

RESOLUTION NO. 2008- 014

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF SAN BUENAVENTURA ESTABLISHING
COUNCIL PROTOCOLS FOR THE CONDUCT OF
MEETINGS, POLICY MAKING AND RELATED
MATTERS**

WHEREAS, Section 702(c) and 704 of the Charter of the City of San Buenaventura empower the City Council to establish rules for its proceedings; and

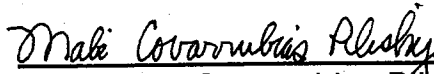
WHEREAS, the Ralph M. Brown Act, Government Code sections 54950, *et seq.* authorizes reasonable regulations on public comments (Gov. Code, § 54954.3(b)); and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to amend its Council Protocols to address current needs and concerns.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of San Buenaventura as follows:

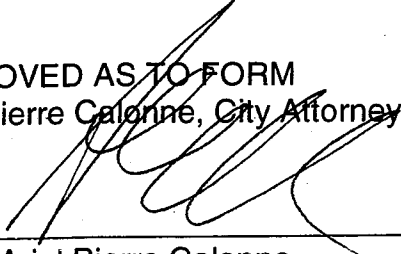
SECTION 1: The April 2008 City Council Protocols attached to this Resolution and incorporated by this reference are approved.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 14 day of April, 2008.



Mabi Covarrubias Pliisky
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM
Ariel Pierre Calonne, City Attorney

By: 

Ariel Pierre Calonne
City Attorney



CITY COUNCIL PROTOCOLS

APRIL 2008

Preface

The following is a single source reference document of the San Buenaventura City Council's Protocols. The protocols included in this reference document have been formally adopted by the City Council:

- **Resolution 94-111 adopted on November 14, 1994, establishing rules for the conduct of Council meetings, proceedings and business;**
- **Resolution 94-112 adopted on November 14, 1994, establishing rules relating to oral presentations by members of the public;**
- **Resolution 95-108 adopted December 18, 1995, establishing expense reimbursement guidelines for the City Council;**
- **Motions passed at the City Council special session of January 20, 1996;**
- **Motions passed at the City Council special session of October 19, 1996;**
- **Resolution 2002-001 adopted on January 7, 2002, adding rules of procedure pertaining to the Redevelopment Agency and Public Facilities Financing Authority;**
- **Motions passed at the City Council special session of May 15, 2002;**
- **Motions passed at the City Council meeting of September 23, 2002;**
- **Resolution 2004-073 adopted December 6, 2004, requiring City Council closed session meeting minutes;**
- **Resolution No. 2005-077 adopted September 26, 2005, adding a Code of Ethics;**

- ***Resolution No. 2006-045 adopted July 10, 2006, amending Section 8 of Part IX entitled, "Travel Expense Reimbursement;"***
- ***Motion passed December 18, 2006, oral presentations by Councilmembers limited to speaking only twice on any agenda item; oral presentations by staff limited to ten minutes; and oral presentations by members of the public limited to three minutes on any agenda item with a cumulative total of five minutes for all agenda items;***
- ***Motion passed March 19, 2007, Councilmember who was not present for a vote may request a second vote with the full Council present when the Council has a tie vote and the motion fails; and***
- ***Resolution No. 2008-014 adopted April 14, 2008, changed regular meeting starting time, prohibiting the disruption of meetings by members of the public through the use of profanity or otherwise, and incorporating numerous changes to the Protocols made by motion over the years.***

This document will be updated on an ongoing basis and modified as the City Council deems appropriate.

Table of Contents

I.	COUNCIL MEETINGS.....	1
1.	Regular Meetings.....	1
a.	Other Locations.....	1
b.	Location During Local Emergency.....	1
c.	Canceled Meetings.....	1
2.	Special Meetings & Emergency Meetings.....	1
3.	Adjourned Meetings.....	2
4.	Closed Sessions.....	2
5.	Cancellation of Regular Meetings.....	2
6.	Quorum.....	2
7.	Chair.....	2
a.	Absence of Mayor.....	2
b.	Mayor & Deputy Mayor Absence.....	3
8.	Attendance by the Public.....	3
9.	Minutes and Recordings.....	3
a.	Public Meetings.....	3
b.	Closed Sessions.....	3
c.	Recordings of Meetings.....	4
II.	ORDER OF BUSINESS.....	4
1.	General Order.....	4
2.	Action Agenda Items.....	4
3.	Special Announcements and Presentations.....	4
a.	Council Announcements.....	5
4.	Council Communications.....	5
5.	Reports-Regional Boards/Commissions/Committees.....	5
6.	Consent Calendar.....	5
7.	Appointments to Council Advisory Groups.....	5
8.	Monthly Reports.....	6
a.	Referral Status Report.....	6
b.	Future Council Agendas.....	6
9.	Travel Expenditures Quarterly Report.....	6
10.	Standard Adjournment.....	6
III.	RULES OF CONDUCT.....	6
1.	General Procedure.....	6
2.	Addressing Members of the Public & Staff.....	7
3.	Authority of the Chair.....	7
4.	Mayor to Facilitate Council Meetings.....	7

5.	Council Deliberation & Order of Speakers	7
a.	Questions Addressed to Another Councilmember ...	7
6.	Limit Deliberations to Item at Hand	7
7.	Length of Council Comments	7
8.	Council Presentations	8
a.	Title Page	8
b.	City Clerk Assistance	8
c.	Computer Software	8
d.	Copy of Presentation	8
9.	Obtaining the Floor	8
10.	Motions	9
11.	Procedure For Motion	9
12.	Motion Amendments	9
13.	Motion of Intention	9
14.	Ordinances	10
15.	Voting	10
16.	Abstention	10
17.	Tie Votes	11
18.	Motions for Reconsideration	11
19.	Serial Meetings	11
20.	Non-Observance of Rule	12
21.	Council Code of Ethics	12
IV.	QUASI-JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS	14
1.	Defined	14
2.	Identification on Agenda	14
3.	Ex Parte Communications	14
V.	PUBLIC HEARINGS	14
1.	General Procedure	14
2.	Time for Consideration	15
3.	Continuance of Hearings	15
4.	Public Discussion at Hearings	16
a.	Public Member Request to Speak	16
b.	Council Questions of Speakers	16
c.	Due Process	16
d.	Public Oral Presentation	16
e.	Materials for Public Record	16
f.	Germane Comments	17
5.	Communications and Petitions	17
6.	Admissible Evidence	17

VI.	ADDRESSING THE CITY COUNCIL	17
1.	Staff Presentations.....	17
2.	Oral Presentations by Members of the Public.....	17
3.	Public Communications	18
	a. Timing	18
	b. Speaker Cards.....	18
	c. City Business	18
	d. Council Deliberations Prohibited.....	18
	e. Council Interaction with Public.....	19
4.	Agenda Item Oral Presentations.....	19
	a. Time Limit.....	19
	b. Project Applicant or Appellant	19
	c. Presentations Submitted in Writing.....	19
5.	PowerPoint Presentations.....	20
6.	Oral Presentations & Public Communications Cumulative Time Limit.....	20
7.	Comments in Writing Encouraged	21
8.	Comment Cards.....	21
9.	Repetitious or Dilatory Comments Prohibited.....	21
10.	Conduct of Speakers	22
11.	Waiver of Rules	22
12.	Non-Exclusive Rules.....	22
VII.	POLICY DECISION MAKING PROCESSES.....	22
1.	Councilmember Appointments & Assignments	22
2.	Mayor to Act as Council Ceremonial Representative	23
3.	Proclamations.....	23
4.	Certificate of Recognitions	23
5.	Councilmember Participation in Community Activities.....	24
6.	Study Session.....	24
7.	Advance Administrative Reports.....	24
8.	Policy Decision-Making Process Steps.....	24
	a. Step 1 Initial Consideration	25
	b. Step 2 Scope and Assignment	25
	c. Step 3 Analysis of Alternatives	26
	d. Step 4 Administrative Report	26
	e. Step 5 Policy Direction	26

VIII.	COUNCIL COMMITTEES.....	26
1.	Standing Committees of the Council	26
a.	Standing Committee Defined	26
b.	Conduct of Standing Committee Meetings	27
c.	Appointments Committee	27
2.	Ad Hoc Committees of the Council	27
a.	Ad Hoc Committee Defined	27
b.	Conduct of Ad Hoc Committee Meetings	27
IX.	COUNCILMEMBER ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.....	27
1.	Mail	27
a.	Letters Addressed to Mayor and/or City Council	27
b.	Letters Addressed to Individual Councilmembers	28
2.	Council Correspondence	28
a.	Personal Correspondence	28
3.	Clerical Support	28
4.	Master Calendar	29
5.	Requests for Research or Information	29
6.	Tickets to City Events	29
7.	Council Notification of Significant Incidents	29
8.	Expense Reimbursement	29
1.	Authorized Expenses	29
2.	Travel Local	31
3.	Travel Non-Local	32
4.	Meal Expenses	34
5.	Telecommunication Expenses	35
6.	Expense Reimbursement Procedures	36
7.	Audits of Expense Reports	37
8.	Reports at City Council Meetings	37
9.	Compliance with Laws	37
10.	Policy Violations	37
X.	MEETINGS OF THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY.....	37
XI.	MEETINGS OF THE SAN BUENAVENTURA PUBLIC FACILITIES FINANCING AUTHORITY.....	38

