

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA – OCTOBER 1, 2013

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF PROCESS FOR APPROVING PROCLAMATIONS

SOURCE: ADMINISTRATION

COMMENT: At its meeting on July 16, 2013, the City Council approved a proclamation approval process which requires all proclamations first be approved by a majority of the Council prior to being issued. At the request of a Council Member, on September 3, 2013 the matter of the proclamation approval process was brought back to the Council for clarification and further consideration. During the discussion, the concept of also requiring Council Member sponsorship of all proclamations was discussed, with direction given to staff to bring back the process for further consideration and codification in the City Council's Procedural Handbook.


Codification in the Handbook would be appropriate in Section IV-Council Requests from the Public. Staff proposes adding Paragraph F – Proclamation Approval Process, which would read as follows:

F. Proclamation Approval Process

All Proclamations of the City of Porterville shall be placed on a Council Agenda for consideration by the Council and must be approved by three affirmative votes prior to being issued.

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council consider the proclamation approval process and give direction to staff to codify same in Section IV – Council Requests from the Public, Paragraph F – Proclamation Approval Process.

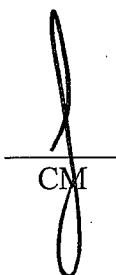
ATTACHMENT: Section IV of the City Council's Procedural Handbook



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Item No. 19



IV. COUNCIL REQUESTS FROM THE PUBLIC

A. Response to Letters from the Public

Periodically Council Members receive letters requesting their response. If a Council Member wishes to answer the letter, the matter can be handled in either of three ways:

1. The Council Member can give the letter to the City Manager's Secretary along with direction on how they wish their response to be worded. The City Manager's staff will then prepare the letter on City Council stationery and forward it to the appropriate Council Member for approval and signature. Copies of both letters are kept on file in the City Manager's Office, and copies are available upon request.
2. If the letter requires specific information or details only available from another City Department, the City Manager may refer the letter to the appropriate Department Head for response by them or their designee. Copies of the letters will then be forwarded to the City Manager's Office for filing.
3. If the Council Member wishes to answer their own correspondence, City stationery is available upon request from the City Manager's secretary. Copies of all such letters on City Letterhead shall be provided to all other Council members, and the letter shall include a provision clearly defining that the correspondence represents the views and/or feelings of the specific Council member signing the letter. If the Council Member wishes to have a copy of the letters in their file, they should submit a copy to the City Manager's staff for filing.

If a Council Member receives an informational item and wants a copy to be given to the other Council Members and the City Manager or other Directors, the item should be given to the City Manager's staff and copies will be made and sent out.

B. Referrals to Council agenda

Periodically Council Members receive correspondence or verbal requests for items to be acted upon, or considered, by the City Council. If a Council Member wishes to respond to the request, the matter should be referred to the City Manager. The request can then be handled as follows:

1. The Council Member may request the City Manager to place the item on the Council agenda as a written communication (however, the request must be stated on the agenda face sheet for Council to be able to act on it at the meeting);
or
2. Upon research, the request may be determined to be a violation of City, State or Federal law, policy, or previous Council determination, in which case an appropriate response as to why the matter can not be heard will be provided to the requesting party.

Correspondence requesting that an item be acted upon, or considered, by the City Council, which is received directly by the City Manager, is handled in either of two ways:

1. The City Manager shall place any routine and/or legitimate written request under written communications*, or have a staff report prepared if time permits, for the next City Council agenda; or
2. The City Manager shall place any request which has already been acted upon by Council, cannot legally be accomplished, or which has a potential for litigation, in an Administrative Memorandum.

C. Telephone Calls

Citizens attempting to communicate with the City Council often call the offices at City Hall. Such calls are referred to the City Manager's Office. The City Manager's staff will take a message and refer it to the appropriate Council Member, or give the caller the telephone number of the City Council Member so they may call them directly, according to instructions given by the Council Member [see X-D (3)].

D. Personal Meetings

Council Members who wish to meet with their constituents may use various rooms at City Hall. The Council Member should call the City Manager's Secretary as soon as they know a room is needed so that it can be reserved for their use. No more than two Council Members may attend a meeting to discuss City matters without the meeting becoming a public meeting and therefore falling under the requirements of the Brown Act Open Meeting Laws.

E. Personal Correspondence

Council Members who wish to send their own correspondence using City stationery shall include a provision clearly defining that the correspondence represents the views and/or feelings of the specific Council member signing the letter. Copies of all such letters on City Letterhead shall be provided to all other Council members. Letterhead stationary is available upon request from the City Manager's secretary, and if the Council Member wishes to have a copy of their letter in their file, they should submit a copy to the City Manager's staff for filing.

F. Proclamation Approval Process

All Proclamations of the City of Porterville shall be placed on a Council Agenda for consideration by the Council and must be approved by three affirmative votes prior to being issued.