

RULES OF ORDER
WEBER COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSIONS
January, 2012

A. ORGANIZATION

1. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

The Commission, at its first regular meeting in January of each year, shall select a Chair and Vice Chair who may be elected to succeed themselves for one additional term only.

2. Chair - Duties

(a) The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Commission providing general direction for the meetings, assuring proper order of the Commission and public in all proceedings. Such duties shall include:

- i. Announcing the business before the Commission in the order in which it is to be acted upon;
- ii. Receiving and submitting in the proper manner all motions and propositions presented by the members of the Commission;
- iii. Putting to a vote all questions, which are properly moved, or necessarily arise in the course of proceedings and to announce the result thereof;
- iv. Informing the Commission, when necessary, or when referred to for that purpose, on any point of order or practice. In the course of discharge of this duty, the Chair shall have the right to call upon Legal Counsel for advice;
- v. Maintaining order at the meetings of the Commission;
- vi. Moving the agenda along, holding down redundancy, referencing handouts and procedures in a sensitive way during meetings;
- vii. Recognizing speakers and Commissioners prior to receiving comments and presentations of physical evidence, i.e., plans and pictures; and
- viii. Receiving documents or other physical evidence as part of the record.

(b) It shall be the duty of the Chair to authenticate by signature when necessary, or when directed by the Commission, all of the acts, orders and proceedings of the Commission.

(c) The Chair may rule out of order any comment which is irrelevant, personal, or not pertinent to the matter being heard.

3. Duties of the Vice Chair

The Vice Chair, during the absence of the Chair, shall have and perform all the duties and functions of the Chair.

4. Temporary Chair

In the event of the absence of, or disability of both the Chair and Vice Chair, the Commission shall elect a temporary Chair to serve until the Chair or Vice Chair so absent or disabled shall return, or the disability shall be removed, as the case may be. In such event, the temporary Chair shall have all the powers and perform the functions and duties herein assigned to the Chair of the Commission.

5. Secretary - Duties

The Planning Director or his designee shall serve as secretary of the Commission. The secretary shall have the following duties:

- (a) Give notice of all Commission meetings as hereinafter provided; attend every meeting of the Commission, to record for the record all members in attendance, to read communications, resolutions and other papers which are ordered to be read by the Chair of the meeting, and to receive and bring to the attention of the Commission messages and other communications from other sources;
- (b) Keep the minutes of the proceedings of the Commission and to record the same;
- (c) Keep and maintain a permanent record file of all documents and papers pertaining to the work of the Commission; and
- (d) Perform such other duties as may be required by these rules.

B. CONDUCT OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

1. Addressing Members

Commission members shall be addressed as "Commissioner" or Mr. or Ms. and their last name.

2. Preparation

Members of the Commission shall take such time as necessary to prepare themselves for hearings and meetings. If members visit a site or have familiarity with a site, they shall disclose any observations.

3. Members Shall Attend Meetings

Every member of the Commission shall attend the meetings of the Commission unless duly excused or unless unable to attend because of extenuating circumstances. Any member desiring to be excused shall notify the secretary. The secretary shall call the same to the attention of the Chair. If a member of the Planning Commission is absent from three consecutive regular or work session meetings or four regular or work session meetings within a calendar year without being excused by the Chair, the Chair may recommend to the County Commission that the member be removed from the Commission for cause. A member may be removed from office for misconduct or failure to comply with attendance requirements by an affirmative vote of the majority of the County Commission.

Planning Commission members shall attend required training.

4. Conflict of Interest

A Planning Commission member with a conflict of interest in a matter before the Commission shall state that such a conflict of interest exists and withdraw from participation in the public hearing, work session or regular meeting on such matter. A member of the Planning Commission who feels he/she, or any other member of the Commission, may have a conflict of interest on any matter that is on the Commission agenda shall explain the possible conflict to the Commission. The Commission shall then vote to decide whether an actual, apparent, or reasonably foreseeable conflict of interest does exist, and whether the Commissioner should withdraw from participation and voting. If a Commissioner has a conflict of interest, that person shall not participate in the discussion and voting on that matter, nor attempt to use his/her influence with other Commissioners before, during or after the meeting. A Commissioner who has a conflict of interest shall leave the Commission Chamber during the time in which the matter in question is being discussed and voted upon.