XII.	PROTOCOL ADMINISTRATION.....	40
1.	Biennial Review of City Council Protocols.....	40
2.	Adherence to Protocols.....	40
3.	City Attorney as Protocol Advisor.....	40
4.	Adherence to Administrative Protocols	40
5.	Applicability of Protocols.....	40
XIII.	APPENDICES.....	41
A.	Policy Decision-Making Process Illustration	42
B.	Request for Policy Consideration Form	44

SAN BUENAVENTURA CITY COUNCIL PROTOCOLS

I. COUNCIL MEETINGS

1. **Regular Meetings** - Consistent with Charter section 704(a), regular meetings of the Council shall be held, without the necessity for notice, every Monday commencing at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, San Buenaventura City Hall, 501 Poli Street, in the City. *(Res. 2008-014, 04/14/2008)*
 - a. **Other Locations** - The Council may, from time to time, elect to meet at other locations within the City and upon such election shall give public notice of the change of location in accordance with provisions of the Government Code.
 - b. **Location During Local Emergency** - If, by reason of fire, flood or other emergency, it shall be unsafe to meet in the City Hall, the meetings may be held for the duration of the emergency at such other place as may be designated by the Mayor or, if the Mayor does not so designate, by the Deputy Mayor or City Manager.
 - c. **Canceled Meetings** - When the day for any regular meeting falls on a legal holiday, the regularly scheduled meeting for that day shall be deemed canceled unless otherwise provided by the Council. In months when there are more than four Mondays or at other times when the Council deems appropriate, one or more regular meetings may be canceled by a majority vote of the Council. The Council must meet regularly, however, at least once each month.
2. **Special Meetings & Emergency Meetings** - Special meetings and emergency meetings of the Council may be called and held from time to time consistent with Charter section 704(b) and pursuant to the procedures set forth in the Ralph M. Brown Act (Government Code sections 54950, et seq.).

3. **Adjourned Meetings** - The Council may adjourn any regular, adjourned regular, special or adjourned special meeting to a time and place specified in the order of adjournment pursuant to the procedures set forth in the Ralph M. Brown Act (Government Code sections 54950, et seq.).
4. **Closed Sessions** - Consistent with Charter section 704(c), the Council may hold closed sessions during any regular or special meeting, or any time otherwise authorized by law to consider or hear any matter which is authorized by State law to be heard or considered in closed session.
 - a. The City Council may exclude from any such closed session any person or persons which it is authorized by State law to exclude from such closed sessions.
 - b. The general subject matter for consideration shall be expressed in an open meeting before such session is held.
 - c. Councilmembers may not reveal the nature of discussion or the decision from a closed session unless required by law.
5. **Cancellation of Regular Meetings** - Any meeting of the Council may be canceled in advance by a majority vote of the Council.
6. **Quorum** - Consistent with Charter section 704(d), four members of the Council shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may adjourn from time to time.
7. **Chair** - Consistent with Charter section 703, the Mayor shall preside over all Council meetings. The Mayor shall have authority to preserve order at all Council meetings, to remove any person from any meeting of the Council for disorderly conduct, to enforce the rules of the Council and to determine the order of business under the rules of the Council. The Mayor shall also have the power to administer oaths and affirmations.
 - a. **Absence of Mayor** - The Deputy Mayor shall act as Mayor in the absence or disability of the Mayor.

- b. **Mayor & Deputy Mayor Absence** - When the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor are absent from any meeting of the Council, the members present may choose another member to act as Mayor pro tem, and that person shall, for the time being, have the powers of the Mayor.

8. **Attendance by the Public** - Pursuant to Charter sections 704(a) and (c), and except as specifically provided by law for closed sessions, all meetings of the Council shall be open and public in accordance with the terms, provisions and exceptions consistent with the Ralph M. Brown Act (Government Code sections 54950, et seq.).

9. **Minutes and Recordings** - Minutes and recordings of Council meetings will be kept and maintained as follows:
 - a. **Public Meetings** - Action minutes will be kept of all Council meetings that are open to the public. Action minutes will include the final motions with votes. The minutes will also reflect the names of public speakers. Council and staff discussion and comments will not normally be included in the minutes. If a Councilmember desires for a comment to be included in the minutes, it is his or her responsibility to indicate that the statement is "for the record" before making the comments. Such minutes will be taken by the City Clerk's office, will generally be submitted to the Council within two weeks for approval, and will be made available to the general public for review and copying at all times following Council approval.

 - b. **Closed Sessions** - Except as otherwise provided herein minutes shall also be kept of all Council closed session meetings. Closed session minutes will include the topics discussed and decisions made with votes. The minutes will be taken by the City Clerk, the Assistant City Clerk, or such other city employee within the City's confidential employee unit, as designated by the City Manager, and will also be generally submitted to the Council within two weeks for approval. Minutes will be kept of closed sessions convened to evaluate the performance of the City Manager or City Attorney only if requested by the Mayor or a majority of the Councilmembers.

- c. **Recordings of Meetings** - All video and/or audio recordings of proceedings are maintained by the City Clerk for a period of two years plus the current year. (Res. 2004-073, 12/6/2004)

II. ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. **General Order** - The business of the Council at its meetings will generally be conducted in accordance with the following order of business unless otherwise specified. A closed session may be held at any time during a meeting consistent with applicable law.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

ADJOURNMENT TO MEETINGS OF OTHER ENTITIES

CONSENT ITEMS

APPOINTMENTS TO COUNCIL ADVISORY GROUPS

QUASI-JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

FORMAL ITEMS

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

(Except at first regular meeting of month when it also appears just prior to the Consent Items)

COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

ADJOURNMENT

2. **Action Agenda Items** - In accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act, the Council may not take action on any item that did not appear on the posted Council agenda 72 hours prior to the Council meeting unless an exception is made as permitted under Government Code section 54954.2.
3. **Special Announcements and Presentations** - All special presentations will be calendared and coordinated through the Mayor and will be limited to a time period not to exceed 15 minutes at each Council Meeting.

- a. **Council Announcements** - Council announcements will be limited to notifications of community events, functions and other activities. Concerns or matters of current, pending or future Council deliberation are not considered announcements.
4. **Council Communications** - The Council Communications section of the agenda provides Council the opportunity to briefly comment on Council business, city operations, city projects, and other items coming before Council.

The Council will have two opportunities to provide Council Communications at each meeting. The first Council Communication will be immediately following Council Announcements and will be limited to one minute per Councilmember.

The second opportunity to provide Council Communications at each meeting will be following Public Communications, prior to the adjournment of the meeting.

5. **Reports-Regional Boards/Commissions/Committees** - This time is set aside to allow members of the Council serving on regional boards, commissions or committees to present a verbal report to the full Council on the activities of the respective boards, commissions or committees upon which they serve. No action may be taken.
6. **Consent Calendar** - Agenda items removed from the consent calendar by Councilmembers or staff will be considered at the beginning of the formal items section of the agenda. Members of the public may comment on consent items prior to the Council's consideration of the consent agenda. A Councilmember may vote "no" on any consent item without comment or discussion. Any comments, questions or discussion on an item will require the pulling of the item from the consent calendar.
7. **Appointments to Council Advisory Groups** - Appointments to Council Advisory Boards, Commissions and Committees will follow the Consent Agenda. After the Council's action on the appointments, the Chair of the Council's Appointments

Recommendations Committee or the Mayor may ask the appointee to stand and be recognized.

8. **Monthly Reports** - The following reports will be included on the Council agenda the first meeting of each month:
 - a. **Referral Status Report** - A list and status of projects referred by a majority vote of the Council; and
 - b. **Future Council Agendas** - A calendar of major agenda items planned for the upcoming three meetings.
9. **Travel Expenditures Quarterly Report** - A quarterly report of funds expended for each Councilmember traveling for City business will be provided to the Council on the consent agenda of a formal meeting. The report will generally be provided to the Council within 30 days of the end of each quarter.
10. **Standard Adjournment** - The Council establishes 11:00 p.m. as the hour of adjournment and will not continue beyond 11:00 without a majority vote of the Council. To assist in making the determination to continue an item under consideration, the Council should find that discussion, deliberation and action on the item can be concluded by 12:00 midnight.

