

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-68

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARINA
AMENDING THE RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE CONDUCT OF
MEETINGS

WHEREAS, at the regular meeting of December 12, 1980, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 80-71 Establishing the Rules and Procedures for the Conduct of Meetings of the City Council (“Rules and Procedures”);

WHEREAS, the City Council previously amended the Rules and Procedures by adopting Resolution Nos. 85-1, 90-09, 91-17, 92-30, 94-15, 98-03, 99-01, 2001-106, 2009-41, 2011-32, 2011-33, 2011-65, and 2019-107 (collectively, “Amendments”);

WHEREAS, at its meeting on November 15, 2022, the Council approved Resolution 2022-138 authorizing revisions to the Rules and Procedures;

WHEREAS, staff proposes further modifications to Rules and Procedures, as provided in Exhibit A attached hereto, specifically to Paragraph 7 regarding Council Correspondence, Paragraph 8 regarding the Consideration and Sequence of Agenda Items, Paragraph 13 regarding Debate, and new Paragraph 21 regarding Ex Parte Disclosures; and

WHEREAS, amendment of the Rules and Procedures is not subject to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as it is not a “project” pursuant to Section 15378 of the CEQA Guidelines.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARINA DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals. The Recitals set forth above are true and correct and are incorporated into this Resolution by this reference.

Section 2. Rules and Procedures. The Rules and Procedures shall be modified as set forth in Exhibit A, RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE MEETINGS OF THE MARINA CITY COUNCIL AND AMENDMENTS, attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

Section 3. Effective Date of Resolution. This Resolution shall take effect on immediately upon its passage and adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Marina at a regular meeting held this 20th day of June 2023, by the following vote:

AYES, COUNCIL MEMBERS: Visscher, McCarthy, Biala, Medina Dirksen, Delgado

NOES, COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

ABSENT, COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

ABSTAIN, COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

Bruce C. Delgado, Mayor

ATTEST:

Anita Sharp, Deputy City Clerk

**RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR
THE CONDUCT OF THE MEETINGS OF THE MARINA CITY COUNCIL
AND AMENDMENTS**

1. Purpose. The purpose of these Rules is to establish the procedure for the presentation and determination of matters coming before the Marina City Council, to provide for the fair and efficient consideration of said matters, and to insure that the public is fully informed of the matters coming before the City Council and has an opportunity to witness the deliberations of the members thereof in the conduct of public business, and that proper public involvement in the deliberations of the council be encouraged.

2. Regular Meetings. The City Council shall hold regular meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month convening at the hour of 5:00 p.m. if there is to be a closed session and convening in open session at the hour of 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 211 Hillcrest Avenue in the City, or such other place within the City limits to which said meeting may be adjourned. If by reason of fire, flood or other emergency it shall be unsafe to meet in City Hall, the meetings may be held for the duration of the emergency at such other place and at such hour as is designated by the Mayor or, if he should fail to act, by three members of the City Council. When the day for any regular meeting falls on a legal holiday, no meeting shall be held on such holiday, but a regular meeting shall be held at the same hour on the following business day.

3. Study Sessions. The City Council shall meet in a study session on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at the hour of 7:00 o'clock p.m. in the Council Chamber of the City Hall, or at such other place as may be determined by the Council, for the purpose of hearing reports from the staff and reviewing, discussing and debating matters of interest to the City. Such sessions shall be open to the public and press. No official action shall be taken at a study session; provided, however, that nothing herein shall be deemed to prevent the taking of an informal vote on any matter under discussion. The participation of the public in such sessions shall be subject to the discretion of the presiding officer.

4. Special Meetings. Special meetings may be called at any time by the mayor, or by three members of the City Council, by delivering personally or by mail written notice to each Council Member and to each local newspaper of general circulation, radio or television station requesting notice in writing. Such notice must be delivered personally or by mail at least twenty-four hours before the time of such meeting as specified in the notice. The call and notice shall specify the time and place of the special meeting and the business to be transacted. No other business shall be considered at such meetings. Such written notice may be dispensed with as to any Council Member who at or prior to the time the meeting convenes files with the City Clerk a written waiver of notice. Such waiver may be given by telegram. Such written notice may also be dispensed with as to any Council Member who is actually present at the meeting at the time it convenes.

5. Meetings to be Public - Exception for Executive Sessions. All regular and special meetings of the City Council shall be public; provided, however, the City Council may hold executive sessions during a regular or special meeting, from which the public may be excluded,

for the purpose of considering the matters referred to in §§54957-54957.6 of the Government Code of the State of California, as may be amended.

