

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Village of Cass City

Village Council

A. Regular and special meetings

All meetings of the village council will be held in compliance with state statutes, including the Open Meetings Act, 1976 PA 267 as amended, and with these rules.

1. Regular meetings

Regular meetings of the village council will be held on the last Monday of each month beginning at 6:00p.m. at the village hall unless otherwise rescheduled by resolution of the council.

2. Special meetings

A special meeting shall be called by the clerk upon the written request of the president or any three (3) members of the council on at least 24 hours' written notice to each member of the council. The notice may be served personally or left at the council member's usual place of residence. Special meeting notices shall state the purpose of the meeting. No official action shall be transacted at any special meeting of the council unless the item has been stated in the notice of such meeting.

3. Posting requirements for regular and special meetings

- a. Within 10 days after the first meeting of the council following the election, a public notice stating the dates, times and places of the regular monthly council meetings will be posted at the village hall.
- b. For a rescheduled regular or a special meeting of the council, a public notice stating the date, time, and place of the meeting shall be posted at least 18 hours before a meeting at the village hall.
- c. The notice described above is not required for a meeting of the council in emergency session in the event of a severe and imminent threat to the health, safety or welfare of the public when two-thirds of the members of the council determine that delay would be detrimental to the village's efforts in responding to the threat.

4. Minutes of regular and special meetings

The clerk shall attend the council meetings and record all the proceedings and resolutions of the council in accordance with Section 64.5, Public Act 3 of 1895 (referred to as the General Law Village Act) as

amended and the Open Meetings Act. In the absence of the clerk, the council may appoint one of its own members or another person to temporarily perform the clerk's duties.

Within 15 days of a council meeting, a synopsis showing the substance of each separate decision of the council or the entirety of the council proceedings shall be prepared by the clerk and shall indicate the vote of the council members. After the manager approves this document, it shall be available at the village hall.

A copy of the minutes of each regular or special council meeting shall be available for public inspection at the village office during regular business hours.

5. Study sessions

Upon the call of the president or three members of the council and with appropriate notice to the council members and to the public, the council may convene a work session devoted exclusively to the exchange of information relating to municipal affairs. No votes shall be taken on any matters under discussion nor shall any council member enter into a formal commitment with another member regarding a vote to be taken subsequently.

B. Conduct of meetings

1. Meetings to be public

All regular and special meetings of the council shall be open to the public, and citizens shall have a reasonable opportunity to be heard in accordance with such rules and regulations as the council may determine, except that the meetings may be closed to the public and the media in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

All official meetings of the council and its committees shall be open to the media, freely subject to recording by radio, television and photographic services at any time, provided that such arrangements do not interfere with the orderly conduct of the meetings.

2. Agenda preparation

The village manager or clerk shall prepare an agenda for each regular council meeting with the following order of business:

- a. Call to order and roll call of council
- b. Public hearings on ordinances under consideration
- c. Scheduled reports from consultants
- d. Review of prior meeting minutes
- e. Review of Financial Statement

- f. Citizen forum
- g. Village business in order by Budget & Finance, Public Services, Parks & Recreation, Personnel & Public Safety and Other
- h. Manager's Report
- i. Communications to the council
- j. Adjournment

3. Agenda distribution

Council members may review the proposed agenda and add items until 3:00 p.m. on the third working day before the meeting (normally Thursday before the Monday meeting). The council packet will be completed and delivered to the council member's residence on the workday before the meeting (usually on Friday for a regular meeting).

4. Quorum

A majority of the entire elected and sworn members of the council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at all council meetings. In the absence of a quorum, a lesser number may adjourn any meeting to a later time or date with appropriate public notice.

5. Attendance at council meetings

Election to the village council is a privilege freely sought. It carries with it the responsibility to participate in council activities and represent the village residents. Attendance at council meetings is critical to fulfilling this responsibility. The council is empowered by Section 65.5 of the General Law Village Act as amended to adjourn a meeting if a quorum is not present.

The village manager will attend all meetings of the village council with the right to take part in discussions but without the right to vote.

6. Presiding officer

The presiding officer shall be responsible for enforcing these rules of procedure and for enforcing orderly conduct at meetings. The president is ordinarily the presiding officer. The council shall appoint one trustee as president pro tempore, who shall preside in the absence of the president. In the absence of both the president and the president pro tempore, the member present who has the longest consecutive service on the council shall preside.

7. Disorderly conduct

The president may call to order any person who is being disorderly by speaking out of order or otherwise disrupting the proceedings, failing to be germane, speaking longer than the allotted time or

speaking vulgarities. Such person shall be seated until the president determines whether the person is in order.

If the person so engaged in presentation is called out of order, he or she shall not be permitted to continue to speak at the same meeting except by special leave of the council. If the person shall continue to be disorderly and disrupt the meeting, the president may order the police chief or representative to remove the person from the meeting. No person shall be removed from a public meeting except for an actual breach of the peace committed at the meeting.

C. Closed meetings

1. Purpose

Closed meetings may be held only for the reasons authorized in the Open Meetings Act, which are the following:

- a. To consider the dismissal, suspension, or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent when the named person requests a closed meeting.
- b. For strategy and negotiation sessions connected with the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement when either negotiating party requests a closed hearing.
- c. To consider the purchase or lease of real property up to the time an option to purchase or lease that real property is obtained.
- d. To consult with the municipal attorney or another attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with specific pending litigation, but only when an open meeting would have a detrimental financial effect on the litigating or settlement position of the council.
- e. To review the specific contents of an application for employment or appointment to a public office when a candidate requests that the application remain confidential. However, all interviews by a public body for employment or appointment to a public office shall be held in an open meeting.
- f. To consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute.