The Council will not hear any new agenda items past 11:00 p.m. without a majority vote of the Council. A determination should be made by Council that any new item(s) can be discussed, deliberated and action taken before 12:00 midnight.

If agenda items remain after the 11:00 p.m. adjournment, a special meeting may be scheduled or the items deferred until the next week. Deferred items will appear first under Formal Items of the following week's agenda.

III. RULES OF CONDUCT

1. **General Procedure** - It is the policy of the Council not to become involved in the entanglements over "parliamentary procedure." Consistent with the City Charter and any applicable City ordinance, statute or other legal requirement, any issue of procedure relating to

the conduct of a meeting or hearing not otherwise provided for herein may be determined by the Mayor, subject to appeal to the full Council.

2. **Addressing Members of the Public and Staff** - In addressing the public and members of the City's staff, Councilmembers will generally refer to persons as Mr., Mrs., or Ms. followed by their surname.
3. **Authority of the Chair** - Subject to appeal to the full Council, the Mayor shall have the authority to prevent the misuse of motions, or the abuse of any privilege, or obstruction of the business of the Council by ruling any such matter out of order. In so ruling, the Mayor shall be courteous and fair and should presume that the moving party is acting in good faith.
4. **Mayor to Facilitate Council Meetings** - The Council had delegated the responsibility and expanded the role of the Mayor to include the facilitation of Council meetings. In the role as facilitator, the Mayor will assist the Council to focus on their agenda, discussions and deliberations.
5. **Council Deliberation & Order of Speakers** - The Mayor has been delegated the responsibility to control the debate and the order of speakers. Speakers will generally be called upon in the order the request to speak buttons are pushed.
 - a. **Questions Addressed to Another Councilmember** - With the concurrence of the Mayor, a Councilmember holding the floor may address a question to another Councilmember and that Councilmember may respond while the floor is still held by the Councilmember asking the question. A Councilmember may opt not to answer a question while another Councilmember has the floor.
6. **Limit Deliberations to Item at Hand** - Councilmembers will limit their comments to the subject matter, item or motion being currently considered by the Council.
7. **Length of Council Comments** - Councilmembers will govern themselves as to the length of their comments or presentation.

Councilmembers are limited to speaking only twice on any agenda item. (*Motion, 12/18/2006*)

- a. As a courtesy, the Mayor will signal by hand to a Councilmember who has been speaking for over five minutes. The intent of the hand signal is a courtesy to let the Councilmember know they have been speaking for about five minutes and may want to consider wrapping up their comments. This procedure is not meant to limit debate or to cut comments short, but rather to assist Councilmembers in their efforts to communicate concisely.
8. **Council Presentations** - Councilmember presentations are limited to the item or issue being deliberated. To insure that the appropriate equipment is available, Councilmembers must provide the City Clerk advance notice of the intent to make a presentation.
- a. **Title Page** - Presentations will be prepared by individual Councilmembers and will have a title page indicating that the opinions or positions presented are that of the individual Councilmember.
 - b. **City Clerk Assistance** - The City Clerk will assist Councilmembers to insure that the presentation is computer compatible and working correctly prior to the Council Meeting.
 - c. **Computer Software** - Software will be provided for those Councilmembers with a home or business computer and wishing to use it rather than computers at City Hall.
 - d. **Copy of Presentation** - To insure a complete record of the meeting, Councilmembers will provide a copy of the presentation to the City Clerk at the conclusion of the Council meeting.
9. **Obtaining the Floor** - Any member of the Council wishing to speak must first obtain the floor by being recognized by the Mayor. The Mayor must recognize any Councilmember who seeks the floor when appropriately entitled to do so.

10. **Motions** - Motions may be made by any member of the Council, including the Mayor, providing that before the Mayor offers a motion, the opportunity for making a motion should be offered to other members of the Council. Any member of the Council, other than the person offering the motion, may second a motion.

11. **Procedure For Motion** - The following is the general procedure for making motions:
 - a. Before a motion can be considered or debated it must be seconded.
 - b. Councilmembers wanting to make a motion should push the "request to speak" button.
 - c. A Councilmember wishing to second a motion should do so through a verbal request to the Mayor.
 - d. Once the motion has been properly made and seconded, the Mayor shall open the matter for discussion offering the first opportunity to the moving party and, thereafter, to any Councilmember properly recognized by the Mayor.
 - e. Once the matter has been fully discussed and the Mayor calls for a vote, no further discussion will be allowed, provided, however, Councilmembers may be allowed to explain their vote.

12. **Motion Amendments** - When a motion is on the floor, and an amendment is offered, the amendment should be acted upon prior to acting on the main motion.

13. **Motion of Intention** - A Motion of Intention process is generally limited to matters legally required to be supported by findings.
 - a. In proceedings identified as quasi judicial on the agenda, when the City Council takes an action that is substantially different from the staff recommendation, the Council may utilize the Motion of Intention process.

- b. A Motion of Intention provides staff direction as to the City Council's action through a formal motion.
 - c. Based on this motion, staff revises the necessary findings, resolutions and/or implementing documentation for the City Council's action at the next scheduled meeting.
 - d. Upon receiving a motion of intent by a Councilmember, the Mayor should make sure that the hearing on any matter resulting in the motion is closed prior to a vote.
14. **Ordinances** - Motions offering ordinances are deemed to include waiver of full reading and title of the ordinance unless otherwise specifically stated.
15. **Voting** - Any Councilmember present at a meeting when a question comes up for a vote should vote for or against the measure unless he/she is disqualified from voting and abstains because of such disqualification. If the vote is a voice vote, the Mayor shall declare the result. The Council may also vote by roll call, ballot or voting machine. Regardless of the manner of voting, the results reflecting all "ayes" and all "noes" must be clearly set forth for the record.
16. **Abstention**
- a. If a Councilmember abstains because of a legal conflict, he/she is not counted as present for quorum purposes and is not deemed to be "voting" for purposes of determining whether there has been a "majority vote of those members present and voting."
 - b. When a Councilmember abstains or excuses themselves from a portion of a Council meeting because of a legal conflict of interest, the Councilmember must briefly state on the record the nature of the conflict. The inclusion of this information in the public record is required by law.
 - c. If a Councilmember abstains because of a conflict other than legal, he/she is counted as present for quorum purposes and is not deemed to be "voting" for purposes of determining whether

there has been a "majority vote of those members present and voting."

17. **Tie Votes** - A tie vote results in a lost motion. In such an instance, any member of the Council may offer a motion for further action. If there is no action by an affirmative vote, the result is no action. If the matter involves an appeal, and an affirmative vote does not occur, the result is that the decision appealed stands as decided by the decision-making person or body from which the appeal was taken.

A Councilmember who was not present for a vote may request to have the right to request a second vote with the full Council present when the Council has a tie vote and the motion fails. (*Motion, 03/19/2007*)

18. **Motions for Reconsideration**

- a. Motions for reconsideration of a matter may be made at the same meeting or at the next succeeding meeting following a Council action.
 - b. A proposed motion for reconsideration at the next succeeding meeting must comply with Brown Act noticing requirements.
 - c. Motions for reconsideration may only be made by a Councilmember that voted with the majority of the City Council on the action proposed to be reconsidered by the Council.
 - d. In the case of a tie vote, the prevailing side or majority of the Council will be deemed to be those Councilmembers who voted in the negative.
 - e. Any member of the Council may second a motion for reconsideration.
19. **Serial Meetings** – Serial meetings are meetings that at any one time involve only a portion of a legislative body, but eventually involve a quorum. Serial meetings yield a process which deprives the public the opportunity for a meaningful contribution to the decision-making process.

Serial meetings may be a chain, in which member A contacts member B, B then contacts C, C contacts D and so on, until a quorum is involved. An elected official has the right to confer with a colleague about public business. But if and when a "collective concurrence as to action to be taken" is reached, the Brown Act is violated.

Councilmembers are encouraged to consider the possibility of serial meetings when engaging in discussion with their colleagues on a matter within the subject jurisdiction of the City.

20. **Non-Observance of Rules** - Rules adopted to expedite and facilitate the transaction of the business of the Council in an orderly fashion shall be deemed to be procedural only, and the failure to strictly observe any such rules shall not affect the jurisdiction of, or invalidate any action taken by the Council.

21. **Council Code of Ethics**

Statement of Purpose:

The residents of the city of San Buenaventura are entitled to responsible, fair, and honest city government. Public officials should conduct their official and private affairs so as not to give a reasonable basis for the impression that any such official can be improperly influenced in the performance of his/her public duties. Accordingly, the San Buenaventura City Council has adopted this Code of Ethics as a guideline in addition to the Core Ethical Principles established by City of San Buenaventura employees: Respect, Equitable Treatment, Impartiality, Honesty, Responsibility, and Trustworthiness.