No member of the City Council, employee of the City, or any other person present during an executive session of the Council shall disclose to any person the content or substance of any discussion which took place during said executive session unless the City Council shall authorize the disclosure of such information by majority vote.

6. Agenda. All reports, communications, ordinances, resolutions, contract documents or other matters to be submitted to the Council at a regular meeting shall be delivered to the City Clerk not later than 12:00 o'clock noon on the Wednesday preceding the meeting. The City Clerk shall prepare an agenda of all such matters according to the order of business (paragraph 8 herein below). The agenda shall be delivered or otherwise made available to the Council Members on the Friday preceding the Tuesday Council meeting to which it pertains, and shall be made available to the public no later than 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the Monday preceding the meeting. All matters shall be considered by the Council in the order listed on the agenda, to the extent of time available; provided, however, that the order of the agenda may be changed at any time by the unanimous consent of all Council Members then present at a meeting. Agenda items not considered or completed for lack of time shall become agenda items at the following meeting in accordance with the foregoing policies. No matters other than those on the agenda shall be finally acted upon by the Council; provided, however, that a matter deemed to be an emergency by any Council Member, the City Manager or the City Attorney, or a matter which would become moot if not acted upon at the council meeting at which it is brought up, with an explanation of the emergency or other necessity for bringing it up stated in open council meeting, may be placed upon the agenda by a motion, seconded and carried, and then may be considered and acted upon by the Council.

7. Council Correspondence.

a) Availability to the Public. Correspondence addressed to the City Council which is received by the City Clerk or any other officer or employee of the City *becomes a disclosable public record, unless subject to an exemptions under the California Public Records Act, as soon as it is received.* Correspondence received in the City Clerk's office or other offices after 12:00 o'clock noon on the Wednesday preceding a regular meeting shall not be placed on the agenda unless it concerns a matter to be considered by the Council at the next regular meeting or is determined by the Mayor or the City Manager to be an urgent matter which should be brought to the immediate attention of the Council. Correspondence shall not be read aloud at a Council meeting unless requested by a majority vote of the Council.

Authority of City Manager. The City Manager is authorized to open and examine all mail or other written communications addressed to the City Council and to give it immediate attention to the end that all administrative business referred to in said communications and not necessarily requiring Council action may be acted upon between Council meetings.

8. Order of Business and Consideration and Sequence of Agenda Items.

a) The business of the Council shall be taken up for consideration and disposition in the following order:

1. Call to Order 5:00 p.m. (if there is to be a Closed Session)
2. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum
3. Closed Session (if any)
4. Open Regular Session (6:30 p.m.) - Report Any Action taken in Closed Session
5. Moment of Silence & Pledge of Allegiance
6. Special Presentations
7. Council and Staff Announcements
8. Public Comment – up to a maximum of three (3) minutes
9. Consent Agenda
10. Public Hearings
11. Other Council Action Items
12. Council & Staff Informational Reports
13. Adjournment

b) The Mayor, at their discretion and subject to majority vote overruling them, may re-arrange agenda items, provided that any items ‘pulled’ from Item 9, ‘Consent Agenda’ shall be considered following the last item of Item 11, ‘Other Council Action Items’.

c) The following shall be the procedure for consideration and sequence of each Agenda Item, including Public Hearings:

1. Mayor Introduces the Agenda Item
2. City Manager/Executive Director (or designee/Council Member) Presents Staff Report
3. Applicant/proponent, when appropriate, up to 10 minutes (at Presiding Officer’s discretion)
4. Public Comments
5. Mayor Closes Public Hearing/Public Comments
6. Council Discussion
7. Council Motion and Brief Comment (1 minute each)
8. Council Vote

9. Preparation of Minutes. The City Clerk shall have exclusive responsibility for preparation of action minutes, and any directions for changes in the minutes shall be made only by majority action of the City Council.

10. Reading of Minutes. Unless the reading of the minutes of a Council meeting is ordered by a majority vote of the Council, such minutes may be approved without reading if the City Clerk has previously furnished each Council Member with a copy.

11. Presiding Officer. The Mayor shall be the Presiding Officer at all meetings of the City Council. In the absence of the Mayor, the Mayor Pro Tempore shall preside. In the absence of both the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tempore, the City Clerk shall call the Council to order, whereupon a temporary Presiding Officer shall be elected by the Council Members present to serve until the arrival of the Mayor or Mayor Pro Tempore or until adjournment. Wherever in these Rules the term Mayor is used, it shall apply equally to the Presiding Officer as defined in this section.

