

Newburyport City Council

Special Meeting

January 18, 2020, 9:00 a.m., Senior Center

Agenda

1. **Call to Order** (1 minute)
2. **Introductions** (20 minutes)
3. **Charter Article 2 (“Legislative Branch”)** (4 minutes)
4. **Periodic Review of Municipal Code (Charter sec. 9-5)** (4 minutes)
5. **Council Rules** (80 minutes)
 - a. **Addressing the Chair**
 - b. **“Parliamentary Language” and “Ad Hominem Attacks”**

[5-MINUTE RECESS]
 - c. **Sponsorship of matters**
 - d. **“Committee of the Whole”**
 - e. **Mayor’s Comment**
 - f. **Committee Meetings, including minutes**
 - g. **“Good of the Order”**
 - i. **Operation of the Council**
 - ii. **Discipline**
 - h. **Other provisions**
6. **Due Process** (10 minutes)
 - a. **Administrative rules and regulations (Charter sec. 9-4)**
 - b. **Administrative applications, decisions, etc. (Charter sec. 9-7)**
7. **Adjournment** (1 minute)

(18) "Referendum measure", a measure adopted by the city council or the school committee that is protested under the referendum procedures of this charter.

(19) "School department website", a site established and maintained by the school department as its online repository of information concerning the public schools and the school committee, whether on the Internet or accessed through another comparable technology. Said site may be part of the city website, but shall be considered a separate site for the purposes of Article 6-4.

(20) "Voters", registered voters of the city of Newburyport.

(21) "Year", unless otherwise specified, shall mean a calendar year.

ARTICLE 2

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

SECTION 2-1: COMPOSITION, TERM OF OFFICE

(a) Composition - There shall be a city council of 11 members which shall exercise the legislative powers of the city. Five of these members, to be known as councilors-at-large, shall be nominated and elected by and from the voters at large. Six of these members, to be known as ward councilors, shall be nominated and elected by and from the voters from each ward; 1 such ward councilor to be elected from each of the 6 wards into which the city is divided under section 7-7.

(b) Term of Office - The term of office for all councilors shall be for 2 years each, beginning on the first Monday in the January succeeding their election, except when said first Monday falls on a legal holiday, in which event the term shall begin on the following day, and until their successors have been qualified.

(c) Eligibility - Any voter shall be eligible to hold the office of councilor-at-large. A ward councilor must be a voter in the ward from which election is sought. If a ward councilor or a councilor-at-large removes from the city



during the term for which elected, such office shall immediately be deemed vacant and filled in the manner provided in section 2-11. If a ward councilor removes from the ward from which elected and less than 6 months of the term remain, the ward councilor who remains a resident of the city may continue to serve during the term for which elected.

SECTION 2-2: PRESIDENT

(a) Election and Term - As soon as practicable after the councilors-elect have been qualified following each municipal election, as provided in section 9-11, the members of the city council shall elect from among its members a president who shall serve for a 1 year term. The method of election of the president shall be prescribed within the rules of the city council.

(b) Powers and Duties - The president shall preside at all meetings of the city council, regulate its proceedings and shall decide all questions of order. The president shall appoint all members of all committees of the city council, whether special or standing. The president shall have the same powers to vote upon all measures coming before the city council as any other member of the city council. The president shall perform any other duties consistent with the office that may be provided by charter, by ordinance or by other vote of the city council.

SECTION 2-3: PROHIBITIONS

(a) Holding Other City Office or Position - No member of the city council shall hold any other city office or city employment. No former member of the city council shall hold any compensated appointed city office or appointed city employment until 1 year following the date on which the former member's service on the city council has terminated. This provision shall not prevent a city officer or other city employee who has vacated a position in order to serve as a member of the city council from returning to the same office or other position of city employment held at the time the position was vacated, but no such person shall be eligible for any other compensated appointed

municipal position until at least 1 year following the termination of service as a member of the city council.

(b) Interference with Administration - No city council or any member of the city council shall give orders or directions to any officer or employee of the city appointed by the mayor, either publicly or privately.

(c) Felony Conviction - Any councilor who has been finally convicted of a felony criminal offense involving misconduct in any elective or appointive public office, trust or employment at any time held by said councilor shall have deemed to have vacated office and shall not be eligible to serve in any other elective or appointive office or position under the city.