Responsibilities of Public Office

Act in the Public Interest: Officials shall work for the common good of the people of the City of San Buenaventura and not for any private or personal interest and they will assure fair and equal treatment of all persons, claims, and transactions coming before the San Buenaventura City Council.

Comply with the Law: Officials shall comply with the laws of the nation, the State of California, and the City of San Buenaventura in the performance of their duties including but not limited to: the United States and the State of California Constitutions and City ordinances and policies.

Conduct of Members: The professional and personal conduct of officials must be above reproach and avoid even the appearance of impropriety. Members shall refrain from abusive conduct, personal charges, or verbal attacks upon the character or motives of other members of the council, boards, and commissions, the public and staff.

Gifts and Favors: Officials shall refrain from accepting any gifts or favors, which might compromise their independence of judgment or action or give the appearance of being compromised.

Enforcement: This Code of Ethics is intended to be self-enforcing, and is an expression of standards of conduct for officials expected by the City. However, the Mayor has the additional responsibility to intervene when actions of members that appear to be in violation of this code are brought to his/her attention.

Use of Public Resource: City officials shall not use public resources unavailable to the public in general, such as City staff time, equipment, supplies or facilities, for private gain or personal purpose.

Conflict of Interest: In order to assure their independence and impartiality on behalf of the common good, members shall not use their official positions to influence government decision in which they have a material financial interest or where they have an organizational responsibility or personal relationship, which may give the appearance of a conflict of interest.

Campaign Practices: Officials shall act with utmost integrity and engage in fair and honest campaign practices. The personal conduct of officials must be professional and responsible and avoid even the appearance of impropriety. (Res. 2005-077, 09/26/2005)

IV. QUASI-JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS

1. **Defined** - Quasi-judicial proceedings are those proceedings in which the City Council is required to make findings based on an evidentiary record as to the entitlement. In quasi-judicial proceedings, the City Council sits as the judge and jury, and is required to make findings based on the evidence and records presented. Examples of quasi-judicial proceedings heard by the City Council include conditional use permits, variances, and subdivision map approvals.
2. **Identification on Agenda** – To facilitate the identification of quasi-judicial matters, quasi-judicial proceedings will be identified as such on the Council agenda under the heading of Quasi-Judicial Proceedings.
3. **Ex Parte Communications** – An ex parte communication is a communication made with a Councilmember outside the Council Chambers with any person except the City Attorney concerning a quasi-judicial proceeding to be heard by the City Council.
 - a. When a Councilmember has an ex parte communication concerning a subject that is the basis of a quasi-judicial proceeding before the Council, the Councilmember must state for the public record the nature of that communication. Councilmembers must indicate with whom the ex parte communication was made and provide a brief statement as to the substance of the communication.
 - b. A Councilmember may make an oral presentation of the nature of the communication or provide a written statement to be read into the public record.

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. **General Procedure** - The Council procedure for the conduct of public hearings is generally as follows:
 - a. The Mayor opens the public hearing.

- b. Staff presents its report.
 - c. Councilmembers may ask questions of staff if they so desire.
 - d. The applicant or appellant then has the opportunity to present comments, testimony, or arguments. In the case of an appeal when the appellant is different from the applicant, the appellant should be called up first to provide comments or testimony.
 - e. Members of the public are provided with the opportunity to present their comments, testimony or argument.
 - f. The applicant or appellant is given an opportunity for rebuttal or concluding comments. In the case of an appeal when the appellant is different from the applicant, the appellant is given the opportunity for closing comments.
 - g. The public hearing is closed.
 - h. The Council deliberates on the issue.
 - i. If the Council raises new issues through deliberation and seeks to take additional public testimony (questions of the public, applicant or appellant), the Public Hearing must be reopened. At the conclusion of the public testimony, the Public Hearing is again closed.
 - j. The Council deliberates and takes action.
 - k. The Mayor announces the final decision of the Council.
2. **Time for Consideration** - Matters noticed to be heard by the Council will commence at the time specified in the notice of hearing, or as soon thereafter as is reasonably possible, and will continue until the matter has been completed or until other disposition of the matter has been made.
3. **Continuance of Hearings** - Any hearing being held or noticed or ordered to be held by the Council at any meeting of the Council may, by order or notice or continuance, be continued or recontinued to any subsequent meeting.

4. **Public Discussion at Hearings** - When a matter for public hearing comes before the Council, the Mayor will open the public hearing. Upon opening the public hearing and before any motion is adopted related to the merits of the issue to be heard, the Mayor shall inquire if there are any persons present who desire to speak on the matter which is to be heard or to present evidence respecting the matter.
 - a. **Public Member Request to Speak** - Any person desiring to speak or present evidence shall make his/her presence known to the Mayor and upon being recognized by the Mayor, the person may speak or present evidence relevant to the matter being heard. No person may speak without first being recognized by the Mayor.
 - b. **Council Questions of Speakers** - Members of the Council who wish to ask questions of the speakers or each other during the public hearing portion may do so but only after first being recognized by the Mayor. Interaction with the speaker shall be limited to a question or questions, rather than an ongoing dialogue. Councilmembers should avoid raising questions as a method to extend the allocated time for a speaker. Councilmembers may ask questions of speakers after the public hearing has been closed, but only for the limited purpose of clarifying previous testimony. No other person shall have a right to respond or rebut any response to such questions unless granted by the Mayor. *(Res. 2008-014, 04/14/2008)*
 - c. **Due Process** - The Mayor shall conduct the meeting in such a manner as to afford due process.
 - d. **Public Oral Presentations** - All Council rules pertaining to oral presentation by members of the public apply during public hearings.
 - e. **Materials for Public Record** - All persons interested in the matter being heard by the Council shall be entitled to submit written evidence or remarks, as well as other graphic evidence. All such evidence presented will be retained by the City Clerk.

as part of the Clerk's record of the hearing, unless otherwise directed.

- f. **Germane Comments** - No person will be permitted during the hearing to speak about matters or present evidence which is not germane to the matter being considered. A determination of relevance shall be made by the Mayor, but may be appealed to the full Council.
5. **Communications and Petitions** - Written communications and petitions concerning the subject matter of the hearing will be noted, read aloud, or summarized by the Mayor. A reading in full shall take place if requested by any member of the Council.
6. **Admissible Evidence** - Hearings need not be conducted according to technical rules relating to evidence and witnesses. Any relevant evidence may be considered if it is the sort of evidence upon which responsible persons are accustomed to rely in the conduct of serious affairs.

VI. ADDRESSING THE CITY COUNCIL

1. **Staff Presentations** - Staff presentations will be limited to 10 minutes. Longer staff presentations must be approved by the City Manager prior to the Council Meeting.
2. **Oral Presentations by Members of the Public** - Oral presentations by members of the public at City Council meetings are as follows:
 - a. Prior to the meeting, or during the meeting prior to a matter being reached, persons wishing to address the Council should fill out a speaker card and submit it to the City Clerk.
 - b. When called upon, the person should come to the podium, state his/her name and address for the record, and, if speaking for an organization or other group, identify the organization or group represented.
 - c. All remarks should be addressed to the Council as a whole, not to individual members thereof.

- d. Questions, if any, should be directed to the Mayor who will determine whether, or in what manner, an answer will be provided.
3. **Public Communications** - In compliance with Government Code Section 5495.43, Public Communications is that portion of City Council meetings set aside for members of the public to address the City Council on items of any City business other than scheduled agenda items.

- a. **Timing** - Public Communications are generally permitted at the end of a Council meeting just prior to adjournment, as specified on the City Council agenda.

At the first regular City Council meeting of each month, Public Communications are permitted just prior to the Council's consent items. This portion of the meeting is limited to no more than thirty (30) minutes total for all speakers, with each speaker given no more than five (5) minutes. If there are more than six (6) Public Communications speakers at this first regular City Council meeting, each speaker's time shall be reduced from five (5) minutes so that all speakers have an equal time to speak at the start of the meeting but the total is thirty (30) minutes.

- b. **Speaker Cards** - Persons wishing to speak under Public Communications should submit a speaker card in a timely fashion.
- c. **City Business** - Presentations under Public Communications are limited to items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the City and are limited to no more than five minutes.
- d. **Council Deliberations Prohibited** - In compliance with the Brown Act, the Council may not deliberate or vote on any matter raised in Public Comments. The Mayor, however, may request the City Manager to provide additional information on a matter of general interest to the full Council or the public at large. To insure compliance with the Brown Act, Councilmember requests for policy consideration or

reconsideration should be made through the Council's Request for Policy Consideration process.