12. Powers and Duties of Presiding Officer.

- a) Participation. The Presiding Officer may move, second, debate and vote from the Chair.
- b) Question to be Stated. The Presiding Officer or such member of the City staff as they may designate shall verbally restate each question immediately prior to calling for the vote. Following the vote the City Clerk shall announce whether the question carried or was defeated. The Presiding Officer in their discretion may publicly explain the effect of a vote for the audience, or may direct a member of the City staff to do so, before proceeding to the next item of business.
- c) Signing of Documents. The Presiding Officer shall sign all ordinances, resolutions, contracts, and other documents necessitating their signature which were adopted in their presence, unless they are unavailable, in which case the signature of an alternate Presiding Officer may be used.
- d) Sworn Testimony. The Presiding Officer may require any person addressing the City Council to be sworn as a witness and to testify under oath, and the Presiding Officer shall so require if directed to do so by a majority vote of the Council.

13. Rules of Debate.

- a) Getting the Floor. Every Council Member desiring to speak shall first address the Chair, gain recognition by the Presiding Officer, and shall confine themselves to the question under debate, avoiding personalities and indecorous language.
- b) Questions to Staff. Every Council Member desiring to question the City staff shall, after recognition by the Presiding Officer, address their questions to the City Manager, the City Attorney, or to such other department head or member of the City staff as may be appropriate.
- c) Interruptions. A Council Member, once recognized, shall not be interrupted when speaking unless called to order by the Presiding Officer, unless a point of order or personal privilege is raised by another Council Member, or unless the speaker chooses to yield to a question by another Council Member. If a Council Member while speaking is called to order, they shall cease speaking until the question of order is determined and, if determined to be in order, may then proceed. Members of the City staff, after recognition by the Presiding Officer,

shall hold the floor until completion of their remarks or until recognition is withdrawn by the Presiding Officer.

d) Points of Order. The Presiding Officer shall determine all points of order subject to the right of any Council Member to appeal to the Council. The Presiding Officer may consult with the City Manager or the City Attorney in connection with determining a point of order, or may refer the question involved to either one for determination. If an appeal is taken, the question shall be, "Shall the decision of the Presiding Officer be sustained?" A majority vote shall conclusively determine such question of order.

e) Point of Personal Privilege. The right of a Council Member to address the Council on a question of personal privilege shall be limited to cases in which their integrity, character or motives are questioned or where the welfare of the Council is concerned. A Council Member raising a point of personal privilege may interrupt another Council Member who has the floor only if the Presiding Officer recognizes the privilege.

f) Privilege of Closing Debate. The Council Member moving the adoption of an ordinance, resolution or motion shall have the privilege of closing debate.

g) Limitation of Debate. No Council Member shall be allowed to speak more than once upon any particular subject until every other Council Member desiring to do so shall have spoken. During each round of discussion, each Council Member shall be allowed to speak for up to five (5) minutes.

14. Ordinances, Resolution and Motions--Precedents. When an ordinance, resolution or motion is properly brought before the Council and seconded by another Council Member, no other action shall be considered except a point of order, or a motion to adjourn to table, to table to a certain time, to close debate, to refer or to amend. Such items shall have precedence in the order stated in the preceding sentence. Points of order shall be ruled upon by the Presiding Officer, provided that such ruling may be overridden by a majority of the Council. All of such motions, except motions to amend, shall be put to a vote without debate and decided by a majority.

Any of the foregoing motions shall be in order at any time the speaker is duly recognized, except when repeated without intervening business or discussion, or if made when the motion to close debate has been adopted or while a vote is being taken.

a) Motion to Table. If a motion to table (without time certain) passes, consideration of the matter may be resumed only upon the motion of a member voting with the majority on the motion to table.

b) Motion to Close Debate. When a motion to close debate is duly made and seconded, there shall be no further debate. If the question carries, the Presiding Officer shall put pending amendment to a vote, without debate, in the inverse order of their introduction before putting the main question. If the question is decided negatively, the main question and its amendments remain before the council

c) Reconsideration. Providing that no intervening rights will be prejudiced, any Council Member who voted with the majority on a question may move the reconsideration of that question at the same meeting in which the original decision was made or at the next following meeting. After a motion for reconsideration has been acted upon, no other similar motion shall be made without unanimous consent.

15. Voting. Three affirmative votes are required to enact an ordinance or to adopt a resolution or motion granting a franchise or authorizing the payment or expenditure of money or incurring of a debt. The majority of a quorum is required to adopt other resolutions or motions. A “majority” refers to a majority of the quorum present.

