee in a regular session of Council prior to the committee convening to conduct business.

### **9.03. Committee Meetings.**

- a. Advisory Committees shall meet as necessary.
- b. The committee chair shall develop committee meeting agendas through coordination with fellow committee members and appropriate supporting staff members.
- c. Citizens wishing to submit Public Comments during open meetings will need to complete the Public Comments Form provided by the City and email the form to [publiccomments@manortx.gov](mailto:publiccomments@manortx.gov) at least two (2) hours prior to the committee meeting indicated within this procedure.
- d. Public Comments will be read by the Chair of the Committee for the record. No action will be taken by the committee during public comments.

#### **9.04. Agenda and Information.**

- a. Before each committee meeting, the Chair and City Secretary shall provide an agenda and supporting information for the meeting to committee members. Items may be scheduled on the agenda for committee briefings by the chair, the City Council, the City Manager, or the Mayor.
- b. Summary minutes will be kept by the City Secretary, unless otherwise indicated within this procedure.

### **Section 10 – RULES SUSPENSION, AMENDMENT, AND ANNUAL REVIEW**

#### **10.01. Suspension of Rules.**

Any provision of these rules not governed by the City Charter, City ordinances, or state law may be temporarily suspended by a majority vote of the members of the City Council present and voting. The vote on any such suspension shall be taken by Motion and entered upon the record. The vote on any such suspension shall be taken by Motion and entered upon the record. Provisions that may not be suspended include, but are not limited to:

- a. Rule 3.04, Executive Sessions;
- b. Rule 3.07, Public Notice;
- c. Rule 3.08, Quorum and Attendance;
- d. Rule 3.14, Minutes (the provisions requiring that minutes be kept and the content of minutes)
- e. Rule 3.15, Attendance by the Public;
- f. Rule 3.16, City Legislation and Actions of Significant Public Impact and Concern, if pertaining to zoning and annexation orders required to be read twice in accordance with Section 4.06 of the City Charter;
- g. Rule 5.03, Conflicts of Interest;
- h. Rule 5.04, Voting; and
- i. Rule 6.01, Chair.

#### **10.02. Amendment of Rules.**

These rules may be amended, or new rules adopted, by a majority vote of the members of the City Council present and voting.

#### **10.03. Annual Review of Rules.**

Following the municipal general elections each year, City Council may review these rules of procedure, make changes as appropriate, and adopt their own rules of procedure in accordance with the City Charter. In the event no annual review occurs, the standing rules of procedure continue in effect. This does not limit the City Council's right and ability to amend the rules in accordance with the City Charter and Rule 10.02.

## **Section 11 – ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT TO COUNCIL MEMBERS**

### **11.01. Mail and E-mail.**

- a. All general mail directed to the Mayor and Council Members at City Hall will be date stamped and distributed as appropriate at City Council Meetings.
- b. All mail providing information on city issues and agenda items will be copied to the Mayor and Council Members.
- c. E-mails are provided to Mayor and Council Members for city business, e-mails requiring a response from the Mayor or Council Member(s) should copy the City Manager.

### **11.02. Clerical Support.**

The City Manager will coordinate appropriate clerical support requested by the Mayor and Council Members.

### **11.03. Master Calendar.**

A master calendar of City Council events, functions, and sessions will be maintained by the City Secretary's office and provided to the Mayor and Council Members as appropriate. Events, functions, and activities to be attended by the Mayor or individual Council Members will be included on the master calendar only at the request of the Mayor or individual Council Member(s).

### **11.04. Requests for Research or Information.**

The Mayor and individual Council Members may request information or research from the city staff on a given topic through the City Manager who will make all members of City Council aware of the special request, as it may be of interest to them as well. Accordingly, the City Manager will provide the results of the request to all members of City Council. In the event the City Manager believes he cannot respond in a timely manner, he and the members of City Council will coordinate a reasonable and responsible timeframe in which to expect the results without unduly interfering with other activities of higher priority.

### **11.05. Notification of Significant Activities or Events.**

The Mayor and Council Members shall expect the City Manager to notify them, and provide periodic updates, regarding significant activities or events in the City related to natural or man-made disasters, major criminal activity, major accidents involving city property, serious injury or death involving a city staff/employee within an hour (if feasible).

