

HAMPDEN TOWN COUNCIL RULES

Introduction & Statement of Purpose - Public Service, even at the local level, can be challenging. As elected officials' sphere of influence and relationship with citizens ebbs and flows according to issues and policy topics, it is sometimes challenging for said officials to be even-handed and broad minded in the sense of the whole community. This is why government service at all levels is guided by core values and ethical standards. In keeping with that idea, the following defines the way in which Hampden elected officials shall approach the matters that come before them: *(Added 2/1/2016)*

A Simple Three Way Test

Is it the truth?

Is it fair to all concerned?

Will it be beneficial for the Town?

The Hampden Councilor...

Will not act out of spite, bias, or favoritism

Will contribute to a climate of mutual trust and respect

Has the courage of his/her convictions

Never forgets that he/she is working for the people – all of the people

Will understand and demonstrate the elements of teams and teamwork

Will clearly define roles and relationships

Will establish and abide by a Council-staff partnership

And will allocate Council time and energy appropriately.

1. The Town Council shall only act by ordinance, order, or resolve. All ordinances, orders, and resolves shall be confined to one subject, which shall be clearly expressed in the title. All orders and resolves shall be dated, numbered, and signed by the Town Clerk and the Town Councilors will receive a copy. No action of the Council shall be binding or valid unless adopted by the majority vote of those present. *(Amended 9/19/2016)*
2. In all motions of command, the form of expression shall be 'ordered' and in all motions concerning principles, facts, or purposes, the form shall be 'resolved'.
3. The name of the Council member or other person, persons, or group requesting an item on the agenda will be indicated on the agenda with the said item.
4. As a matter of courtesy, conduct for all Council and Committee meetings shall be as follows:
 - a. Cell phones shall be silenced during Council & Committee meetings by Town Councilors, staff, and the general public.
 - b. Councilors and staff shall refrain from texting or emailing during all Council or Committee meetings.

- c. Cell phone use, texting, and email may be done during breaks in regular or special Council meetings or committee meetings.
5. Town Councilors shall participate in Freedom of Access Act training within 120 days of being sworn in as a Town Councilor and documentation of that training shall be filed with the Town Clerk.
6. Town Councilors shall participate in Elected Officials training offered by the Maine Municipal Association within the first year of office. If a Councilor is unable to complete this training within the first year, the deadline may be extended upon petition by the Councilor and assent of a majority of the Council. *(Amended 2/1/2016)*
7. A New Councilor orientation packet shall be provided to all Councilors at the time they are sworn in.
8. The Mayor shall take the chair at the appointed time for the meeting, call the members to order, and proceed to the following order of business:
(Amended 1/21/2014; 4/7/2014; 5/19/14)
 - A. Pledge of Allegiance
 - B. Consent Agenda
 1. Signatures – Treasurer’s Warrants, etc
 2. Secretary’s Report
 3. Communications
 4. Reports
 - C. Public Comments
 - D. Policy Agenda
 1. News, Presentations & Awards
 2. Public Hearings
 3. Nominations-Appointments – Elections
 4. Unfinished Business
 5. New Business
 - E. Committee Reports
 - F. Manager’s Report
 - G. Councilor Comments
 - H. Adjournment
9. In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor shall preside over the Town Council meeting. In the absence of the Deputy Mayor, the Mayor shall appoint, in advance, another Councilor to chair the meeting. *(Amended 9/19/2016)*
10. When a question is under debate, the only motions that the Mayor shall entertain will be a receive no motion but to adjourn, or a motion for the previous question, to lay on the table the previous question, or to postpone the previous question to a day certain, or to refer the previous question to a committee or some administrative official or to amend, or a motion to postpone the previous question indefinitely.; which several m Motions shall have precedence in order in which they are introduced stand arranged. *(Amended 9/19/2016)*
11. When a vote is passed, it shall be in order for any member who voted in the majority, or in the negative on a tie vote, to move a reconsideration thereof at the same, or the next stated meeting, but not afterwards; and