SECTION 2-4: COMPENSATION; EXPENSES

(a) Compensation - The members of the city council shall receive such salary for their services as may from time to time be set by ordinance. No ordinance increasing or reducing the salary of the members of the city council shall be effective unless it shall have been adopted by a 2/3 vote of the full city council. No increase or reduction in such salary shall take effect during the term in which such increase or reduction is voted, and no change in such ordinance shall be made between the election of a new council and the qualification of the new council. Subject to appropriation, members of the city council shall be entitled to reimbursement of their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

SECTION 2-5: GENERAL POWERS

Except as otherwise provided by general law or by this charter, all powers of the city shall be vested in the city council which shall provide for their exercise and for the performance of all duties and obligations imposed upon the city by law.

SECTION 2-6: EXERCISE OF POWERS; QUORUM; RULES

(a) Exercise of Powers - Except as otherwise provided by general law or by this charter, the legislative powers of the city council may be exercised in a manner determined by it.

(b) Quorum - The presence of 6 members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Except as otherwise provided by general law or by this charter, the affirmative vote, taken by roll call vote, of 6 members shall be required to adopt an appropriation order. Except as otherwise provided by law or this charter, the affirmative vote, taken by roll call vote, of a majority of the full city council shall be required to adopt any ordinance.

(c) Rules of Procedure - The city council shall from time to time adopt rules regulating its procedures, which shall be in addition to the following:

(i) Regular meetings of the city council shall be held at a time and place fixed by ordinance. All regular meetings of the city council shall provide for a period of public comment, provided however, the city council may promulgate rules that regulate such period of public comment as deemed appropriate.

(ii) Special meetings of the city council shall be held at the call of the president or at the call of any 6 or more members, for any purpose, by causing a notice of the meeting to be delivered in hand or to the place of business or residence of each member of the city council. This notice shall, except in an emergency of which the president shall be the sole judge, be delivered at least 48 weekday hours in advance of the time set and shall specify the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is to be held. A copy of each such notice shall immediately be posted in accordance with applicable laws.

(iii) All sessions of the city council and of every committee or subcommittee of the council shall at all times be open to the public unless another provision is made by law.

(iv) A full, accurate, up-to-date account of the proceedings of the city council shall be kept by the city clerk, which shall include a record of each vote taken, and which shall be made available with reasonable promptness following each meeting. Unless otherwise provided by law, the minutes of any executive session shall be made available as soon as their publication would not defeat the lawful purposes of the executive session.

SECTION 2-7: ACCESS TO INFORMATION

(a) In General - The city council may make investigations into the affairs of the city and into the conduct and performance of any city agency.

(b) City Officers, Members of City Agencies, Employees - The city council may require any city officer, member of a city agency or city employee to appear before it to give any information that the city council may require in relation to the municipal services, functions, powers, or duties which are within the scope of responsibility of that person and within the jurisdiction of the city council.

(c) Mayor - The city council at any time may request from the mayor specific information on any municipal matter within its jurisdiction, and may request the mayor to be present to answer written questions relating thereto at a meeting to be held not earlier than 7 days from the date of the receipt by the mayor of said questions. The mayor shall personally, or through any designated city officer or employee, attend such meeting and respond to said questions. The person so attending shall not be obliged to answer questions relating to any other matter.

(d) Notice - The city council shall give a minimum of 7 days' notice to any person it may require to appear before it under the provisions of this section. The notice shall include specific questions on which the city council seeks information, and no person called to appear before the city council under this section shall be required to respond to any question not relevant or related to those presented in advance and in writing.

SECTION 2-8: APPOINTMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

The council shall, by a majority vote, elect a city clerk to hold office for 3 years and until said city clerk's successor is qualified. The city clerk shall have such powers and perform such duties as the council may prescribe, in addition to such duties as may be prescribed by law. The city clerk shall keep the records of the meetings of the city council. Subject to appropriation, the city council may employ such additional staff as it deems necessary.