# ANNEX A

## Fundamental Principles of Parliamentary Law

The Mayor, Council Members, City Manager, City Attorney, City Secretary, and City staff members appearing before the various sessions of the Manor City Council should become familiar with following rules and customs:

1. All members have equal rights, privileges, and obligations; rules must be administered impartially.
2. The minority has rights, which must be protected.
3. Full and free discussions of all motions, reports, and other items of business is a right of all members.
4. In doing business the simplest and most direct procedure should be used.
5. Logical precedence governs introduction and disposition of motions.
6. Only one question can be considered at a time.
7. Members may not make a motion or speak in debate until they have been recognized by the chair and thus have obtained the floor.
8. No member may speak a second time on the same question if anyone who has not spoken on that question wishes to do so.
9. Members must not attack or question the motives of another member. Customarily, all remarks are addressed to the presiding officer.
10. In voting, members have the right to know at all times what motion is before the assembly and what affirmative and negative votes mean.
11. The majority vote decides. This is a fundamental concept of democracy.
12. All meetings will be characterized by fairness and good faith.

# ANNEX B

## The Chief Purposes of Motions

| PURPOSE   | MOTION   |
|---|--|
| Present an idea for<br>Consideration and action | Main motion<br>Resolution  |
| Improve a pending motion                        | Amend<br>Division of question  |
| Regulate or cut off debate                      | Limit or extend debate<br>Previous Question  |
| Delay a decision                                | Refer to committee<br>Postpone/table to a certain time<br>Recess<br>Adjourn  |
| Kill an item                                    | Postpone Indefinitely  |
| Meet an emergency                               | Question of privilege<br>Suspend rules<br>Lay on the Table   |
| Gain information on a pending motion            | Parliamentary inquiry<br>Request for information<br>Request to ask a member a question<br>Question of privilege              |
| Question the decision of the presiding officer  | Point of order   |
| Enforce rights and privileges                   | Parliamentary inquiry<br>Point of order<br>Appeal from decision of the chair   |
| Consider a question again                       | Take from the Table<br>Discharge a committee<br>Reconsider<br>Rescind<br>Renew a motion<br>Amend a previous action<br>Ratify |
| Change an action already taken                  | Reconsider<br>Rescind<br>Amend a previous action   |
| Terminate a meeting                             | Adjourn<br>Recess  |

# ANNEX C

## Parliamentary Strategy

| <b>To Support a Motion</b>   | <b>To Oppose a Motion</b>   |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Second it promptly and enthusiastically.</li> <li>2. Speak in favor of it as soon as possible.</li> <li>3. Do your homework; know your facts; have handouts, charts, etc., if appropriate.</li> <li>4. Move to amend motion, if necessary, to make it more acceptable to proponents.</li> <li>5. Vote against motion to table or to postpone, unless delay will strengthen your position.</li> <li>6. Move to recess or postpone, if you need time to marshal facts or work behind the scenes.</li> <li>7. If defeat seems likely, move to refer to committee, if that would improve chances.</li> <li>8. If defeat seems likely, move to divide question, if appropriate, to gain at least a partial victory.</li> <li>9. Have available a copy of the rules of procedure, City Charter, and <i>Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised</i>, most recent edition, in case of a procedural dispute.</li> <li>10. If motion is defeated, move to reconsider, if circumstances warrant it.</li> <li>11. If motion is defeated, consider reintroducing it at a subsequent meeting.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Speak against it as soon as possible. Raise question; try to put proponents on the defensive.</li> <li>2. Move to amend the motion so as to eliminate objectionable aspects.</li> <li>3. Move to amend the motion to adversely encumber it.</li> <li>4. Draft a more acceptable version and offer as amendment by substitution.</li> <li>5. Move to postpone to a subsequent meeting.</li> <li>6. Move to refer to committee.</li> <li>7. Move to recess, if you need time to round up votes or obtain more facts.</li> <li>8. Question the presence of quorum, if appropriate.</li> <li>9. Move to adjourn</li> <li>10. On a voice vote, vote emphatically.</li> <li>11. If the motion is adopted, move to reconsider, if you might win a subsequent vote.</li> <li>12. If the motion is adopted, consider trying to rescind it at a subsequent meeting.</li> <li>13. Have available a copy of the rule of procedure, City Charter, and <i>Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised</i>, most recent edition, in case of a procedural dispute.</li> </ol> |



# ANNEX D

## Basic Information On Motions

### RANKING MOTIONS

These motions are listed in order of rank. When any one of these motions is immediately pending, those above it are in order and those below are not in order.