- e. **Council Interaction with Public** – If a Councilmember believes that a material misstatement of fact has been made by a person during the public comment portion of the agenda, the Councilmember may ask the City Manager or City Attorney to correct or otherwise clarify the matter or the Councilmember may provide a direct response at that time. If a spontaneous response is not possible, correction or clarification will be provided at the next regular meeting of the Council.
4. **Agenda Item Oral Presentations** - Any member of the public wishing to address the Council orally on City business matters appearing on the Council agenda may do so when that item is taken up by the Council, or as otherwise specified by the Council or the Mayor.
- a. **Time Limit** - Oral presentations may not exceed five minutes unless otherwise provided.
 - b. **Project Applicant or Appellant** - The project applicant, appellant or other person or entity with a substantial direct property interest, or their representative shall have a total of 15 minutes for their presentations. The initial comments or presentation shall be limited to 10 minutes and the rebuttal or concluding comments shall be limited to 5 minutes.

All other persons wishing to speak on the matter shall be limited to 5 minutes unless changed by City Council action. Speaker time limits are inclusive of oral and visual presentations and shall constitute the cumulative 5-minute time limit for each speaker for the meeting.

The Mayor, with the concurrence of the City Council, may alter any of the enumerated time allocations based on the complexity of the item and the number of persons wishing to speak on the item.

- c. **Presentation Submitted in Writing** - Persons who anticipate oral presentations exceeding five minutes are encouraged to

submit comments in writing at the earliest possible time for distribution to the Council and other interested parties. Comments should be submitted sufficiently in advance of the scheduled meeting date to insure distribution to the Council prior to the meeting.

5. **Power Point Presentations** – Members of the public may present a Power Point software presentation to the Council utilizing the City's audio/visual equipment.
 - a. All Power Point presentations must comply with applicable time limits for oral presentations and cumulative time limits. Presentations should be planned with flexibility to adjust to any changes in these time limits.
 - b. Each slide of the Power Point presentation must identify that this is the "Personal Comments of Private Citizen first and last name."
 - c. All Power Point presentations must be submitted on 3.5 inch disks already formatted in Power Point and be submitted to the City Clerk no later than noon on the day of the Council meeting to allow for checks for viruses and compatibility with City equipment.
 - d. Any disks submitted that are thought to contain viruses or unable to be scanned for viruses by City equipment will not be permitted to be used.
 - e. If compatibility or viruses are at issue, a member of the public may provide a printed hard copy of the Power Point presentation to be projected onto the screen via the visual projector during their presentation.

6. **Oral Presentations and Public Communications Cumulative Time Limit** - Members of the public making oral presentations to the Council in connection with one or more agenda items and/or as a part of Public Comments at a single meeting are limited to 3 (three) minutes on any agenda item with a cumulative total of 5 (five) minutes for all agenda items at such meeting unless otherwise provided. (*Motion, 12/18/2006*)

7. **Comments in Writing Encouraged** - Members of the public may submit, and are encouraged to submit, comments in writing to the City Council relating to any items of City business, whether on the City Council agenda or otherwise. Such written comments will be distributed to members of the Council and considered and acted upon, or not acted upon, as the City Council in its judgment may deem appropriate.

8. **Comment Cards** - Comment cards may be used by members of the public who do not wish to or cannot verbally address the Council during a meeting. A person may indicate their comments and their opposition or support for an agenda item on a comment card.

During the public testimony of the item, the Mayor indicates that the Council has received comment cards from (name of person) in support of the project or issue and comment cards from (name of person) in opposition of the project or issue. The minutes will reflect the Council's receipt of comment cards in opposition and support of the project or issue.

9. **Repetitious or Dilatory Comments Prohibited**

a. A speaker shall not present the same or substantially same items or arguments to the Council repeatedly or be repetitious or dilatory in presenting their oral comments. If a matter has been presented orally before the Council, whether the Council has taken action, or determined to take no action, the same or substantially same matter may not be presented orally by the same person any further.

Nothing in the foregoing precludes submission of comments to the City Council in writing for such action or non-action as the Council, in its discretion, may deem appropriate.

b. In order to expedite matters and to avoid repetitious presentations, the designation of a spokesperson is encouraged.

Whenever any group of persons wishes to address the Council on the same subject matter, those persons are encouraged to designate a spokesperson to address the City Council. With the consent of the City Council, the Mayor may extend the time allocation for a designated spokesperson.

10. **Conduct of Speakers** - No person shall use loud, profane, threatening, or personally abusive language, or engage in any other disorderly conduct so as to disrupt, disturb or otherwise impede the orderly conduct of any Council meeting. Persons who violate this rule may be barred from attendance for the remainder of the Council meeting, provided that the Mayor has notified the person to conduct him or herself in a manner consistent with this rule, and warned the person that they will be removed if they continue to disrupt the Council meeting. If after notification and warning the person persists in disrupting the meeting, the Mayor shall order the person to leave the Council meeting. If the person does not remove himself or herself, the Mayor may request any law enforcement officer who is on duty at the meeting to remove that person from the Council Chambers. *(Res. 2008-014, 04/14/2008)*
11. **Waiver of Rules** - Any of the foregoing rules may be waived by majority vote of the Councilmembers present when it is deemed that there is good cause to do so based upon the particular facts and circumstances involved.
12. **Non Exclusive Rules** - The rules set forth are not exclusive and do not limit the inherent power and general legal authority of the Council, or of its Mayor, to govern the conduct of City Council meetings as may be considered appropriate from time to time or in particular circumstances for purposes of orderly and effective conduct of the affairs of the City.

VII. POLICY DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES

1. **Councilmember Appointments & Assignments** - The Mayor appoints and the City Council confirms Councilmember assignments to outside agencies, committees, taskforces and liaison roles.

2. **Mayor to Act as Council Ceremonial Representative** - The Mayor has been delegated the responsibility to act as the City Council's ceremonial representative at public events and functions. In the Mayor's absence, the Deputy Mayor assumes this responsibility. In both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor's absence, the Mayor will appoint another Councilmember to assume this responsibility.

3. **Proclamations**

- a. Incoming requests for a proclamation to be presented at an event or Council Meeting are provided to the Mayor for approval. All proclamation requests are provided in writing two weeks prior to event/Council Meeting date and also include a draft proclamation.
- b. Once the Mayor approves the proclamation request, the proclamation is either scheduled at an upcoming Council meeting, presented at an event or the proclamation is picked up/mailed. In the event that the Mayor is unable to attend an event, the Deputy Mayor or a Councilmember attends on behalf of the Council. In this case, the Mayor along with the attending Deputy Mayor/Councilmember signs the proclamation.
- c. If a request for a proclamation is submitted with little verbiage, the requestor is contacted and advised that a certificate of recognition is more appropriate for the occasion.
- d. In the event the Mayor receives a request for a proclamation where the subject matter is questionable as to the appropriateness, the Mayor will forward the request to the full Council for a vote.

4. **Certificate of Recognitions**

- a. Incoming requests for certificates of recognition to be presented at an event or Council Meeting are provided to the Mayor for approval. All certificate requests are provided in

writing two weeks prior to event/Council Meeting date and also include certificate verbiage (three sentences maximum).

- b. Once the Mayor approves the certificate request, the certificate is either scheduled at an upcoming Council meeting, presented at an event or the certificate is picked up/mailed. In the event that the Mayor is unable to attend an event, the Deputy Mayor or a Councilmember attends on behalf of the Council. In this case, the Mayor along with the attending Deputy Mayor/Councilmember signs the certificate of recognition.
 - c. In the event the Mayor receives a request for a certificate where the subject matter is questionable as to the appropriateness, the Mayor will forward the request to the full Council for a vote.
5. **Councilmember Participation in Community Activities** - From time to time, Councilmembers may choose to participate in community activities, committees, events, and task forces. When a Councilmember participates in these types of activities, the Councilmember is acting as an interested party rather than acting on behalf of the City Council. Acting or participating on behalf of the City Council is limited to those instances when the Council has formally designated the Councilmember as its representative for the matter.
6. **Study Session** - Study session items are placed on regular agendas for the purpose of open discussion. During study sessions, Councilmembers will ask questions that staff records. After a brief recess, staff will provide brief verbal answers. For those questions that staff cannot readily answer, responses will be provided for the Council, transmitted in writing.
7. **Advance Administrative Reports** - Administrative Reports on major items will be forwarded to the Council one week in advance if possible.
8. **Policy Decision-Making Process Steps** - As illustrated in Appendix A, the Policy Decision-Making Process may be initiated by individual Councilmembers, Citizen Advisory

Commissions, Boards and Committees, and/or staff members. These individuals or groups may request the full Council to consider the review or revision of existing policies or the consideration of new policy. Members of the public may request a Councilmember to initiate the full Council's considerations.