(a) Disqualification

No member of the Planning Commission shall participate in the discussion of an application or vote on an application for any action when any of the following conditions exist:

- i. Any of the following have a direct or substantial financial interest in the proposal: members of the Planning Commission or the member's spouse, brother, sister, child, parent, father-in-law, mother-in-law, any business in which the member is then serving or has served within the past two (2) years, or any business with which the member is negotiating for or has an arrangement or understanding concerning prospective partnership or employment.
- ii. For any other reason, the member has determined that participation in the decision cannot be in an impartial manner.

(b) Disclosure of Potential Conflict of Interest

Whether or not he/she is disqualified, a public official shall disclose any potential conflict of interest as required by state law.

(c) Ex Parte Contacts

An ex parte contact is any communication with a party or person outside of a planning commission meeting regarding administrative applications. Commissioners are not to engage in these communications. Anyone speaking to Commissioners on administrative matters should do so at a regular meeting so their comments, concerns, and evidence are on the public record. Communications regarding legislative matters are generally permitted.

Planning Commission members shall reveal any pre-meeting or ex parte contacts with regard to administrative matters at the commencement of the public meeting on the matter. Prearranged private meetings between a Planning Commissioner and applicants, their agents, or other interested parties are prohibited. Partisan information on an application received by a Planning Commissioner whether by mail, telephone or other communication should be made part of the public record. If such contacts have impaired the member's impartiality or ability to vote on the matter, the member shall so state and shall abstain.

(d) Planning Commission Members Wishing to Give Comment

A member who desires to make comments at a meeting may do so only after declaring intent to comment, abstaining from voting on the proposal, and vacating the seat and physically joining the audience. Before commenting, the Commission member shall make full disclosure of his/her status and position at the time of addressing the Planning Commission and disclose that the person is commenting as an interested member of the public and not in his/her capacity as a member of the Commission; upon commenting the member shall leave the Commission Chamber during the time in which the matter in question is being discussed and voted upon. If a member is an applicant, he / she can fully participate in the matter.

(e) Gifts and Favors. Gifts and favors standards are found in UCA 67 16 5. No public officer or employee shall knowingly receive, accept, take, seek, or solicit, directly or indirectly, any gift, compensation or loan for themselves or another if it tends to influence them in the discharge of duties. Exceptions to this are: an occasional non-pecuniary gift, having a value less than \$50 or an award publicly presented in recognition of public service.

(f) Treatment of Information. Reports and official records of a public planning agency must be open on an equal basis to all inquiries. Planning advice should not be furnished to some unless it is available to all. All reports in an official meeting agenda are public information. Communication with planning staff members is not an ex parte contact and is allowed.

(g) Political Activity. Membership in a political party and contributions to its finances or activities are matters of individual decision that should neither be required of nor prohibited to Planning Commissioners. The extent of participation in political activities should be governed by professional judgment as well as limited by any applicable civil service law or regulation. The special position of a Planning Commissioner should not be used to obtain contributions or support for a political party and should not be used to obtain partisan favors.

C. MEETINGS

1. Place

Meetings of the Commission shall be held in the Weber County Commission Chambers on the first floor of the Weber Center Building, Ogden, Utah, 2380 Washington Blvd., Ogden. If the Chambers is not available on those dates, then the meeting may be held in another room of the Weber Center Building or at such other place in Weber County as the Commission may designate. A meeting having been convened at the place designated, may be adjourned by the Commission to any other place within Weber County for the sole purpose of investigating some particular matter of business which may be more conveniently investigated at such other place.

2. Regular Meetings

Regular meetings of the Western Weber Planning Commission shall be held on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. Field trips may be held on the second Tuesday of each month at the hour of 3:00 p.m. or at such other appropriate times. In the event that a field trip is not held then a pre-meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m.

Regular meetings of the Ogden Valley Planning Commission shall be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. Field trips may be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the hour of 3:00 p.m. or at such other appropriate times. In the event that a field trip is not held then a pre-meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m.

The date of the regular meeting may be changed by the majority of the total membership of the Planning Commission provided at least one week notice is given each member of the new date of a regular meeting.

3. Special Meetings

A special meeting may be called at any time by the Chair or by a majority vote of the Commission at any regular meeting of the Commission. Notice shall be given to each Commission member of the time and purpose of every special meeting of the Commission at least twenty four (24) hours prior to such meeting. Such notice shall be delivered to each member of the Commission personally, or may be given by telephone to the member of the Commission. Such notice may also be given by United States Mail, directed to the member of the Commission so to be notified at the member's residence and mailed not less than three (3) days prior to the time fixed for such special meeting. It is specifically provided, however, that any member may, in writing, waive prior notice of the time, place and purpose of such meeting; and such waiver, if made, shall be deemed a waiver of prior notice of the time and purpose thereof.