SECTION 2-9: ORDINANCES AND OTHER MEASURES

(a) Measures- No measure shall be passed finally on the date on which it is introduced, except in the case of an emergency. Except as otherwise provided by the charter, every adopted measure shall become effective at the expiration of 10 days after adoption or upon the signature of the mayor, whichever occurs first. No ordinance shall be amended or repealed except by another ordinance adopted in accordance with the charter, or as provided in the initiative and referendum procedures.

(b) Emergency Measures- An emergency measure shall be introduced in the form and manner prescribed for measures generally except that it shall be plainly designated as an emergency measure and shall contain statements after the enacting clause declaring that an emergency exists and describing its scope and nature in clear and specific terms. A preamble which declares and defines the emergency shall be separately voted on and shall require the affirmative vote of 2/3 of the full city council. An emergency measure may be passed with or without amendment or rejected at the meeting at which it is introduced. No measure making a grant, renewal or extension, whatever its kind or nature, or a franchise or special privilege shall be passed as an emergency measure, and except as provided by the laws of the Commonwealth, no such grant, renewal or extension shall be made

otherwise than by ordinance. An emergency measure shall become effective upon adoption or at such later time as it may specify.

(c) Charter Objection- On the first occasion that the question on adoption of a measure is put to the city council, if a single member present objects to the taking of the vote, the vote shall be postponed until the next meeting of the city council whether regular or special. If 2 members present shall object, such postponement shall be until the next regular meeting; but for an emergency measure at least 4 members present, in all, must object. This procedure shall not be used more than once for any specific matter notwithstanding any amendment to the original matter. A charter objection shall have privilege over all motions but must be raised prior to or at the call for a vote by the presiding officer and all debate shall cease.

SECTION 2-10: CITY COUNCIL CONFIRMATION OF CERTAIN APPOINTMENTS

The mayor shall submit to the city council the name of each person the mayor desires to appoint to any city office as a department head or as a member of a multiple-member body, but not including any position which is subject to the civil service law. The city council may refer each name submitted to it to a standing committee of the council which shall review each candidate for appointment and may make a recommendation to the full city council not less than 7 nor more than 45 days after the referral. The committee may require any person whose name has been referred to it to appear before the committee, or before the city council, to give any information relevant to the appointment that the committee, or the city council, may require. Appointments made by the mayor shall become effective on the forty-fifth day after the date on which notice of the proposed appointment was filed with the city clerk unless approved or rejected by the city council within the 45 days.

SECTION 2-11: FILLING OF VACANCIES

If a vacancy occurs at any time in the office of a councilor elected by and from the voters at large, such vacancy shall be filled forthwith by a majority vote of all the remaining members of the city council for the remainder of the unexpired term. If a vacancy occurs, before the last 6 months of the term, in the office of a councilor elected by and from the voters of a ward, the city council shall forthwith order an election to fill such vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term. If a vacancy occurs in the last 6 months of the term of said office, such vacancy shall be filled forthwith by a voter of the ward as elected by a majority vote of all the remaining members of the city council for the remainder of the unexpired term.

ARTICLE 3

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

SECTION 3-1: MAYOR: QUALIFICATIONS; TERM OF OFFICE; COMPENSATION; PROHIBITIONS

(a) Mayor, Qualifications - The chief executive officer of the city shall be a mayor, elected by and from the voters of the city at large or, in the case of a vacancy, as provided in section 3-10. Any voter shall be eligible to hold the office of mayor. The mayor shall devote full time to the office and shall not hold any other elective public office.

(b) Term of Office - The term of office of the mayor shall be 4 years beginning on the first Monday in the January succeeding his election, except when said first Monday falls on a legal holiday, in which event the term shall begin on the following day and continue until his successor has been qualified.

(c) Compensation - The city council shall, by ordinance, establish an annual salary for the mayor. No ordinance increasing or reducing the salary of the mayor shall be effective unless it shall have been adopted by a 2/3 vote of the full city council. No increase or reduction in such salary shall take effect

CITY OF NEWBURYPORT



IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDERED:

NEWBURYPORT CITY COUNCIL RULES (2020)

PURPOSE

Pursuant to the City of Newburyport Home Rule Charter (Charter), except as otherwise provided by the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (General Laws) or by the Charter, the legislative powers of the City Council of the City of Newburyport (Council) may be exercised in a manner determined by it. The purpose of these rules of the Council (Rules) is to establish in writing the manner in which the Council shall exercise its legislative powers.