### PRINCIPAL CHARACTERISTICS

|   | Second<br>Required | Can Be<br>Debated | Can Be<br>Amended | Vote<br>Required | Can Be<br>Reconsidered | Can<br>Interrupt |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| <b>PRIVILEGED MOTIONS</b>                   |                    |                   |                   |                  |                        |                  |
| 13. Fix Time to Which to Adjourn.....       | yes                | no                | yes               | maj              | yes                    | no               |
| 12. Adjourn.....                            | yes                | no                | no                | maj              | no                     | no               |
| 11. Recess.....                             | yes                | no                | yes               | maj              | no                     | no               |
| 10. Raise a Question of Privilege.....      | no                 | no                | no                | X*               | no                     | yes              |
| 9. Call for the Orders of the Day.....      | no                 | no                | no                | X*               | no                     | yes              |
| <b>SUBSIDIARY MOTIONS</b>                   |                    |                   |                   |                  |                        |                  |
| 8. Lay on the Table.....                    | yes                | no                | no                | maj              | no                     | no               |
| 7. Previous Question (to close debate)..... | yes                | no                | no                | 2/3              | yes*                   | no               |
| 6. Limit or Extend Limits of Debate.....    | yes                | no                | yes               | 2/3              | yes*                   | no               |
| 5. Postpone to a Certain Time.....          | yes                | yes               | yes               | maj              | yes                    | no               |
| 4. Commit (or Refer).....                   | yes                | yes               | yes               | maj              | yes*                   | no               |
| 3. Amend.....                               | yes                | =                 | yes*              | maj              | yes                    | no               |
| 2. Postpone Indefinitely.....               | yes                | yes               | no                | maj              | +                      | no               |
| 1. MAIN MOTION.....                         | yes                | yes               | yes               | maj*             | yes                    | no               |

### NON-RANKING MOTIONS

Whether these motions are in order depends upon the business already under consideration and what purpose they may serve when introduced.

### INCIDENTAL MOTIONS

|   |     |    |     |       |     |      |
|---|-----|----|-----|-------|-----|------|
| Appeal.....                                   | yes | *  | no  | maj   | yes | yes  |
| Close Nominations or the Polls.....           | yes | no | yes | 2/3   | no  | no   |
| Consider by Paragraph or Seriatim.....        | yes | no | yes | maj   | no  | no   |
| Division of the Assembly.....                 | no  | no | no  | no    | no  | yes  |
| Division of a Question.....                   | yes | no | yes | maj   | no  | no   |
| Objection to Consideration of a Question..... | no  | no | no  | 2/3   | #   | yes* |
| Parliamentary Inquiry.....                    | no  | no | no  | Chair | no  | yes  |
| Point of Order.....                           | no  | no | no  | Chair | no  | yes  |
| Reopen Nominations or the Polls.....          | yes | no | yes | maj   | #   | no   |
| Suspend the Rules*.....                       | yes | no | no  | 2/3*  | no  | no   |
| Withdraw a Motion.....                        | no* | no | no  | maj*  | #   | yes* |

### MOTIONS THAT BRING A QUESTION AGAIN BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY

|                          |     |     |     |     |    |    |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|
| Reconsider.....          | yes | =   | no  | maj | no | no |
| Rescind.....             | yes | yes | yes | *   | #  | no |
| Take from the Table..... | yes | no  | no  | maj | no | no |

#### Key to Markings

\* - See *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* for special rules.

# - Only a negative vote may be reconsidered.

X - Usually no vote taken. Chair responds.

= - Debatable when applied to a debatable motion. See *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*.

+ - Only an affirmative vote may be reconsidered.

Source: *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*.

# ANNEX E

## PARLIAMENTARY TERMS

**AGENDA:** an outlined plan of an entire business session; an order of business.

**ACCEPT:** adopt, approve, agree to.

**ADOPT:** approve, agree to, accept.

**AMEND:** modify or change the wording of a motion before action is taken upon the motion itself.

**ANNOUNCING THE VOTE:** declaration by the chair of the result of the vote.

**ASSEMBLY:** a body of people assembled for the transaction of business.

**ARE YOU READY FOR THE QUESTION:** debate (discussion) is in order.

**BYLAWS:** basic rules of a society which relate to itself as an organization.

**CARRIED:** adopted, approved.

**CHAIR:** the presiding officer; the place or station of the presiding officer.

**DIVISION OF THE ASSEMBLY:** a motion requiring that a vote taken by voice or by show of hands be retaken by rising.

**EX OFFICIO:** "from the office" or by virtue of the office or chairmanship. Bylaws frequently provide that the president shall be an ex-officio member of all committees except the nominating committee.