4. Meetings - Matters Considered
Any matter pertaining to the affairs of the Planning Commission and falling within the authority and jurisdiction of the Commission may be considered and acted upon at any regular meeting of the Commission.
5. Quorum
Four members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum thereof for the transaction of all business except where unanimous consent of all members is required. An abstaining or disqualified member of the Planning Commission shall not be counted as if present for purposes of forming a quorum. Except as otherwise specifically provided in these Rules, a majority vote of the Commission members present at a meeting shall be required and shall be sufficient to transact any business before the Commission. If a quorum is not present, the Chair shall call the meeting to order, announce the lack of a quorum, and adjourn the meeting.
6. Work Sessions
A regular work session of the Western Weber Planning Commission shall be held on the second Tuesday of each month at the hour of 5:00 p.m.

A regular work session of the Ogden Valley Planning Commission shall be held on the first Tuesday of each month at the hour of 5:00 p.m.

Work sessions may be held as part of a regular Commission meeting or called in the same manner as a special meeting in order for the Commission to discuss matters at greater length or to obtain additional background information. The Commission shall take no vote during such work session, except to give directions to Staff regarding the presentation of options for future consideration.
7. Open Meetings Law
All meetings of the Planning Commission shall be open to the public. All meetings of the Planning Commission shall be noticed in conformance with the requirements of the Open and Public Meetings Law of the State of Utah.
8. Length of Meetings
At 8:30 p.m. the Planning Commission will finish the item presently being considered. All items remaining to be heard will be forwarded to the next agenda for consideration.

D. PROCEDURE - ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Order of Business
The order of business in the Commission shall be as follows:
 - (a) Pledge of Allegiance
 - (b) Roll call. At all meetings before proceeding to business, the roll of the Commission members shall be taken and the names of those present and those absent shall be entered on the record.
 - (c) Approval of minutes of prior meetings
 - (d) Consent Agenda
 - (e) Petitions, Applications and Public Hearings
 - (f) Chair reads hearing statement
 - (g) Old Business
 - (h) New Business
 - (i) Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda
 - (j) Remarks from Planning Commissioners

- (k) Report of the Planning Director
- (l) Remarks from the County Attorney
- (m) Chair Adjourns Meeting

2. Agenda for Meetings

The secretary shall prepare a written agenda for each meeting as far in advance thereof as possible. The secretary shall make every effort to deliver the agenda, along with Staff Reports and related documents, to the members of the Commission at least seven (7) days in advance of a regular meeting.

3. Deadline for Agenda

Requests to be on a Planning Commission agenda shall be filed thirty (30) days prior to consideration by the Planning Commission. The Planning Staff shall certify completeness of requests. Certified requests which have been filed in a timely manner shall be placed on the agenda. The deadline may be waived by the Planning Director if he/she determines that good cause exists for waiving the deadline, the application is complete, and determined that Staff has sufficient time to analyze the request, adequately prepare a Staff Report and give proper notice.

4. Special Order of Business

The Commission may suspend the rules as to the order of business, or return to an order already passed, on a motion supported by a majority of the members present.

E. ORDER AND DECORUM

1. Order of Consideration of Items

The following procedure will normally be observed in a public hearing or other matter before the Commission; however, it may be rearranged by the Chair for individual items, if necessary, for the expeditious conduct of business:

- (a) Chair introduces item;
- (b) Abstentions, conflicts of interest and challenges are entertained and any declaration of conflicts of interest and ex parte contacts;
- (c) Staff makes a presentation on the criteria, standards, and recommendations;
- (d) Applicant or applicant's agent presents evidence for the proposal;
- (e) Any opponents and/or proponents may comment;
- (f) Planning Commission members may question staff, applicant, or opponents on all the above;
- (g) Applicant's rebuttal if requested;
- (h) Closing of the public hearing, if applicable;
- (i) Concluding comments of Staff or Staff summary and recommendations;
- (j) Motion is made and seconded; the Planning Commission discusses the item and votes. Members are allowed to openly discuss the proposal and may further question any party appearing for or against the proposal as necessary, but generally questions should be asked while the public hearing is open. The Chair outlines possible actions: approval, disapproval, continue, or approval with conditions.

