

ORDINANCE NO. 2023 - 04

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA, REPEALING AND REPLACING ARTICLE II, SECTION 2-26 ENTITLED "CITY COMMISSION MEETINGS GENERALLY" AND 2-29 ENTITLED "ORDER OF BUSINESS"; RENUMBERING AND REORDERING AS NECESSARY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Pahokee ("City Commission") desires to revise its Rules of Procedure by revising Article II, Section 2-26, of the City of Pahokee's Code of Ordinances.

WHEREAS, the City Commission desires to revise its Rules of Procedure by revising Article II, Section 2-29, of the City of Pahokee's Code of Ordinances.

WHEREAS, the City Commission finds that it would operate more efficiently if revised Rules of Procedure were adopted and followed.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Amending Section 2-26 of the City of Pahokee Code of Ordinances entitled "City Commission Meetings Generally", which shall be replaced and shall read as follows

City commission meetings generally.

(a) *Ground rules for decorum regarding members of the city commission.* The following shall constitute the guidelines for decorum to be adhered to by members of the city commission in their respective roles as elected public officers of the city:

- (1) Members of the city commission shall:
 - A. Each conducts themselves with dignity;
 - B. Agree to disagree with each other; and
 - C. Show respect for the points of view of other members of the city commission.

- (2) Members of the city commission shall not:
 - A. Falsely accuse another member of the city commission of wrongdoing;
 - B. Criticize each other in a rancorous or unprofessional manner;
 - C. Make personal attacks on another member of the city commission; or
 - D. Individually act without the support of the city commission.

(b) *Procedures, Scope and Taking Action for Noncompliance.*

(1) The City of Pahokee city commission is permitted by Florida law to determine its own rules of procedure. Unless otherwise set forth herein, all municipal meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the procedural requirements as established by Robert's Rules of Order, said rules of order being incorporated into this section by reference.

(2) The City Commission, the City Manager, the City Clerk, and the public shall be governed by the terms, conditions, and provisions of this section as the basis and framework for procedures of the City Commission.

(3) Members of the city commission and other public officers attending or participating in any regular or special meeting of the city commission shall abide by the standards of conduct and values set forth by to Code of Ethics for Public Officers to be established by the Commission.

(4) Members of the City Commission are expected to ensure proper decorum during all meetings of the City. If, after a warning from the Mayor, a City Commissioner is found to be disruptive in such a manner whereby business cannot be conducted as determined by the Mayor, the Mayor shall instruct law enforcement to remove a disruptive City Commissioner from the commission chambers for that meeting. A decision made by the Mayor may be overridden by a vote of any three (3) members of the City Commission.

(5) If a member of the public, City staff or Charter Officer of the City is found to be disruptive in such a manner whereby business cannot be conducted as determined by the Mayor, the Mayor shall instruct law enforcement to remove said person from the commission chambers for that meeting. A decision made by the Mayor may be overridden by a vote of any three (3) members of the City Commission.

(c) *Agenda.* Unless otherwise set forth herein, City Commissioners shall agree by majority vote on items to be placed on a Commission agenda. Decisions regarding the placement of an agenda item shall be made by the Commission no later than the meeting immediately preceding the placement of the item to be discussed and voted upon. A portion of each regular commission agenda shall be set aside for discussion of future agenda items.

The City Manager and the City Attorney may agenda an item for discussion and vote, without Commission consideration, if the item involves the regular business and administration for smooth operations of the City.

(d) *Duties and responsibilities of mayor.*

(1) The mayor or presiding officer at any regular or special meeting of the city commission shall only introduce agenda items by the agenda item number and the brief title as listed on the agenda with no further explanation or comment. Thereafter, the mayor or presiding officer may call on the City Manager, and the City Manager or his or her designee shall furnish a brief explanation of the item under consideration. The item shall then be opened for public hearing, if applicable, or discussion by the city commission as required for the particular item under the time limits imposed by this section.

(2) Any comments or questions by the attending public shall be directed to the mayor or presiding officer. Members of the city commission shall direct all comments and questions on the subject matter being discussed to the mayor or presiding officer only and shall not engage in cross conversations with other members of the public or direct any questions to other members of the city commission or to the public. The mayor or presiding officer shall not unreasonably withhold or delay recognition of any member of the city commission desiring to speak. The mayor or presiding officer shall recognize other members of the city commission in rotation and not call on any member a second and subsequent time until such time as all members of the city commission shall have had the opportunity to speak.

(3) If the mayor or presiding officer desires to participate in a discussion, he or she shall do so only when the speaking member of the city commission has relinquished the floor. The mayor or presiding officer shall not interrupt a speaking member of the city commission for the purpose of comment other than to move the discussion forward.

(4) The mayor or presiding officer shall not use his or her power as chair to dominate debate or discussion, nor shall the mayor or presiding officer unreasonably cut short or prolong any debate, discussion, or taking of a vote.