Every ordinance shall be adopted by a roll call vote. All other matters may be referred to a vote unless a roll call is requested by any Council Member. On all matters for which a voice vote is authorized, the Presiding Officer may ask for, “objections to the question?” If no objection is expressed, the Presiding Officer shall, “so order,” and the minutes shall record a unanimous vote in favor. If any Council Member objects to the procedure, a roll call vote shall be call in the normal manner.

After a vote has been announced, and except for comments pursuant to Rule 22, no Council member shall comment or continue to debate the vote.

16. Failure to Vote. Every Council Member should vote unless disqualified by reason of a conflict of interest. A Council Member who abstains from voting in effect consents that a majority of the quorum may decide the question voted upon.

17. Silence Constitutes Affirmative Vote. Unless a member of the Council states that they are not voting, their silence shall be recorded as an affirmative vote.

18. Tie Vote. Tie votes shall be lost motions and may be reconsidered.

19. Changing Vote. A member may change their vote only if they make a timely request to do so immediately following the announcement of the vote by the City Clerk and prior to the time that the next item in the order of business is taken up. A Council Member who publicly announces that they are abstaining from voting on a particular matter shall not subsequently be allowed to withdraw their abstention.

20. Disqualification for Conflict of Interest. Any Council Member who is disqualified from voting on a particular matter by reason of a conflict of interest shall publicly state or have the Presiding Officer state the nature of such disqualification in open meeting. Where no clearly disqualifying conflict of interest appears, the matter of disqualification may, at the request of the Council Member affected, be decided by the other Council Members or the City Attorney. A Council Member who is disqualified by reason of a conflict in interest in any matter shall not remain in their seat during the debate and vote on such matter, but shall request and be given the permission of the Presiding Officer to step down from the Council table. The Council Member

stating such disqualification shall not be counted as a part of a quorum and shall be considered absent for the purpose of determining the outcome of any vote on such matter.

21. Ex Parte Communications for Quasi-Judicial Matters. On quasi-judicial matters, Councilmembers shall verbally disclose off the record contacts relating to the item, after the item is called and before Council consideration of the matter. Disclosure shall include the identity of an individual(s) with whom the Council Member had contact, and the nature of the contact. Written ex parte communications must be forwarded to the City Clerk so they can be provided to the entire Council and to the public.

22. Remarks of Council Member and Synopsis of Debate. A Council Member may request through the Presiding Officer the privilege of having an abstract of their statement on any subject under consideration by the Council entered in the minutes. If the Council consents thereto, such statement shall be entered in the minutes.

23. Protest against Council Action. Any Council Member shall have the right to have the reasons for their dissent from, or protest against, any action of the Council entered in the minutes. Such dissent or protest to be entered in the minutes shall be made in the following manner: "I would like the minutes to show that I am opposed to this action for the following reasons...".

24. Rules of Order. Except as otherwise provided in these Rules, other rules adopted by the City Council or applicable provisions of State law, the procedures of the Council shall be governed, to the extent applicable, by the latest revised edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

25. Failure to Observe Rules of Order. Rules adopted to expedite the transaction of the business of the Council in an orderly fashion are deemed to be procedural only and the failure to strictly observe such rules shall not affect the jurisdiction of the Council or invalidate any action taken at a meeting that is otherwise held in conformity with law.

26. Ordinances, Resolutions and Contracts.

a) All ordinances Shall be Prepared by the City Attorney. No ordinance shall be prepared for presentation to the Council unless ordered by a majority vote of the Council, or requested by the Mayor, or City Manager, or prepared by the City Attorney on their own initiative.

b) Prior Approval by Administrative Staff. All ordinances, resolutions and contract documents shall, before presentation to the Council, have been approved as to form and legality by the City Attorney and shall have been examined and approved for administration by the City Manager or their authorized representative.

27. Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions. At the time of adoption of an ordinance or a resolution, it shall be read in full unless, after the reading of the title thereof, the further reading thereof is waived by unanimous consent of the Council Members present. Such consent may be expressed by a statement by the Presiding Officer that "if there is no objection, the further

reading of the ordinance or resolution shall be waived.” If any Council Member so requests, the ordinance or resolution shall be read in full.

28. Addressing the Council.

a) Manner of Addressing Council. Each person desiring to address the Council shall, unless time is limited or otherwise specifically provided for in these rules or is granted by majority vote of the Council, limit their remarks to three (3) minutes, *which may be limited at the discretion of the Mayor depending on time available and the number of speakers.* All remarks shall be addressed to the Council as a whole and not to any member thereof.

b) Spokesman for Group of Persons. In order to expedite matters and to avoid repetitious presentations, whenever any group of persons wishes to address the Council on the same subject matter, it shall be proper for the Presiding Officer to request that a spokesperson be chosen by the group to address the Council and, in case additional information or matters are to be presented by any other member of said group, to limit the number of such persons addressing the Council.

c) After Motion. After a motion has been made or a public hearing has been closed, no member of the public shall address the Council from the audience on the matter under consideration without first securing permission to do so by the City Council.