- a. **Step 1 Initial Consideration** - Step 1 is accomplished by including the matter on an upcoming meeting agenda for the Council's consideration. A brief write up of the matter is included on the Request for Policy Consideration Form (Appendix B). The Request for Policy Consideration Form briefly lays out the request so that Council can choose if they wish to dedicate staff time and resources to review the matter.

At this juncture, a vote of the Council is taken if the Council feels they have adequate information to make a decision, dedicate staff time and resources to investigate and review revisions, or possible modifications to the Council policy:

Action taken – If the Council feels they have adequate information to make a decision, action is taken at this juncture.

No further consideration - If the majority of the Council chooses not to dedicate staff time and resources to investigate and review policy changes at this time, the decision-making process is complete.

Further consideration - If the majority of the Council chooses to dedicate staff time and resources to review current policy for possible modifications or the consideration of new policy, additional steps in the Policy Decision-Making Process are triggered as follows:

- b. **Step 2 Scope and Assignment** - Step 2 of the Process includes the City Council defining the scope of the investigation to be undertaken and assigning primary responsibility for the task to a Commission, Board, Committee or staff. The Council will generally define the scope and assign the task directly after the majority has chosen to have a policy reviewed. The

responsible Commission, Board, Committee or staff will proceed to complete the review.

- c. **Step 3 Analysis of Alternatives** - Step 3 of the Policy Decision-Making Process includes completing the analysis of alternatives. After the background and current status are completed, alternatives are identified and an analysis is completed. At any time during this process, an administrative report may be prepared to seek confirmation regarding the identified alternatives' consistency with Council's direction. This feedback option will insure that additional time is not spent on alternatives not consistent with the Council's direction.
- d. **Step 4 Administrative Report** - Step 4 is the preparation of an Administrative Report. After the analysis of alternatives is completed, recommendations are prepared for the Council's consideration. The recommendations are included on an upcoming Council agenda for discussion and action.
- e. **Step 5 Policy Direction** - Step 5 includes the Council providing policy direction. At the conclusion of their discussion regarding the alternatives and recommended actions, the majority of the Council reaches a decision and provides direction as to which alternative will be implemented.

With the completion of Step 5, the Policy Decision-Making Process is complete.

VIII. COUNCIL COMMITTEES

- 1. **Standing Committees of the Council.** From time to time the Council may establish such standing committees of the Council as may be helpful in facilitating the business of the Council.
 - a. **Standing Committee Defined.** A standing committee of the Council is a committee that: (i) has a continuing subject matter jurisdiction, or (ii) has a meeting schedule that is fixed by ordinance, resolution or other formal action of the Council.

- b. **Conduct of Standing Committee Meetings.** All meetings of a standing committee of the Council shall be noticed and conducted in conformance with the Ralph M. Brown Act.
 - c. **Appointments Committee.** At present, the Appointments Committee is the only standing committee of the Council. It consists of three members appointed by the Mayor. It is responsible for making recommendations to the full Council in regard to Council appointments to all of the boards, commissions and committees provided for in the San Buenaventura Municipal Code.
2. **Ad Hoc Committees of the Council.** From time to time the Council may also establish *ad hoc* committees of the Council.
- a. **Ad Hoc Committee Defined.** An *ad hoc* committee of the Council is a committee that: (i) does *not* have a continuing subject matter jurisdiction, *and* (ii) does *not* have a meeting schedule that is fixed by ordinance resolution or other formal action of the Council. In addition an *ad hoc* committee may not consist of more than 3 Councilmembers.
 - b. **Conduct of Ad Hoc Committee Meetings.** Meetings of an *ad hoc* committee of the Council are generally informal and need not be noticed nor conducted in conformance with the Ralph M. Brown Act. (*Motion, 09/23/2002*)

IX. COUNCILMEMBER ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

- 1. **Mail** - All City Council mail is date/time stamped and placed in each Councilmember's individual mailbox.
 - a. **Letters Addressed to Mayor and/or City Council** - All letters addressed to the Mayor and/or entire City Council requiring a response from staff are copied to all Councilmembers with a note as to which staff person will be preparing a response for the Mayor's signature. A copy of the response mailed, along with the original letter will be provided to each Councilmember.

Letters addressed to the Mayor and/or entire City Council that do not require a response, but provide information on Council agenda items or like matters are copied to the full Council.

Cards and other mail addressed to the Mayor marked "personal" and/or "confidential" will not be opened.

- b. **Letters Addressed to Individual Councilmembers** - All letters addressed to individual Councilmembers will not be opened. The envelopes will be date/time stamped and placed in individual Councilmember's mailboxes. If a Councilmember is requesting a response to be prepared by staff, the letter is copied to all members of the Council with a note as to which staff person will be preparing a response for the addressee's signature. A copy of the response mailed, along with the original letter will be provided to each Councilmember.

Cards and other Councilmember mail marked "personal" and/or "confidential" will not be opened.

2. **Council Correspondence** - All Councilmember correspondence written with City resources (letterhead, typing, staff support, postage, etc.) will reflect the position of the full Council, not individual Councilmember's positions. All Councilmember correspondence using City resources will be copied to the full Council. For example, responses to citizen letters will be copied to the full Council along with the original citizen correspondence.

- a. **Personal Correspondence** - City Councilmembers will be provided individual stationery and envelopes for use in communications reflecting their personal positions, not the position of the full Council. These communications will be prepared and sent at the expense of individual Councilmembers. Councilmembers may utilize the City's outgoing mail service; however, postage will be at the Councilmember's expense.

3. **Clerical Support** - The City Manager's Office will coordinate the typing of correspondence requested by individual Councilmembers. All correspondence typed for Councilmembers will be on City

letterhead and will reflect the position of the full Council, not individual Councilmembers, and will be copied to the full Council.

4. **Master Calendar** - A master calendar of Council events, functions or meetings will be provided to the full Council. Functions, events or meetings to be attended by individual Councilmembers will only be included on the master calendar at the request of individual Councilmembers.
5. **Requests for Research or Information** - Councilmembers may request information or research from staff on a given topic directly when it is anticipated that the request can be completed by staff in less than an hour. Councilmember requests for research or information that are anticipated to take staff more than one hour to complete should be directed to the City Manager. Requests for new information or policy direction will be brought to the full Council at a regular meeting for consideration. All written products will be copied to the full Council.
6. **Tickets to City Events** - Two tickets for each Councilmember will be made available for events hosted by the City. Departments hosting City events will coordinate the distribution of tickets to Councilmembers with the City Manager's Office. The availability of tickets for events hosted by other organizations which the City sponsors will be at the discretion of the organizing agency. When the City is a major sponsor of an event, staff will endeavor to include the availability of tickets in the sponsorship agreement or contract.
7. **Council Notification of Significant Incidents** - In conjunction with the City's public safety departments, the City Manager's Office will coordinate the notification to Council of major crime, fire or other incidents. This will be accomplished concurrently through email and/or phone calls for the more significant incidents.
8. **Expense Reimbursement**
 1. **Authorized Expenses**
 - a. Expenses incurred by Councilmembers in connection with the following types of activities constitute authorized

expenses and will be reimbursed without prior approval of the City Council:

- (1) Local travel to attend City Council meetings and meetings of the various City Committees to which they have been appointed;
- (2) Local travel to attend educational seminars related to City concerns and issues;
- (3) Local travel to attend local community functions and events as part of the City's outreach efforts;
- (4) Local and non-local travel to attend meetings of other local government and non-government agencies to which they have been appointed to sit as the City of San Buenaventura representative; and
- (5) Communications with public officials and employees of local, regional, state, and national organizations and governmental agencies to discuss City policies and issues.

b. Expenses incurred by Councilmembers in connection with all non-local travel other than travel to attend meetings of other local government and non-government agencies to which they have been appointed to sit as the City of San Buenaventura representative, constitute authorized expenses and will be reimbursed. However, any out of state travel must have been approved in advance by the City Council.

c. The following expenses are not authorized expenses and will not be reimbursed when incurred by a Councilmember:

- (1) The personal portion of local or non-local travel;
- (2) Expenses incurred for alcoholic beverages;

- (3) Entertainment expenses, including concerts, theater, movies (either in-room or at the theater), and sporting events (including gym, massage, and/or golf or tennis related expenses);
- (4) Non-mileage personal automobile expenses, including repairs, traffic citations, insurance, or gasoline;
- (5) Family expenses including a partner's expenses when accompanying a Councilmember on City related travel, as well as children or pet related expenses; or
- (6) Personal losses while engaged in City related travel.