(5) Motions to change the order of business shall require a majority vote of the city commission.

(7) The mayor or presiding officer, in consultation with the city attorney, shall make rulings on parliamentary procedure. At least three (3) votes of members of the city commission is required to overrule the mayor or presiding officer on rulings of parliamentary procedure.

(8) The mayor or presiding officer may, during city commission proceedings, request that the city commission move on to the next item on the meeting agenda by voting or otherwise.

(e) *Time of meetings.* All regularly scheduled meetings of the city commission shall begin not later than 6:30 p.m., and shall end no later than 9:00 p.m. Any items remaining on the agenda shall be placed under Old Business for the next commission agenda. In setting matters over to the next meeting or a special meeting, the city clerk is directed to take into consideration all notice provisions relative to municipal ordinances and, specifically, Florida Statutes, Section 166.041.

(f) *City commission discussion.*

(1) Discussion by a member of the city commission shall not be limited, unless a motion to limit debate is made and adopted. Each member of the city commission shall be afforded the opportunity to offer rebuttal to each item discussed. A motion to limit debate shall take precedence over all motions, except a motion to adjourn, a point of order, or a motion to table.

(2) Each member of the city commission and the public who desires to speak shall address the mayor or presiding officer, and upon recognition by the mayor or presiding officer, shall confine himself or herself to the issues under debate, avoiding all personalities and indecorous language.

(3) Members of the city commission shall not interrupt anyone who has the floor, unless it is to call the meeting to order, or as otherwise provided in this section. If a member of the city commission desires to direct questions to another member of the city commission or the public, the questions shall be directed to the mayor or presiding officer who in turn will recognize the individual who wishes to answer the specific question.

(4) While the city commission is in session, members of the city commission and the public present at the meeting shall not, by conversation or otherwise, delay or interrupt the proceedings or the peace of the city commission. There shall be no audience outburst and disruptive conversation from members of the public.

(g) *Citizen's Rights*

(1) *Right to be Heard:* Members of the public shall be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard on agenda items except as provided for below. Public input shall be limited to three (3) minutes. This right does not apply to:

i. An official act that must be taken to deal with an emergency situation affecting the public health, welfare, or safety, if compliance with the requirements would cause an unreasonable delay in the ability of the Commission to act.

- ii. An official act involving no more than a ministerial act, including, but not limited to, approval of minutes and ceremonial proclamations;
- iii. A meeting that is exempt from Section 286.011, Florida Statutes; or
- iv. A meeting during which the Commission is acting in a quasi-judicial capacity. This paragraph does not affect the right of a person to be heard as otherwise provided by law.

(h) *Manner of Addressing the Commission - Time Limit:* Each person addressing the Commission shall sign in with the City Clerk no later than five minutes from the start of the meeting. Persons shall step up to the microphone, shall give his/her name and address in an audible tone of voice for the record and, unless further time is granted by the Commission, shall limit his/her address to three (3) minutes. All remarks shall be addressed to the Commission as a body, and not to any member thereof. No person, other than members of the Commission and the person having the floor, shall be permitted to enter into any discussion, either directly or through the members of the Commission. When requested by any member of the Commission the City Manager, City Attorney, as well as staff members, may enter into any discussion. No questions shall be asked the Commissioners, except through the presiding officer. The City Manger and the City Attorney may ask the Chair for permission to speak at any time. Questions regarding day-to-day operations should be directed to the City Manager for an answer at a later time.

i) *Personal and Slanderous Remarks:* Any person making personal, impertinent or slanderous remarks, or who shall become boisterous, while addressing the Commission may be requested to leave the meeting and may be forthwith, by the presiding officer, barred from further audience before the Commission at the meeting from which ejected.

(j) *Freedom of Expression.* Nothing herein shall be construed to limit any member of the public from expressing their opinions outside of a public meeting.

(k) *Application to city boards.* All references in this section to "city commission" shall also mean the various city boards provided for in this code or created by the city commission.

(l) *Special meetings.* Special meetings of the governing body shall be called solely for specific and stated purposes only. It is the intention of the city commission that no items shall be added to a special meeting agenda other than those items for which the meeting was called.

(m) *Quorum and dismissal from City boards/committees.* The majority of the voting members present at any Board/Committee meeting shall constitute a quorum to conduct business. Board/ Committee members shall be removed from a board/committee for missing three (3) consecutive committee meetings or four (4) total meetings during any fiscal year, unless due to illness or excused by a vote of the City Commission.

Board/Committee members shall serve at the pleasure of the commission and may be suspended and removed for other just cause. Any committee/board member who

becomes a candidate for public elective office, or becomes an employee of city, shall automatically forfeit committee membership status.