ORGANIZATION

Rule 1. No later than December 31 after each regular municipal election, the City Clerk (Clerk) shall provide written notice to each member of the Council for the coming two-year legislative session of the date, time, and place of the first meeting of the Council in the next calendar year, to be known as the Inaugural Meeting.

Rule 1A. At the Inaugural Meeting, the Council shall, by majority vote of all its 11 members, notwithstanding any vacancies (Full Council), elect a President from within its membership. The City Clerk (Clerk) shall preside at the Inaugural Meeting until such time as a President is elected. The Full Council shall vote to set the date of its next regular meeting before it may vote to adjourn the Inaugural Meeting.

Rule 1B. No later than at its next meeting after the Inaugural Meeting, the Council shall, by majority vote of the Full Council, adopt its Rules for such calendar year.

Rule 1C. No later than at its next meeting after the Inaugural Meeting, the Council shall, by majority vote of the Full Council, adopt a schedule of regular meetings of the Council for the remainder of such calendar year.

Rule 1D. In the second year of each two-year legislative session, no Inaugural Meeting shall occur. Instead, at its first meeting of such calendar year, the Council shall, by majority vote of the Full Council: (1) elect a President from within its membership; (2) adopt its Rules for such calendar year; and (3) adopt a schedule of regular meetings of the Council for the remainder of such calendar year.

MEETINGS

Rule 2. Council meetings shall be held in the Council Chamber of City Hall unless the President, or a majority of the Full Council, determine by any means reasonable and practicable, and give written notice to all members, that such meeting will be held in an alternate location.

Rule 2A. Special meetings of the Council shall be held at the call of the President, or any six (6) or more members, for any lawful purpose, by causing a notice of such special meeting to be delivered in hand or to the place of business or residence of each member. This notice shall, except in an emergency of which the President shall be the sole judge, be delivered at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the time set, and shall specify the purpose or purposes for which the special meeting is to be held. The Clerk shall cause a copy of each such notice to be posted immediately, including on the City's Website, in accordance with applicable laws.

Rule 2B. If any meeting of the Council is in session at 11:00pm, said meeting shall be adjourned until 7:30pm of the following evening, unless another date and time is voted by a majority of the Full Council.

HOLIDAYS

Rule 3. Except as otherwise provided in the Charter, whenever the day set by these Rules for any meeting of the Council, regular or special, shall fall upon a holiday, then such meeting shall be canceled or postponed to a date certain by majority vote of the Full Council.

PRESIDING OFFICER

Rule 4. The President, if present, shall preside at all meetings. In the absence of the President, the senior-most member in terms of consecutive, uninterrupted service on the Council shall serve during the absence of the President. If more than one member has served the same length of time, the Council shall elect a President Pro Tem by majority vote from the most senior Councillors in terms of consecutive, uninterrupted service on the Council.

DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE PRESIDING OFFICER

Rule 5. The presiding officer shall: preserve decorum and order; speak to points of order in preference to other members; decide all questions of order, subject to appeal to a super-majority of the Full Council; declare all votes, or permit the Clerk to do so; and perform any other duties consistent with the office that may be provided by charter, ordinance, or by other vote of the Council.

Rule 5A. If any member doubts a vote as declared, the presiding officer, without further debate on the question, shall require that a count be taken by roll call of the membership.

Rule 5B. During any meeting, whether regular or special, the presiding officer may, at any time, call for a five-minute recess.

RELINQUISHING THE CHAIR

Rule 6. When the presiding officer desires to relinquish the Chair, he or she may call upon any Councillor to take the Chair, but such call to the Chair shall not continue beyond the will of the presiding officer so relinquishing the Chair, or beyond an adjournment of the Council, except as hereafter provided. If the presiding officer wishes to express an opinion on any subject under debate, he or she shall relinquish the Chair as above provided, and shall not resume the Chair until he or she is through speaking, and all points of order arising therefrom have been decided by the Councillor presiding in his or her place. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the presiding officer may, however, state facts and give opinions upon questions of order without relinquishing the Chair.