2. **Travel: Local**

- a. **Local Travel Defined** – Local travel is defined as travel of less than 100 miles roundtrip not requiring an overnight absence from the City.
- b. **Local Travel Allowance** – Councilmembers engage in considerable travel each month to attend numerous City Council meetings and meetings of the various City Committees to which they have been appointed, to attend educational seminars and meetings of all of the other local government and non-government agencies on which they sit as the City of San Buenaventura representative, and to attend various local community functions and events as part of the City's outreach efforts.

To compensate Councilmembers for automobile, parking, and other transportation expenses incurred by them in connection with the local travel necessary to attend meetings, seminars, functions, and events, the Mayor will be paid a local travel allowance of \$300/month and each Councilmember will be paid a local travel allowance of \$200/month.

- c. **Payment of Local Travel Allowance** – Payment of the local travel allowance will be made through the city's

regular biweekly payroll direct deposit system along with the Mayor's and each Councilmember's monthly compensation. However, in order to conform to Internal Revenue Service regulations, each Councilmember's local travel allowance will be treated as income and, therefore, will be subject to income tax withholding requirements.

3. Travel: Non-Local

- a. **Non-Local Travel Defined** – Non-local travel is defined as official travel involving at least one overnight absence from the City of San Buenaventura and/or to a destination exceeding 100 miles round-trip distance from the City of San Buenaventura.
- b. **Reimbursements for Transportation Expenses Incurred for Non-Local Travel.** Councilmembers will be reimbursed for transportation expenses incurred in connection with non-local travel as follows:
 - (1) **Vehicles** – Private vehicles may be utilized for in-state travel and cost of such use reimbursed at the current Internal Revenue Service standard mileage rate for business-related automobile expenses for mileage that is in excess of 100 miles. The reimbursement rate will not be granted if the City credit card is used to pay for the fuel.

When private vehicles are not used, City vehicles or rented vehicles may be used for transportation at a destination when appropriate. Such rentals will be reimbursed at actual costs. However, Councilmembers are encouraged to rent automobiles at rates that are equal to or less than those available through the State of California's website (<http://www.catravelmart.com/default.htm>). When renting vehicles, the charge for Collision Damage Waiver (CDW) should be declined.

Councilmembers driving vehicles in the course of non-local travel shall be able to provide a valid California driver's license and proof of personal automobile insurance coverage upon request.

In addition, bridge and road tolls will be reimbursed at actual cost, and automobile parking shall be reimbursed at actual cost for non-valet parking in a parking lot.

- (2) **Airlines** – Airfares will be reimbursed at actual cost. However, Councilmembers are encouraged to book air travel between the City of San Buenaventura and a destination at airfares that are equal to or less than economy, coach, or those available through the Enhanced Local Government Airfare Program offered through the League of California Cities (<http://www.cacities.org/travel>).

The City will not pay for any portion of a first-class or business-class fare except under the most unusual of circumstances, ordinarily limited to an emergency.

- (3) **Railroad** – The use of railroads for non-local transportation is permitted where the railroad provides a reasonably direct and time-efficient manner of travel between the City of San Buenaventura and a destination. The reimbursement rate for travel by railroad shall be the basic coach rate in effect at the time of the travel.
- (4) **Taxicab Shuttles and Buses** – The reimbursement for non-local travel expense by taxicab, shuttle, or bus shall be actual cost plus a gratuity not to exceed 15% in the case of taxicabs and shuttles.

- c. **Reimbursement for Lodging Expenses Incurred in Connection with Non-Local Travel** – Councilmembers will be reimbursed for lodging expenses when engaged in non-local travel that reasonably requires an overnight stay as follows:

- (1) **Lodging Selection** – Councilmembers may secure lodging at hotels or other lodging facilities up to and including hotels and lodgings facilities that have been assigned a four star rating by the California State Automobile Association, Priceline.com, or other similar sources that rate hotels and other lodging facilities on a five star basis. However, when selecting lodging in connection with a conference in which the conference sponsor has reserved hotel rooms or other lodging accommodations at group rates, Councilmembers may not select lodging at other hotels or lodging facilities with a room rate that exceeds such group rates.
- (2) **Room Rates** – In negotiating room rates, Councilmembers should make every effort to request and take advantage of government rates or other special room rates when available. A listing of hotels that offer government rates in different areas of the state or county is available at <http://www.catravelsmart.com/lodguiderames.htm>
- (3) **Eligible Costs** – Councilmembers will be reimbursed for the actual cost of room rents, extra room rental fees, and all applicable taxes on such rents and fees. In addition, Councilmembers will be reimbursed for gratuities paid to hotel bellhops for baggage assistance at a rate not to exceed \$2.00/bag.

4. Meal Expenses

- a. **Authorized Meal Reimbursements** – Councilmembers will be reimbursed for meal expenses, including gratuities, incurred by them in the performance of their official duties under the following circumstances:

- (1) When engaged in authorized non-local travel; or

- (2) When discussing City related issues during a meal with a federal, state, or local official or employee in the course of local or non-local travel.

- b. **Meal Reimbursement Rates** – Reimbursable meal expenses and associated gratuities will be reimbursed in amounts not exceeding the following rates:

- (1) Breakfast \$12.00
- (2) Lunch \$18.00
- (3) Dinner \$35.00.

The standard per diem rate for non-local travel is \$65 per day, including sales tax and tip. No receipts are required for meal reimbursements up to the per diem rate. Reimbursements for meals exceeding the per diem rate require a receipt.

- c. **Adjustments to Meal Reimbursement Rates** – Meal reimbursement rates will be adjusted by the Chief Financial Officer on an annual basis to reflect cost of living increases as established by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index, all urban consumers for the Los Angeles Metropolitan Area.

5. Telecommunication Expenses

- a. **Telephone/Fax/Cellular** – Councilmembers will be reimbursed for actual telephone and fax expenses incurred in connection with City business provided telephone bills submitted for reimbursement identify which calls were made on City business. When a Councilmember makes telephone calls on a personal cellular telephone in connection with City business pursuant to a cellular phone plan that includes a particular number of allotted minutes in consideration of a bundled fee, the Councilmember will be reimbursed for a

portion of the bundled fee based on the percentage of calls made in connection with City business if he or she can identify the percentage of calls made in connection with city business.

- b. **Internet** – Councilmembers will be reimbursed for Internet access connections and/or usage fees when engaged in non-local travel in an amount not to exceed \$15.00 per day, if Internet access is necessary for City related business.

6. Expense Reimbursement Procedures

- a. **Expense Reports Form** – Expense reimbursement requests must be submitted on an expense report form provided by the City Manager. This form shall include the following advisory: “All expenses reported on this form must comply with the city/county/district’s policies relating to expenses and use of public resources. The information submitted on this form is a public record. Penalties for misusing public resources and violating the city/county/district’s policies include loss of reimbursement privileges, restitution, civil and criminal penalties as well as additional income tax liability.”
- b. **Expense Report Documentation** – Expense reports must document that the expense in question met the requirements of this policy. For example, if a Councilmember meets with a legislator, the Councilmember should explain whose meals were purchased, what issues were discussed, and how those relate to the City’s legislative positions and priorities.
- c. **Expense Report Filing Requirements** – Councilmembers must submit their expense reports within 30 days of an expense being incurred, accompanied by receipts documenting each expense. Inability to provide such documentation in a timely fashion may result in the expense being borne by the official.

7. **Audits of Expense Reports** – All expenses are subject to verification that they comply with this policy.
8. **Reports at City Council Meetings** – At each regular meeting of the City Council, Councilmembers shall briefly report on meetings attended at City expense. If multiple officials attended, a joint report may be made.

In addition, all non-local travel will be reported on the Council's Quarterly Travel Report.