**FLOOR, OBTAIN THE:** securing recognition by the chair as having the right to speak in a meeting.

**GENERAL CONSENT:** unanimous consent; informal agreement of the assembly. The chair asks if there is any objection to a certain procedure; *silence gives consent*.

**GERMANE:** closely related; of the same subject matter. Example: an amendment must be germane to the motion to which it is applied.

**IMMEDIATELY PENDING QUESTION:** the latest question (motion) stated by the chair when more than one question is pending.

**INCIDENTAL MOTIONS:** motions which deal with questions of procedure arising out of other motions or items of business.

**MAIN MOTION:** A motion that introduces business to an assembly.

**MAJORITY VOTE:** over half of the votes *cast*.

**MEETING:** a single gathering of persons or members of an organization, usually for the purpose of transacting business. See *Session*.

**MINUTES:** the record of the proceedings of an assembly. Sometimes referred to as the *journal*.

**MOTION:** a formal proposal that certain action be taken, or that a certain statement express the sense, opinion, desire, or will of the assembly.

**PARLIAMENTARY LAW:** a consistent system of rules which govern procedure in all deliberative assemblies; founded upon certain fundamental principles originated in the unwritten customs of the House of Parliament in England; first compiled for use in this country by Thomas Jefferson, whose manual has been the foundation for rules used in the United States House of Representatives and Senate.

**PENDING:** before the assembly. A motion is "pending" after it has been stated by the chair and until it is disposed of temporarily or permanently.

**PLURALITY VOTE:** the largest number of votes received by a candidate or proposition when three or more choices are possible. A plurality vote never decides a question or election except by specific rule of the organization.

**PRECEDENCE, TAKES:** outranks; used in reference to the order in which motions can be introduced and must be considered by the assembly.

**PREVIOUS NOTICE:** announcement that a specific motion will be introduced at the next meeting; substance of the proposal should be described at least briefly; unless specified otherwise in the bylaws, must be made at the preceding meeting or included in the call of the meeting at which it is to be brought up.

**PRIVILEGED MOTIONS:** a class of motions which, although they are not directly concerned with the business before the assembly, are of such immediate importance that they have the privilege of interrupting the consideration of anything else. All motions of this class are *not debatable*.

**PRO TEM:** for the time being; most frequently applies to the office of secretary.

**PUTTING THE QUESTION:** putting the motion to a vote.

**QUESTION:** the business before the assembly; the motion as stated by the chair. (See "motion.")

**QUORUM:** the number of members who must be present in order that business can be transacted legally. The quorum is a majority of all members unless bylaws or rules of procedure state otherwise.

**RECESS:** an intermission taken by the assembly.

**RESOLUTION:** a main motion usually of such importance and length as to be written; may or may not have a preamble setting forth the reasons for the resolution.

**REVISION OF THE BYLAWS:** a complete set of bylaws submitted as a substitute for existing bylaws.

**RONR:** acronym for *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*.

**SECONDARY MOTIONS:** motions which can be made while a main motion is pending and which relate to business already before the assembly, to questions of order or procedure, or to matters of comfort or privilege. There are three classes of secondary motions: subsidiary, privileged, and incidental.

**SECONDING MOTIONS:** agreeing that a motion should come before a meeting.

**SESSION:** a meeting or a series of meetings with a single order of business, agenda, or program.

**STANDING RULES:** regulations for the guidance of an organization's meetings

**STATING THE QUESTION:** formally placing a motion before the assembly and indicating (where appropriate) that it is open to debate. Wording of a motion in the minutes should be exactly the same as when *stated* by the chair.

**SUBSIDIARY MOTIONS:** Motions that assist the assembly in treating or disposing of a main motion (and sometimes other motions).

**TWO-THIRDS VOTE:** two out of three of the votes *cast*. For two-thirds approval, the affirmative vote is at least twice as large as the negative.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** questions that have come over from the previous meeting because that meeting adjourned without completing its order of business.