COMMITTEES AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Rule 7. The President shall appoint all members to all City Council Committees, both standing and ad hoc, designate the Chair of each such Committee, who shall serve as its presiding officer, and fill any vacancies thereon as they arise. Likewise, the President may establish, dissolve, and/or reconfigure ad hoc Committees in his or her discretion, provided that such ad hoc Committees shall be re-established each two-year legislative session. Ad hoc committees may include members other than members of the Council for purposes of deliberation, but they may not vote. Except as otherwise provided in Rule 12, the Council shall, by a majority vote, refer each matter newly introduced through the Council agenda (Agenda) to a single Committee, either standing or ad hoc, for review at a public meeting of such Committee, before such matter may be acted upon again by the Council. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a Councillor may make all parliamentary motions, including a motion to receive and file the newly introduced matter.

Rule 7A. Pursuant to the Newburyport Code (Code), there shall be nine (9) standing committees of the Council, as follows, each consisting of three (3) members of the Council, and concerned with the matters specified for it in the Code:

- Committee on Budget & Finance
- Committee on Education
- Committee on General Government
- Committee on Licenses & Permits
- Committee on Neighborhoods & City Service;
- Committee on Planning & Development
- Committee on Public Safety
- Committee on Public Utilities
- Committee on Rules

Rule 7B. Except as provided expressly otherwise in these Rules, a matter shall not be referred to more than one Committee, either separately or jointly, nor may a matter be referred to the Full Council sitting as the Committee-of-the-Whole except by super-majority vote.

Rule 7C. Committees may meet at any time, in open and/or executive session, at any place within the City of Newburyport, subject to the Massachusetts General Laws, the City Charter, and the Newburyport Code.

Rule 7D. Committees shall meet and review each matter referred to them by the Council no later than fifteen (15) calendar days after such referral.

Rule 7E. Committee meetings shall be cancelled when scheduled during any time when a declared snow emergency is in effect.

Rule 7F. During a meeting of the Council, the Chair of a Committee, whether regular or ad hoc, may remove any matter from such Committee to bring it to the floor for discussion by the Council, upon making a motion to do so, receiving a second from any other Councillor, regardless of Committee membership, and upon affirmative vote of the Full Council. Once such matter is before the Council (on the floor), any Councillor may then make a motion regarding such matter to approve it, not approve it, or refer it back to the original or to another Committee, and all parliamentary rules, including motions to amend, to table, and so on, shall be available, subject to these Rules.

Rule 7G. In the event that either: (a) the Committee has failed to meet and review a matter within the required 15 days under Rule 7D; or (b) the Chair of a Committee has failed to remove any matter from such Committee after (6) weeks of its original referral to such Committee, such matter may be removed from such Committee to bring it to the floor for discussion by the Council, provided that a petition signed by no fewer than two Councillors has been filed with the City Clerk--with copies to both the President and the relevant Committee Chair -- in accordance with Rule 16.

Rule 7H. Any matter that remains in Committee at the end of the Council's two-year legislative session shall die, unless a majority of the Full Council votes at its last meeting of such session to carry such item into the succeeding session. Any item that remains on the table at the end of the Council's two-year legislative term shall die, and may not be carried on.

Rule 7I. For any Committee item relating to the disposition of any real property, including, without limitation, purchase or sale, an appraisal of the fair market value of said real property, performed by a duly licensed professional based upon the requirements and guidelines of the current Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP), shall be presented to the Council no fewer than seven (7) calendar days before such Committee item can be brought to the floor. The appraisal must be dated within twelve (12) calendar months of the date the relevant item is removed from Committee. The appraisal may be presented in Executive Session and/or may otherwise remain confidential in accordance with the City's Charter, and applicable law.

Rule 7J. Any Measure to authorize the issuance of a bond in an amount over \$500,000 shall not be removed from the committee to which it is first referred until the greater of thirty (30) calendar days or one (1) regular meeting of the City Council has elapsed since such referral.

SUFFICIENCY OF VOTE

Rule 8. The affirmative vote of a majority of the members present shall be sufficient to adjourn any meeting of the Council or its Committees.

Rule 8A. Except as expressly provided in these Rules, the affirmative vote of a majority or super-majority, as may be required by law, of the Full Council, rather than of the quorum present, shall be required to adopt any ordinance, order, or other vote or proceeding adopted, or which might be adopted

(Measure). Consistent with the Charter, Measures include, without limitation, all transfers, expenditures, and acceptance of funds, which shall be put into effect by an order of the Full Council.