- when a motion of reconsideration is decided, that vote shall not be reconsidered.
12. When any member is about to speak, they shall respectfully address the Mayor, confine themselves to the question under debate, and avoid personalities. No member speaking shall be interrupted by another but by a call to order, or to correct a mistake.
 13. Every member present, when a question is put, shall give their vote, unless the Council, for special reasons, shall excuse them. Application to be so excused must be made before debate on the issue and the decision on the application shall be made by a majority vote of the council without debate.
 14. The rules cannot be dispensed with or suspended if one or more members of the council shall object. No rule or order shall be amended or repealed without notice, in writing, being given at the preceding meeting.
 15. Any person wishing to address the Town Council will be given the opportunity to do so in accordance with the following procedure:
 - a. Persons wishing to address the Council on an item which appears on the agenda shall wait until the Mayor announces the consideration of such item, at which time they may address the Council on that particular item. There shall be a five minute limit on such comments per person, per item. In the event that a large number of persons wish to speak on an issue, this limit may be changed to insure that all who wish to speak have the opportunity to do so. Once public comment on an item has closed and a motion and second has been made by members of the Town Council, further public comment is only allowed if approved by a unanimous vote of the Town Council.
 - b. Any person wishing to address the Council on an item not appearing on the agenda shall be allowed to do so only in that section of the agenda referred to as "Public Comments". There shall be a five minute limit on such comments per person per subject raised. Items heard during Public Comment may be agendaed for a subsequent meeting or referred to a Committee or staff member for discussion/action. No votes may be taken by the Council on a subject raised during Public Comment without a vote by the Council to set aside the rules and add it to the regular agenda for consideration.
 - c. Any person wishing to address the Council shall signify their desire by raising their hand and, when recognized by the Mayor, such person shall thereupon request permission to address the Council, giving their name and the name of the road on which they live and then designating the subject matter on which they desire to address the Council. *(Amended 2/1/2016)*
 16. At the commencement of the Calendar year, or as soon thereafter as possible, there shall be chosen the following Committees, each Committee to consist of three (3) or four (4) members of the Council as the Mayor may designate, or, upon a motion, the Council may ballot. *(Amended 2/1/2016)*

- a. Finance & Administration – The purpose of this Committee shall be to review all items related to their fiscal impact on the Town as well as all matters that pertain to items of administrative procedures. This committee will also have the responsibility for the review and signature of all payment warrants. *(Amended 9/19/2016)*
 - b. Services Committee – The purpose of this Committee shall be to review all matters related to services provided by the Town related to recreation, parks, trails, the library, the pool, communications and other items related to non-emergency or public works services provided in the community. *(Amended 2/1/2016, 9/19/2016)*
 - c. Infrastructure – The purpose of this Committee shall be to review all matters pertaining to public infrastructure including buildings, roads, and all town capital equipment.
 - d. Planning & Development – The purpose of this Committee shall be to review all matters related to all ordinances of the Town and all proposals for economic & community development.
17. Committee procedure shall be governed as follows:
- a. All Committees will be required to post an agenda at least 48 hours prior to the meeting and no issue may be voted on unless it is agendaed.
 - b. It shall be the responsibility of the Committee Chair to discuss the development of the meeting agenda with the assigned staff person at least 24 hours before the meeting is required to be posted.
 - c. The assigned staff member shall prepare and post the agenda.
 - d. Draft minutes of each meeting will be prepared by the staff member supporting the committee within three business days.
 - e. Committee meeting minutes shall be posted on the Town website following their voted approval by the Committee.
 - f. Non-committee Council members attending a Committee meeting will have voting rights if they have been present for the entire discussion of an issue, providing that at least two of the three appointed members of the committee are present.
 - g. Two appointed members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.
 - h. The Mayor shall serve as a member of all Committees for quorum purposes. *(Amended 2/1/2016)*
18. The Mayor may appoint members of the Council and/or citizens of the Town to special committees as authorized by the Council. *(Amended 2/1/2016)*
19. In all cases where the parliamentary proceedings are not determined by the foregoing rules and orders, “Roberts Rules of Order” shall be taken as authority to decide the course of proceedings.
20. The first and third Mondays of each month are designated as ‘regular’ Council meetings with the provision that a unanimous vote of the Councilors present would cancel or reschedule a meeting. Whenever a regular meeting falls on a legal holiday, such meeting will take place the following day except upon unanimous vote of the Councilors present to cancel or reschedule the meeting. *(Amended 9/19/2016)*

21. Special meetings of the Town Council may be scheduled for other dates for special purposes. The agendas for such meetings shall be posted at the Post Office, Town Office, Town Bulletin Board, on the Town website, no less than 72 hours in advance of the meeting (unless an emergency meeting is needed for the purpose of dealing with an unanticipated Town emergency, in which case posting shall be to all normal posting locations and via email to local print media as soon as it is identified that a meeting will be held). The agenda for a Special Meeting shall be prepared as follows;

- A. Call to order
- B. Subject(s) for meeting
- C. Adjourn

The general public shall be allowed to comment on subjects at Special meetings in the same manner as for Regular Council meetings. There shall be no general Public Comment section for items not contained on the agenda for Special Council meetings.

22. Any item on the consent agenda can be set aside for discussion at the request of any Councilor, prior to a motion on the remainder of the consent agenda.
23. Council Meetings shall not extend beyond 10 p.m. without an affirmative vote of the Town Council.
24. The Councilor Comment section of the agenda is reserved for the purpose of enabling any Council member to discuss matters not previously mentioned on the agenda. No official Council action can be taken at this time.
25. Sanctions – Council members who intentionally and repeatedly do not follow council rules may be reprimanded or formally censured by the Council. Serious infractions of Council Rules could lead to other sanctions as deemed appropriate by the Town Council. *(Added 2/1/2016)*

This policy replaces the Council Rules last updated September 19, 2016.

Adopted by Town Council: May 21, 2012

Amended: January 21, 2014
April 7, 2014
May 19, 2014
February 1, 2016
September 19, 2016