**VOTE:** a formal expression of the will, opinion, or preference of the members of an assembly in regard to a matter submitted to it.

**YIELD:** give way to. A pending question yields to one of higher rank.

# ANNEX F

## Conflict of Interest

### AFFIDAVIT

THE STATE OF TEXAS           §  
COUNTY OF TRAVIS           §

I, \_\_\_\_\_, as a member of the City of Manor City Council, make this Affidavit and hereby on oath, state the following:

“I, and/or a person or persons related to me, have a substantial interest in a business entity or real property that may receive a special economic effect by a vote or decision of the City of Manor City Council and the economic effect on my business entity or real property is distinguishable from its effect on the general public. What constitutes a “substantial interest,” “business entity,” “real property” and a “special economic effect” are terms defined in Chapter 171 of the Texas Local Government Code.

“I affirm that the business entity or real property referred to above is: \_\_\_\_\_

The nature of my substantial interest in this business entity or real property is: (Check all which are applicable.)

- An ownership interest of 10% or more of the voting stock or shares of the business entity; or
- An ownership interest either 10% or more or \$15,000 or more of the fair market value of the business entity; or
- Funds received from the business entity exceed 10% of \_\_\_\_\_ (my, his, her) gross income for the previous year; or
- Real property is involved and \_\_\_\_\_ (I, he, she) has/have an equitable or legal ownership with a fair market value of at least \$2,500 or more;
- A relative of mine related in the first degree by consanguinity (blood) or affinity (marriage), as determined under Chapter 573, Texas Government Code, is considered to have a substantial interest in the business entity or property that would be affected by a decision of the public body of which I am a member.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

"Upon the filing of this Affidavit with the City Secretary, I affirm that I will abstain from any discussion, vote, or decision involving this business entity or real property and from any further participation in this matter whatsoever."

SIGNED this the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of public official

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, by

\_\_\_\_\_, on this the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_, which witness my hand and official seal.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public  
State of Texas

# ANNEX G

## INVOCATION PRESENTATIONS POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Effective February 6, 2023, the City of Manor City Council approved Ordinance No. 686 amending the City Council Rules of Procedure to add “Invocation” into the Order of Business applicable to Regular and Special Meetings. The City Council also considered and approved this policy and procedure to guide the presentation of Invocations.

This policy is intended to guide presenters in preparing and delivering remarks and to help preserve the dignity of the proceeding as the City Council considers matters in service to Manor residents and businesses. This policy serves to acknowledge and express the respect of the City of Manor for the diversity of religious denominations and faiths represented and practiced in Manor and to invite Council members to reflect upon shared ideals and common ends before embarking on the business of governing. No faith or religious denomination is intended to be favored or preferred.

1. Invocation Opportunity. An opportunity for an invocation will be provided at the beginning of City Council Regular and Special meetings.
2. Definitions.
  - a. A regular meeting of the city council is a meeting generally conducted on the first and third Wednesdays of the month.
  - b. A special meeting of the city council is a meeting scheduled and held as the council deems necessary to transact the business of the city.
3. Guidelines.
  - a. Providing the Invocation. Religious leaders who reside within the City of Manor may notify the City Secretary in writing of their interest and willingness to give an invocation at a City Council Regular or Special meeting. Religious leaders expressing such interest will be scheduled on a “first-come first-served basis”.
  - b. Scheduling and Council Rotation. If a religious leader should cancel or if no request has been submitted to the City Secretary by 5:00pm of the Monday of the week preceding the City Council meeting, a Council Member may be scheduled to provide the invocation. The City Secretary will schedule Council Members to provide the invocation based on a rotation list so that each council Member has an opportunity to provide the invocation. A Council Member may decline to give an invocation.
  - c. No Proselytizing or Disparaging. The invocation must not be used to proselytize or advance any one faith or belief or to disparage any other faith or belief.

- d. Voluntary Participation. No one will be required to participate in any invocation. Persons will not be treated differently based on whether they participate in the invocation.
- e. No Compensation. A person who delivers an invocation is not eligible for and shall not receive compensation.
- f. Time Limitation. An invocation should be limited to no more than one (1) minute.
- g. This policy is not intended and shall not be implemented or construed in any way, to affiliate the City Council with, nor express the City Council's preference for, any faith or religious denomination.