MANNER OF VOTING

Rule 9. The Council and each of its Committees, standing and ad hoc, shall vote at a duly noticed public meeting, unless otherwise permitted under the Open Meeting Law.

Rule 9A. A vote to confirm Mayoral Appointments on a second reading shall be by roll call of the Full Council.

Rule 9B. Approval of any ordinance shall require two (2) readings and two (2) roll-call votes to be held at separate City Council meetings, while approval of any other Measure requires one (1) reading and one (1) vote, which, except in the case of bond order, may be by voice vote. Amendments to any motion to approve, not approve, or to refer back to Committee may be recorded by voice vote, including such parliamentary motions in regard to an ordinance. Following its passage on first reading, such ordinance shall be timely posted to the City's Website, as defined in the Charter, in a manner prescribed by the City Clerk. Notwithstanding the foregoing, pursuant to the Charter, votes regarding Mayoral Appointments shall be treated specially under Rule 20.

Rule 9C. At the Inaugural Meeting, the Clerk shall begin the order of roll-call voting throughout such meeting with that Councillor whose last name is first in alphabetical order. At each successive meeting that requires a roll call vote or votes, the Clerk shall begin roll calls throughout such meeting with the Councillor whose last name follows the previous Councillor in alphabetical order until the last meeting of the two-year legislative term. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Clerk shall, for all votes at all meetings, call the President to vote last.

Rule 9D. In the event that a member of the Council or one of its Committees wishes to have his or her vote recorded differently after announcement of the results of a roll call vote by the Clerk or presiding officer, the member must receive unanimous consent from every other present member of the Council or the Committee, as the case may be.

Rule 9E. A motion to table once seconded is not debatable, but clarifying points of information shall be allowed for the purpose of understanding the effects of such proposed tabling.

GAINING THE FLOOR

Rule 10. All Councillors, when desiring to speak on a matter, shall raise their hands and respectfully address the President, and wait until recognized by the presiding officer.

Rule 10A. Once recognized by the President, the Councillor shall stand to speak on the matter. A Councillor shall remain standing while speaking, and shall sit down to indicate to the President the conclusion of the Councillor's speech.

Rule 10B. No Councillor shall speak a second time on any motion until each Councillor has the opportunity to speak once, however the President may permit a Councillor to speak out of turn to respond to questions directed to him or her by another Councillor.

Rule 10C. In speaking, members shall at all times confine themselves to the motion in order, shall use parliamentary language and appropriate demeanor, and shall strive to refer to all other members by their ward or as an At-Large Councillor, or as the Chair or a member of a particular Committee, etc., rather than by their first or last names.

Rule 10D. No member shall leave a Council or Committee meeting while it is in session to seek or accept counsel, nor may such member while away from such meeting exchange information pertaining to an item on the meeting agenda, nor to conduct any other city business.

Rule 10E. The Council President and Committee Chairs, as the case may be, shall have the responsibility and discretion for recognizing speakers other than Council or Committee members. Any member of the Council or a Committee may request of the presiding officer recognition of a speaker other than a member, but the presiding officer's determination whether to grant such recognition shall not be appealed.

SPONSORSHIP OF MATTERS

Rule 11. With the sole exception of a Mayoral Appointment, as described in Rule 20, no Measure or other matter beside a Communication, of any kind, shall be placed on the Agenda by any City official or other person, including, without limitation, the Mayor, nor may it be acted upon by the Council, unless it is sponsored by a member of the Council. Each such matter carried over from a previous, two-year legislative term must be sponsored by a current member of the Council.

Rule 12. Except in the case of an Emergency Measure, as regulated under the Charter, the Council shall not pass or otherwise adopt any Measure until it has first been reviewed at a public meeting of a Committee in accordance with Rule 7.

Rule 12A. Failure of by any person, including, without limitation, an applicant or a city official, to meet a deadline, specified by law, regulation, or rule shall not constitute an Emergency. For example, and without limitation, the Council shall not approve a license or permit, or otherwise authorize, any person to use public property for a road race or other event by Emergency Measure solely because such event is scheduled to occur before the Council's next meeting.