Section 2. Amending Section 2-29 of the City of Pahokee's Code of Ordinances entitled "Order of Business", shall be replaced and shall read as follows:

Order of Business.

The following order of business shall be observed:

- a. Call to Order
- b. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance;
- c. Roll call;
- d. Additions of emergency basis from City Manager, deletions and approval of agenda items;
- e. Public Comments/Public Service Announcements/Presentations/Proclamations
- f. Consent agenda;
- g. Old Business (discussion of existing activities or previously held events, if any)
- h. Public Hearings and/or Ordinances
- i. Resolution (s)
- j. New Business (~~conversation about an~~ Presentation by city manager of activity or upcoming event, if any);
- k. Report of the mayor;
- l. Report of the city manager;
- m. Report of the city attorney;
- ~~n. Commissioners Comments~~
- n. Future Agenda Items of Commissioners, if any.
- p. For the Good Of The Order (community events, feel good announcements), if any
- q. Adjourn.

At all special meetings, the regular order shall be dispensed with after the roll call with the exception of public comment which shall be three (3) minutes per person.

Section 3. City commissioners' votes recorded on ordinances and resolutions.

Each city commissioner's vote shall be recorded on all ordinances and resolutions presented to the city commission.

Section 4. Votes required to pass resolutions.

A minimum of three (3) votes in favor of a resolution is required to effect passage of the resolution.

Section 5. Requests for readily available information; reporting citizen complaints.

When requesting readily available information or documents not requiring research or analysis, or relaying citizen complaints regarding code enforcement violations, members of the city commission may deal directly with department director under the direction and supervision of the City Manager for questions only. For all other inquiries, requests for action or assistance, or reports, including but not limited to complaints regarding, by, or about employees of the city, members of the city commission shall deal solely with the City Manager. All follow-up to inquiries by members of the city commission shall be made to the City Manager. No orders may be given to any City employee by any City Commissioner.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit any member of the city commission to suggest, direct, or instruct any city staff member to perform any duties or functions, not previously directed by the City Manager or to resolve citizen complaints in a specific manner.

Section 6. Clerk designated custodian, duties.

The City Clerk shall be the custodian of the public records of the city for all purposes consistent with Florida law. Any public record coming into the possession of any officer, official, employee, agent or servant of the city. All public records received by the city clerk shall have placed thereon an appropriate designation as to the time and date of receipt. Duplicates of any instruments or records of which the city clerk has the original, need not be filed with the city clerk.

Section 7. Inspection by citizens.

The public records of the city shall be open for inspection of any interested person or party during the customary business hours of the city clerk's office, subject however to the proper rules and regulations for the efficient conduct of the clerk's business and Florida law.

Section 8. Removing or withholding from custodian.

No person shall remove, conceal, withhold, retain or keep any public record from the lawful custody of the city clerk.

Section 9. Public hearings.

It is the intent of this provision to provide citizens of the City of Pahokee with the earliest opportunity to comment on proposed ordinances. Public hearings shall be held at the second reading of the ordinance, except as otherwise provided by law.

Section 10. Indemnification of municipal offices for losses and expenses incurred in defense of litigation instituted against official for actions in discharging municipal duties.

(a) *Definitions.*

- (1) "Official" shall mean the mayor, every city commissioner, officer, agent, or employee of the city, whether elected, appointed or employed, with or without compensation.
- (2) "Indemnification" shall include the payment of all expenses and losses, including reasonable counsel fees, paid, incurred or imposed upon an official as a result of any litigation or proceeding.
- (3) "Expense" shall include any monies paid by an official and incurred in the defense or settlement of any litigation or proceeding, including but not limited to, legal fees, costs of litigation, and the amount of any settlement, judgment or verdict.

(b) *Indemnification.*

(1) Whenever in the performance of, or in connection with the performance of, official duties in behalf of the city, an official has been involved or shall hereafter be involved in a dispute, proceeding or litigation, either in a representative or individual capacity, with or without the city as a co-party in the matter, the city shall promptly indemnify said official. The city shall promptly preserve, protect, defend, aid and assist said official, and exonerate, indemnify and hold harmless said official from and against any and all expenses, liabilities, claims, demands, proceedings, damages, losses, charges, advances, disbursements, payments, expenses, costs, including reasonable counsel fees following approval of commission, awards, settlements, judgments, decrees and mandates, paid, incurred by, or imposed upon said official in all disputes, proceedings, trials and appeals, by reason of said official being or having been a city official, even though he is no longer an official at the time the expenses are incurred or the claims are made against him. The protection herein guaranteed shall exist during and after the term of office or employment, for liabilities incurred during the term of office or employment if in the persons official capacity.