2. Calling closed meetings

At a regular or special meeting, the council members elected or appointed and serving, by a two-thirds roll call vote may call a closed session under the conditions outlined in Section C.1 of the Open Meetings Act. The roll call vote and purpose(s) for calling the closed meeting shall be entered into the minutes of the public part of the meeting at which the vote is taken.

3. Minutes of closed meetings

The clerk or the designated secretary of the council shall take a separate set of minutes at the closed session. These minutes will be retained by the clerk, shall not be available to the public, and shall only

be disclosed if required by a civil action, as authorized by the Michigan Open Meetings Act. These minutes may be destroyed one (1) year and one (1) day after approval of the minutes of the regular meeting at which the closed session was approved.

D. Discussion and voting

1. Rules of parliamentary procedure

The rules of parliamentary practice as contained in the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the council in all cases to which they are applicable, provided that they are not in conflict with these rules, village ordinances or applicable state statutes. The president may appoint a parliamentarian.

The president shall preserve order and decorum and may speak to points of order in preference to other council members. The president shall decide all questions arising under this parliamentary authority, subject to appeal and reversal by a majority of the council members present.

Any member may appeal to the council a ruling of the presiding officer. If the appeal is seconded, the member making the appeal may briefly state the reason for the appeal and the presiding officer may briefly state the ruling. There shall be no debate on the appeal and no other member shall participate in the discussion. The question shall be, "Shall the decision of the president be sustained?" If the majority of the members present vote "aye," the ruling of the president is sustained; otherwise it is overruled.

2. Conduct of discussion

During the council discussion and debate, no member shall speak until recognized for that purpose by the president. After such recognition, the member shall confine discussion to the question at hand and to its merits and shall not be interrupted except by a point of order or privilege raised by another member. Speakers should address their remarks to the president, maintain a courteous tone and avoid interjecting a personal note into debate.

No member shall speak more than once on the same question unless every member desiring to speak to that question shall have had the opportunity to do so.

The president, at his or her discretion and subject to the appeal process mentioned in Section D.1, may permit any person to address the council during its deliberations.

The village manager has the right to take part in all discussions.

3. Ordinances and resolutions

No ordinance, except an appropriation ordinance, an ordinance adopting or embodying an administrative or governmental code or an ordinance adopting a code of ordinances, shall relate to more than one subject, and that subject shall be clearly stated in its title.

A vote on all ordinances and resolutions shall be taken by a roll call vote and entered in the minutes unless it is a unanimous vote. If the vote is unanimous, it shall be necessary only to so state in the minutes, unless law requires a roll call vote.

4. Roll call

In all roll call votes, the names of the members of the council shall be called in alphabetical order, with the president voting last.

5. Duty to vote

Election to a deliberative body carries with it the obligation to vote. Council members present at a council meeting should vote on every matter before the body, unless otherwise excused.

Conflict of interest, as defined by law, is a reason for a member to abstain from voting. The opinion of the village attorney shall be binding on the council with respect to the existence of a conflict of interest. A vote may be tabled, if necessary, to obtain the opinion of the village attorney.

The right to vote is limited to the members of council present at the time the vote is taken. Voting by proxy or by telephone is not permitted.

All votes must be held and determined in public; no secret ballots are permitted.

6. Results of voting

In all cases where a vote is taken, the president shall declare the result.

It shall be in order for any council member voting in the majority to move for a reconsideration of the vote on any question at that meeting or at the next succeeding meeting of the council. When a motion to reconsider fails, it cannot be renewed.

E. Citizen participation

1. General

Each regular council meeting agenda shall provide for reserved time for audience participation.

If requested by a member of the council, the presiding officer shall have discretion to allow a member of the audience to speak at times other than reserved time for audience participation.

2. Length of presentation

Any person who addresses the council during a council meeting or public hearing shall be limited to five (5) minutes in length per individual presentation.

3. Addressing the council

When a person addresses the council, he or she shall state his or her name and home address. Remarks should be confined to the question at hand and addressed to the president in a courteous tone. No person shall have the right to speak more than once on any particular subject until all other persons wishing to be heard on that subject have had the opportunity to speak.

F. Miscellaneous

1. Adoption and amendment of rules of procedure

These rules of procedure of the council will be placed on the agenda of the first meeting of the council following the seating of the newly elected council members for review and adoption. A copy of the rules adopted shall be distributed to each council member.

The council may alter or amend its rules at any time by vote of a majority of its members after notice has been given of the proposed alteration or amendment.

2. Suspension of rules

The rules of the council may be suspended for a specified portion of a meeting by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present except that council actions shall conform to state statutes and to the Michigan and the United States Constitutions.

3. Committees

a. Standing and special committees of council.

1. The village shall have the following standing committees: Budget & Finance, Public Services, Parks & Recreation and Personnel & Public Safety.
2. The president will nominate committee members. They shall be members of the council. The committee member shall serve for a term of two (2) years and may be re-appointed.
3. Special committees may be established for a specific period of time by the president or by a resolution of the council, which specifies the task of the special committee and the date of its dissolution.

b. The president and village manager are ex-officio members of all committees.

4. Authorization for contacting the village attorney

Except as stated in Administrative Policy 04-001 (Discrimination & Harassment), dated January 27, 2004, the following council officials are authorized to contact the village attorney regarding municipal matters:

- a. President
- b. President Pro Tem

Adopted June 28, 2021