

SIDNEY CITY COUNCIL

Powers and Duties

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Article I. Council Powers and Duties

1. Drafting and passage of laws.

The city council has the power to make and pass all bylaws, ordinances, orders and resolutions, not repugnant to the Constitution of the United States or the state of Montana, or of the provisions of state law, necessary for the government or management of the affairs of the city, for the execution of the powers vested in the body corporate, and for carrying into effect the provisions of Title 7 of the Montana Code Annotated.

2. Prescribing duties and compensation of officers.

The city council has power to fix compensation and to prescribe the duties of all officers and other employees of the city, subject to the limitations mentioned in the Montana Code Annotated.

3. Requiring reports from officers.

The city council has the power to require from any officer at any time a report in detail of the transaction in his office, or any matter connected therewith.

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4. Contracts.

The city council has the power to make any and all contracts necessary to carry into effect the powers granted by state law. and to provide for the manner of executing same.

5. Regulations authorizing arrest.

The city council has the power to make regulations authorizing the police of the city to make arrests of persons charged with crime, within the limits of the city and within five miles thereof, and along the line of water supply of the city.

6. Imposition of penalties.

The city council has the power to impose fines and penalties for the violation of any city ordinance, but no fine or penalty must exceed five hundred dollars, and no imprisonment must exceed six months for anyone offense.

Article II. Council Composition and Meetings

1. Alderman-Qualifications required.

No person is eligible for the office of alderman unless he is a resident for at least sixty days preceding the election to office of the ward electing him or of an area which has been annexed by the city and placed in the ward.

2. Meeting-Presiding officer.

The presiding officer of the council shall be the mayor who shall decide all tie votes of the council but have no other vote. The chairman of the council (called the president) shall preside if the mayor is absent. The vice chairman of the council (called the vice president) shall preside if both the mayor and vice president are absent.

3. President Election and term

The council shall have a chairman called the president who shall be elected by the members of the council from their own number for a two-year term. The council shall also have a vice chairman called the vice president who shall be elected by the members of the council from their own number for a two-year term.

4. Rescinded action.

No vote or action of the city council shall be rescinded at any special meeting unless there be present at such meeting as many members of the council as were present at the meeting when such vote or action was taken, as provided by statute.

5. Resolutions

Any resolution or motion submitted to the city council shall be reduced to writing before being voted upon at the request of any two members of the council.

6. Meetings

a. Who may address.

No person other than the mayor or a member of the city council or other city officer or

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employee shall address that body at any regular or special meeting of the council except upon consent of the mayor or of a majority of the members present without debate.

b. Debate.

No member shall speak in debate more than twice on the same question on the same day, or longer than three minutes, without permission of the council granted by two-thirds vote without debate.

c. Suspension of rules.

The rules of order, other than those prescribed by statute, may be suspended at any time by consent of a two-thirds vote of the members present at any meeting without debate. (Prior code § 2.12.140)

d. Robert's Rules of Order.

Except when in conflict with the foregoing provisions, Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the deliberations of the council.

e. Disturbing prohibited.

It is unlawful for any person to disturb any meeting of the council or of any committee thereof; any person violating the provisions of this section shall be fined not less than one dollar nor more than ten dollars for each offense.

7. Standing committees.

At the first regular meeting of the council, after the first Monday in January following a city election, the council president shall appoint standing committees as follows:

- Public Works
- Budget and Finance
- Public Safety

Each committee shall consist of not more than three councilpersons and such other private individuals as the mayor shall appoint. All appointments shall be approved by a majority of the council. Each committee shall meet monthly at a time and date designated after the first regular meeting of the council for the calendar year. Additional meetings can be scheduled with the approval of the council.

8. Special committees.

The mayor shall from time to time appoint such other standing or temporary committees of the council as shall be authorized, for any purpose by a majority vote of the council.