(2) Each official protected hereby shall promptly cooperate in his or her own defense, and shall:

- A. File a written notice with the City Manager requesting indemnification, which notice shall include all summons, writs and other documents pertaining to the claim made against said official;
- B. Attend hearings, trials, and depositions and furnish such evidence as shall be needed;
- C. Grant the city full rights of subrogation and the right to recover under any claims, offsets, or counterclaims of the protected official arising out of or in connection with the controversy involved in this section; provided, that if the protected official shall recover any sum, then the city shall deduct all

disbursements, costs, and expenses of litigation including attorneys' fees, and any award against the city, and the remainder shall belong to the protected official;

D. Execute and deliver to the city all assignments, papers, and documents needed to carry out the purposes of this section.

(3) If at any time it shall appear that the controversy has no connection with official duties, the city commission may require an investigation and report by the City Manager and/or City Attorney. The city may, for good cause, refuse to proceed with the indemnification or defense by use of the following procedure:

A. The official shall be given a written notice, at least twenty (20) days before a hearing, and a written complaint showing that the controversy has no connection with official duties. The notice shall state the particulars of the complaint with enough detail so that the person may prepare his defense;

B. At the hearing, which shall be before the city commission, the city and the official shall produce witnesses who shall give sworn testimony;

C. At the conclusion of the hearing, the commission shall make its findings of fact and conclusions on the evidence. If the commission shall find that the controversy has no connection with official duties, and involves only a private or personal matter, then the commission may refuse to proceed with the indemnification and defense.

(4) After final determination the city may, for good cause, refuse to pay any judgment or decree entered against any official by following this procedure after a final judgment or decree, including any appellate proceedings:

A. The official shall be given a written notice, at least twenty (20) days before a hearing, and a written complaint showing that he did not act in good faith and was guilty of a flagrant, willful, and intentional violation of a city ordinance or a law of Florida. The notice shall state the particulars of the complaint with enough detail so that the person may prepare his defense;

B. At the hearing, which shall be before the city commission, the city and the official shall produce witnesses who shall give sworn testimony;

C. At the conclusion of the hearing the commission shall make its findings of fact and conclusions on the evidence. If the commission shall conclude that the official did not act in good faith and was guilty of a flagrant, willful and intentional violation of a city ordinance or a law of Florida, then the commission may refuse to pay all or a part of said judgment or decree;

D. If the official shall willfully fail or refuse to cooperate in his defense, then the commission may, to the extent that the city was damaged thereby, reduce the protection and indemnification provided under this section.

(5) At all hearings hereunder the sole question shall be the obligation of the city to indemnify the official, and the merits of the claim made against the official shall not be an issue, so that the defense of the claim shall not be prejudiced.

Section 11. Settlement of claims; administrative procedure for expeditious processing of claims against and in favor of City.

(a) In those instances where municipal property has been damaged or municipal employees have been injured due to the actions of third parties, and municipal funds have been or will be expended for property repairs or medical costs, recovery shall be sought as follows:

(1) The City Manager shall evaluate all such claims and shall attempt to secure full reimbursement.

(2) To the extent that a specific fund is budgeted, whenever the municipal claim can be satisfied in full and the city completely indemnified, the City Manager shall be authorized to release the third party from liability upon payment in full. If the amount of the claim is more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00), the form of the release shall be reviewed and approved by the city attorney and approved by the City Commission before being executed and provided to the person/party being released.

(3) Whenever partial settlement of a municipal claim has been offered, the City Manager shall coordinate with the applicable insurance carrier and City Attorney and evaluate the settlement offer as follows:

A. If the total amount of the municipal claim involved is five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) or less, the City Manager shall be authorized to settle the claim.

B. If the total amount of the municipal claim involved is more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00), the City Manager shall cause the proposed settlement to be placed upon the agenda of the next regularly scheduled meeting of the city commission. Upon recommendation by the City Manager, the city commission shall then determine whether or not to accept the proposed settlement offer.

(4) The City Attorney shall be available to advise the city commission and the City Manager at all stages of the above proceedings.

(5) In those instances where settlement of municipal claims cannot be effected within a reasonable time, the City Attorney, with an approving vote of the city commission, shall file the appropriate lawsuit to effect collection of the claim.

(6) The City Commission shall be notified by the City Manager at the next regular City Commission meeting of the amount of any claim settled by the City Manager.

Section 12. Severability.

If any provision of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Ordinance that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable.

Section 13. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage.

PASSED FIRST READING this 14th day of February 2023.

PASSED SECOND READING this ___ day of _____ 2023.

Keith W. Babb, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

Nylene Clarke, Acting City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

Burnadette Norris-Weeks, Esq.
City Attorney

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

VOTE:

Commissioner Boldin	_____ (Yes)	_____ (No)
Commissioner Gonzalez	_____ (Yes)	_____ (No)
Commissioner Perez	_____ (Yes)	_____ (No)
Vice-Mayor Murvin	_____ (Yes)	_____ (No)
Mayor Babb	_____ (Yes)	_____ (No)