29. Rules of Decorum.

a) Council Members. While the Council is in session, the Members must preserve order and decorum, and a Member shall neither, by conversation or otherwise, delay or interrupt the proceedings or the peace of the Council nor disturb any Member while speaking or refuse to obey the orders of the Presiding Officer.

b) Employees. Members of the City staff and employees shall observe the same rules of order and decorum as are applicable to the City Council.

c) Persons Addressing the Council. Any person making impertinent, slanderous or profane remarks, or who becomes boisterous while addressing the Council, shall be called to order by the Presiding Officer and, if such conduct continues, may at the discretion of the Presiding Officer be barred from further audience before the Council during that meeting, unless permission to continue be granted by a majority of the Council.

d) Members of the Audience. Any person in the audience who engages in disorderly conduct such as hand clapping, stamping of feet, whistling, using profane language, yelling, and similar demonstrations, which conduct disturbs the peace and good order of the meeting, or who refuses to comply with the lawful orders of the Presiding Officer, shall be guilty of an infraction, and upon instructions from the Presiding Officer, it shall be the duty of the Sergeant at Arms to remove any such person from the Council Chamber and to place him under arrest or otherwise cause him to be prosecuted under the law.

30. Enforcement of Decorum. The Director of Public Safety or such member or members of the Public Safety Department as they may designate, shall be Sergeant at Arms of the City Council and shall carry out all orders given by the Presiding Officer for the purpose of maintaining order and decorum at the Council meetings. Any Council Member may move to require the Presiding Officer to enforce the rules, and the affirmative vote of a majority of the Council shall require him to do so.

31. Public Hearings. The following rules shall apply to all public hearings, except when proceedings are held under general laws of the State of California which require different procedures

a) The Mayor shall state the subject matter of the hearing and declare the public hearing open. Before doing so, they may determine whether or not there are proponents or opponents who wish to make presentations, how many persons wish to be heard or other matters which may affect the conduct of the proceedings. The Mayor may impose and announce reasonable time limits on presentations or oral arguments by the public.

b) The City Manager or appropriate staff member shall give a factual summary of the matter.

c) Council Members shall disclose any ex parte communications.

d) The proponents shall be heard. (Written correspondence shall be summarized by the Clerk.)

e) The opponents shall be heard. (Written correspondence shall be summarized by the Clerk.)

f) Each side shall be given a reasonable time for rebuttal. Additional speakers must limit their remarks to providing new information that was not already covered by other speakers.

g) Prior to the close of the public hearing, the Mayor shall give those persons wishing to place their names on the record as being for or against, without presenting an oral argument, an opportunity to do so.

h) The public hearing shall be declared closed.

i) The Council shall discuss and determine the matter.

j) After the public hearing is closed, the public shall not be recognized to speak except to answer any question not covered in the public hearing, and provided that whenever any such answer is given, the opposing side shall be given an opportunity to present facts in rebuttal of the answer given.

32. Policy on Public Input. It is the declared policy of the City Council that any member of the public wishing to be heard on a matter under consideration by the City Council shall be given

a reasonable opportunity to do so. Prior to the vote on any issue, the Mayor shall determine whether or not anyone present wishes to be heard. The Mayor may establish reasonable time limits for oral presentations and shall limit the presentation to the matter before the City Council at that time.

33. Absences from Council Meetings. Pursuant to Government Code §36513, if a City Council Member is absent without permission from all regular Council meetings for 60 days consecutively from the last regular meeting he attended, their office becomes vacant and shall be filled by the Council as any other vacancy. In addition, should any Council Member be absent from two (2) consecutive regular Council meetings, or from three (3) regular Council meetings in any six-month period, without permission from (i.e., not excused for good cause) the Council, the Council may determine that the best interests of the City would be served by said Council Member's resignation, and may request such resignation in a letter authorized by vote of the Council.

34. Automatic Adjournment. Unless otherwise adjourned, all meetings of the City Council shall automatically be adjourned at 10:00 o'clock p.m., except that a majority may by one or more motions act to extend the automatic adjournment for completion of a particular item or items, as specified in the motion to extend the time of adjournment.

35. Amendment of Rules. These rules may be amended by an affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum; provided, however, that except as to rules relating to adjournment, where a provision of these rules requires action by a specific affirmative vote which is greater than a majority of a quorum, then amendment to that rule requires the same vote required for the rule proposed to be amended.