2. Consideration of Items

All parties shall have an opportunity to be heard, to present and rebut evidence before an impartial tribunal, to have the proceedings recorded, and to have a decision rendered in accordance with the facts on record and the law.

The Chair of the Planning Commission shall have authority to:

- (a) Regulate the course and decorum of the meeting.
- (b) Dispose of procedural requests and similar matters.
- (c) Set reasonable time limits for individual public input, oral presentations, questions, and rebuttal information.
- (d) Question any person appearing, and allow other members to question any such person.
- (e) Waive, at his/her discretion, the application of any rule herein where the circumstances of the hearing indicate that it would be expedient and proper to do so, provided that such waiver does not act to prejudice or deny any party his/her substantial rights as provided herein or otherwise by law.
- (f) Take such other action as authorized by the Planning Commission to appropriately conduct the hearing.

A ruling of the Chair may be challenged by any member of the Planning Commission present at the hearing. The challenge must be seconded. A ruling may be reversed by a majority of the members present and voting. A tie vote upholds the Chair's decision.

3. Time Limits

The Chair may impose equitable time limits, if deemed necessary for the expeditious conduct of the public hearing.

4. Conduct of Persons before the Commission

Proceedings shall at all times be orderly and respectful. The Chair may refuse to recognize or exclude from the hearing anyone who:

- (a) Is disorderly, abusive, or disruptive.
- (b) Takes part in or encourages audience demonstrations such as applause, cheering, display of signs, or other conduct disruptive to the hearing.
- (c) Comments without first receiving recognition from the Chair and stating his/her full name and residence.
- (d) Presents irrelevant, immaterial, or repetitious evidence.

Persons making presentations or providing comments to the Planning Commission shall address the Commission from the podium or microphone and not from the audience; shall address all comments to the Planning Commission; and may not directly question or interrogate other persons in the audience.

F. PROCEDURE - MOTIONS

1. Making of Motions

Upon review of the full public record on a request and due deliberation among the members of the Planning Commission, any Planning Commissioner, except for the Chair, may make a motion; however, any Planning Commissioner may second a motion. The motion shall include not only the direction of the motion, but shall also include the recitation of specific findings of fact supporting such motion. A second shall be required for each motion citing compatible findings. Other members of the Commission may support the motion adding compatible findings. A motion shall die in the absence of a second. Discussion of the motion should not take place until it has been seconded and the Chair has stated the motion and called for discussion.

2. Withdrawing or Modifying a Motion

- (a) When a motion has been made but not yet stated by the Chair, whether or not it has been seconded, it can be withdrawn or modified by the mover if the member simply says, "Chair, I withdraw the motion."
- (b) If the mover wishes to modify his/her motion, he/she should specify the modification. Any member may suggest that the mover withdraw or modify his/her motion, but only the mover may do so.
- (c) If a motion is modified before being stated by the Chair, the second may withdraw his/her second.
- (d) After the Chair states a motion, it is the property of the Commission. It can be withdrawn or modified at any time before voting by a majority vote to withdraw or modify.

3. Motions in Order During Debate

When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received except:

- (a) To fix the time to adjourn;
- (b) To adjourn;
- (c) To continue, table, or postpone indefinitely to a specified time;
- (d) To amend; to substitute;
- (e) Refer to committee;
- (f) Previous question (immediately close debate);
- (g) Limit or extend limits of debate;
- (h) Take a recess;
- (i) Call for orders of the day;
- (j) Suspension of the rules;
- (k) Appeal rulings by the Chair;
- (l) Reconsider an undebatable motion.

4. Motion must be Germane

No motion or proposition on a subject different from that under consideration is in order and no such motion or proposition shall be admitted under color of amendment.

5. Motions to Deny

Where a motion to deny a request has been defeated, a member of the Commission shall make another motion to dispose of the issue.

6. Substitute Motions

A motion to amend by striking out an entire section or paragraph of a main motion and inserting a different section or paragraph is called a motion to substitute. Substitute motions shall supersede the main motion upon receiving the approval of a majority vote.

7. Amendments

All amendments must relate to the same subject as the original motion, resolution, proposition or ordinance. All amendments to the main motion require a second. If any amendment is offered, the question shall be first upon the amendment. An amendment may be tabled without prejudice to the main motion or question. When an amendment is proposed to any pending measure shall be laid on the table, such action shall not carry with it or prejudice such measure. If any amendment be offered, the question shall be first upon the amendment.