9. **Compliance with Laws** – Councilmembers should keep in mind that some expenditures may be subject to reporting under the Political Reform Act and other laws and regulations. All City expenditures are public records subject to disclosure under the State Public Records Act.
10. **Policy Violations** – Use of City resources or falsifying expense reports in violation of this policy may result in any or all of the following: (i) loss of reimbursement privileges, (ii) a demand for restitution to the City, (iii) the City reporting the expenses as income to the Councilmember to state and federal tax authorities, and (iv) prosecution for misuse of public resources.
(Res. 2006-045, 07/10/2006)

X. MEETINGS OF THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

1. Pursuant to Section 33200 of the California Health and Safety Code and City Council Ordinance No. 1709, the City Council declared itself to be the Redevelopment Agency of the City of San Buenaventura. By virtue thereof, all of the powers of the San Buenaventura Redevelopment Agency are now vested in the City Council in its capacity as the governing body of the City of San Buenaventura.
2. In that the City Council is also the Redevelopment Agency:
 - a. The Mayor of the City is also the Chair of the Redevelopment Agency, and the Deputy Mayor is also the Vice Chair of the Agency;

- b. All regular meetings of the City Council shall also be noticed and conducted as regular meetings of the Redevelopment Agency;
 - c. All special meetings of the City Council that are convened to consider matters that includes business of the Redevelopment Agency shall be noticed and conducted as special meetings of both the Council and the Agency; and,
 - d. Except as otherwise provided herein, all protocols applicable to City Council shall also be applicable to the Redevelopment Agency.
3. Where a City Council agenda includes an item or items relating to the business of the Redevelopment Agency:
- a. The Redevelopment Agency item should be clearly identified as an Agency matter;
 - b. Members of the public making oral presentation to the City Council in regard to the item or items identified as Agency matters shall be allotted a cumulative total of up to five minutes to address all such Agency agenda items in addition to the time available to them to address all of the other agenda items;
 - c. This section is not intended and shall not be construed to grant additional time to members of the general public wishing to address the City Council as part of the public communications portion of the agenda. *(Res. 2002-1, 01/07/2002; Motion, 09/23/2002)*

XI. MEETINGS OF THE SAN BUENAVENTURA PUBLIC FACILITIES FINANCING AUTHORITY

1. Pursuant to City Council Ordinance 85-17, the City Council established and declared itself to be San Buenaventura Public Facilities Finance Authority. By virtue thereof, all of the powers of the San Buenaventura Public Facilities Financing Authority are vested in the City Council in its capacity as the governing body of the City of San Buenaventura.

2. In that the City Council is also the Public Facilities Financing Authority:
 - a. The Mayor of the City is also the President of the Public Facilities Financing Authority and the Deputy Mayor is also the Vice President of the Authority;
 - b. The first regular meeting of the City Council in January of each year shall also be noticed and conducted as a regular meeting of the Public Facilities Financing Authority;
 - c. All special meetings of the City Council that are convened to consider matters that includes business of the Public Facilities Authority shall be noticed and conducted as special meetings of both the Council and the Authority; and,
 - d. Except as otherwise provided herein, all protocols applicable to City Council shall also be applicable to the Public Facilities Financing Authority.

3. Where a City Council agenda includes an item or items relating to the business of the Public Facilities Financing Authority:
 - a. The Public Facilities Financing Authority item should be clearly identified as an Authority matter;
 - b. Members of the public making oral presentation to the City Council in regard to the item or items identified as Authority matters shall be allotted a cumulative total of up to five minutes to address all such Authority agenda items in addition to the time available to them to address all of the other agenda items.
 - c. This section is not intended and shall not be construed to grant additional time to members of the general public wishing to address the City Council as part of the public communications portion of the agenda. (*Res. 2002-1, 01/07/02; Motion, 09/23/02*)

XII. PROTOCOL ADMINISTRATION

1. **Biennial Review of City Council Protocols** - The Council will review and revise the City Council Protocols as needed or every two years.
2. **Adherence to Protocols** – During City Council discussions, deliberations and proceedings, the Mayor has been delegated the primary responsibility to insure that the City Council, staff and members of the public adhere to the Council's adopted protocols.
3. **City Attorney as Protocol Advisor**– The City Attorney assists the Mayor as a resource to confer with and an advisor for interpreting the City Council's adopted protocols.
4. **Adherence to Administrative Procedure and Process Protocols**
The Council has delegated the City Manager responsibility to discuss, on behalf of the full Council, any perceived or inappropriate administrative action with a Councilmember. The City Manager will discuss with the Councilmember the action and suggest a more appropriate process or procedure to follow. After this discussion, if further inappropriate action continues, the City Manager will report the concern to the full Council.
5. **Applicability of Protocols** - The City of San Buenaventura City Council Protocols shall also apply to the City Council when sitting as other entities or agencies such as the Redevelopment Agency, Public Facilities Financing Authority, or any other body. The role of Mayor and Deputy Mayor shall be interchangeable with the Chair and Vice Chair, or President or Vice President when sitting as another entity.

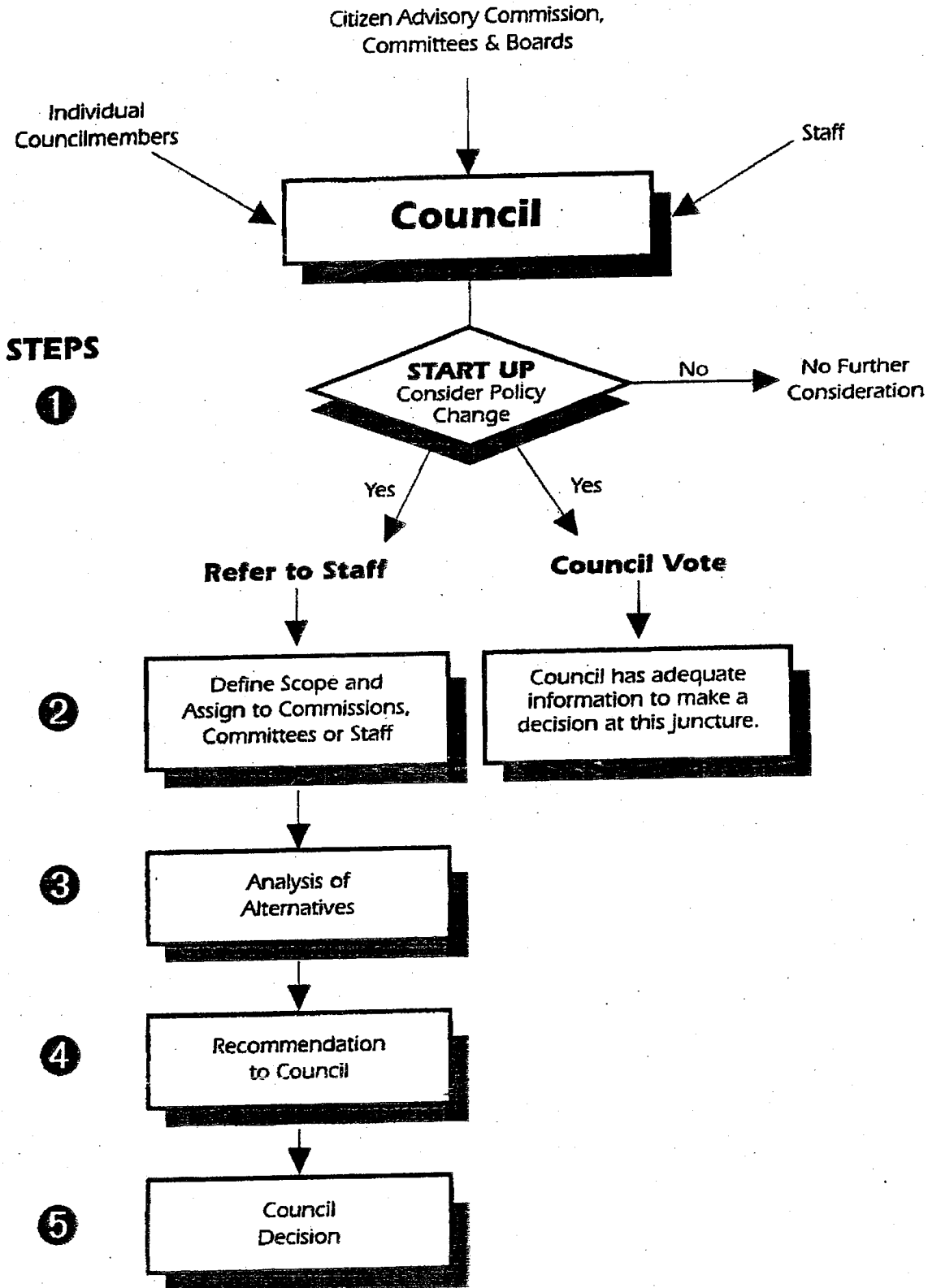
XIII. APPENDICES

APPENDIX A.

Policy Decision- Making Process Illustration



Policy Decision Making Process



APPENDIX B

Request for Policy Consideration Form

REQUEST FOR POLICY CONSIDERATION

Date: Month Date, 2007

Agenda Item Number:

Council Action Date: Month Date, 2007

Introduced by: Councilmember
Councilmember

Subject:

XXX

Requested Action:

XXX

Issue/Idea/Concern:

XXX

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF VENTURA) ss
CITY OF SAN BUENAVENTURA)

I, Fidela Garcia, Deputy City Clerk of the City of San Buenaventura, California, certify that the foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of San Buenaventura at a regular meeting on April 14, 2008, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Brennan, Morehouse, Andrews, Monahan, and Weir.

NOES: Councilmember Fulton.

ABSENT: Councilmember Summers.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and affixed the seal of the City of San Buenaventura on April 15, 2008.

Fidela Garcia
Deputy City Clerk