8. Friendly Amendments

A Commissioner may make a friendly amendment without a formal motion with unanimous consent of the members present. Typically, such motions are appropriate for clean-up items or an issue discussed but inadvertently neglected by the maker of the motion.

G. PROCEDURE - RECONSIDERATION

1. Motion to Reconsider

A motion to reconsider must be made in the same meeting as the motion that was voted on. It can only be made by a member who voted on the prevailing side and must be seconded. Any Commission member, regardless of vote on the main motion, may second the motion. It is a debatable motion. It can be made to a vote that was either affirmative or negative. This type of motion proposes no specific change in a decision but simply proposes that the original question be reopened. It requires a majority vote and cannot be reconsidered.

H. PROCEDURE - DEBATE

1. Interruptions and Questions

No member of the Commission shall interrupt or question another Commissioner without obtaining the Commissioner's consent. To obtain such consent, the Chair shall be addressed requesting to interrupt or ask a question; e.g., "Chair (name) I would like to ask Commissioner (name) a question or make a comment." The Commissioner speaking has the discretion to allow an interruption.

I. PROCEDURE - VOTING

1. Roll Call on Final Passage

The vote upon the final passage of all business shall be by aye (yeses) and nay (no's) given by members of the Commission individually on roll call, except motions to adjourn, table, common consent, continue, proceed out of order, or receive for study may be done by voice vote. The names of the members on such roll call shall be called alphabetically, in rotation, except that the Chair shall be called last. In recording votes on roll call, the secretary shall record and report those absent or not voting. The Chair shall announce the result.

2. Minute Approval

The Chair shall ask the Commission if they have had the opportunity to read the minutes and if there are any additions or corrections. Upon hearing from the Commission the Chair shall declare the minutes approved either as presented or amended. If the Commission has not had an opportunity to review the minutes, approval shall be postponed to the next regular meeting.

3. Voting or Changing Vote Before Decision Announced

On any such vote any member may change his/her vote before the decision of the question has been announced by the Chair unless the member has the permission of the Planning Commission by general consent or motion if a member objects.

4. Voting or Changing Vote After Decision Announced

When a vote is taken on roll call on any question, no member shall be permitted to vote or to change his/her vote after the decision is announced by the Chair.

5. Commission Members Required to Vote - Late Voting
No member may abstain from voting unless there is a conflict of interest except as noted below. A member entering the Chamber after the question is put and before it is decided, may have the question stated, record his/her vote and be counted. A member who has not been present during the discussion of any matter and feels he/she has insufficient information on which to act may abstain.
6. Tie Votes
If a motion regarding any matter before the Commission receives an equal number of votes in the affirmative and in the negative, the motion fails. The Commission shall continue to make motions until a majority vote is obtained. The option of continuing an item with the possibility that an odd number of members of the Commission would be at a subsequent meeting may be considered.
7. Explaining Vote
After the vote is taken, any member of the Commission desiring to explain his/her vote shall be allowed an opportunity to do so.
8. Not to Vote Unless Present
No member of the Commission shall vote on any question unless the member shall be present when the vote is taken and when the result is announced. No member shall give his/her proxy to any persons whomsoever.

J. DOCUMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

1. Any and all materials submitted to the Planning Commission regarding a request shall be entered into the public record by the Chair by indicating that the material is "accepted for the record;" provided, however, that the Staff Report submitted to the Planning Commission as part of the agenda shall automatically become part of the public record.
2. All notices, agendas, requests, agency or consultant letters or reports, Staff Reports, minutes of meetings, and resolutions of record shall constitute the documents of the Planning Commission and shall be indexed as public record.

K. AMENDMENT

These Rules of Order may be amended at any meeting of the Commission held after not less than fourteen days written notice of the proposal to amend the Rules, upon a majority vote of all the members of the Commission.

Adopted Rules of Order may be amended at any regular meeting by a vote of the majority of the entire membership; or if the amendment was submitted in writing at the previous meeting, then they may be amended by a two-thirds vote of those voting, a quorum being present.

L. RECORDING OF RULES - COPIES TO BE FURNISHED

These Rules, and all subsequent amendments thereto, shall be recorded by the secretary in the book kept for the recording of such business and shall be furnished to each member of the Commission.

Effective Date:

Kevin Parson, Chair
Ogden Valley Planning Commission

Douglas Hansen, Chair
Western Weber Planning Commission