Rule 12B. Pursuant to the Charter, no Measure making a grant, renewal, or extension, whatever its kind or nature, or a franchise or special privilege, shall be passed as an emergency measure, and, except as provided by the laws of the Commonwealth, no such grant, renewal, or extension shall be made otherwise than by ordinance.

Rule 12C. Pursuant to the Charter, an Emergency Measure shall become effective immediately upon its adoption without signature by the Mayor, or at such later time as the emergency measure expressly provides.

Rule 12D. In the event that a sponsor of any Measure or other matter is not present physically or telephonically at a meeting of the Council when the Clerk reads such Measure or other matter, then the Council shall not consider such Measure or other matter, unless all sponsors of such measure have presented a written statement requesting the Council to proceed in the absence of such sponsor.

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WITHDRAWING ITEMS FROM THE AGENDA

Rule 13. After a Measure or other matter is reached on the Agenda and read aloud by the Clerk, it shall be deemed to be in possession of the Council, and shall be disposed of in some matter by vote. At any time prior to a Measure or other matter being brought before the Council through such reading, it may be withdrawn provided all sponsors so notify the President or the Clerk.

RECONSIDERATION

Rule 14. Notwithstanding Rule 9D, after a vote has been taken on a Measure or other matter, it shall be in order for any member voting with the prevailing side to move reconsideration thereof at the same meeting at which the vote was taken, and such motion shall be disposed of accordingly. Alternatively, such member may file with the Clerk, not later than noon of the next business day following such meeting, written notice of a motion to reconsider such vote. After receiving such written notification from a member, the Clerk shall place the motion for reconsideration on the Agenda for the next regular meeting of the Council, and the Clerk shall forthwith, either verbally or in writing, notify the Full Council of such filing.

DUTIES OF THE CLERK

Rule 15. The Clerk shall attend and keep all records of all meetings of the Council, shall record the names of the members present, shall record the vote of members on roll calls, and shall have the care and custody of the City records, and all documents, plans, and papers pertaining to the business of the Council. The Clerk shall also, at the request of a member, assist in the drafting of items to be presented at the meetings of the Council. The Clerk shall cause notice to be made to each Councillor of each meeting of the Council, regular and special, and of Committee meetings, and shall also post notice on the City Website at least 48 hours prior to commencement.

DEADLINE FOR AGENDA ITEMS

Rule 16. Printed materials regarding any matter, including, without limitation, the full text of new Measures, to be considered by the Council at its next regular meeting shall be presented in complete form to the Clerk not later than 4:00pm on the Tuesday preceding such regular meeting. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, not later than 4:00pm on the Wednesday preceding a regular meeting, Committee Chairs shall submit to the Clerk the text of any Measures they intend to remove from Committee and put into the possession of the full Council. Except as otherwise provided under Rule 18A, papers presented after these times shall be considered Late-Filed Items, which shall not be taken up without a suspension of these Rules, which requires a super-majority vote of the Council. The provisions of this Rule 16 apply to all persons, and in all cases, without exception, including to all members and other City officials, such as the Mayor and Department heads, as well as the public.

AGENDA AND PACKET

Rule 17. For each meeting of the Council, the Clerk in consultation with the President shall compile the Agenda of all matters to come before the Council at such meeting, in accordance with the order of business listed below, and shall make available to the public such Agenda and all supporting documents (together, Packet) to be considered by the Council by 5:00pm of the fourth (4th) calendar day prior to such meeting; provided, however, that in the case of a special meeting the Agenda shall be made available as otherwise provided by law and these Rules, and no Packet shall be required. The Clerk shall cause a printed copy of the Packet to be delivered to each Councillor by their individually preferred means, and to be posted on the City Website at least 48 hours prior to commencement.

Items that are to be added to the Agenda as Late-Filed Items must be submitted for approval to be placed on the Agenda immediately following the Call to Order.

The order of business for the Agenda shall be as follows:

1. Moment of Silence
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Call to Order
4. Late-Filed Items
5. Public Comment
6. Proclamations
7. Mayors Comment
8. Consent Agenda
 - a) Approval of Minutes
 - b) Communications (including Applications)
 - c) Orders (including Transfers/Appropriation Orders) and Resolutions
 - d) First Reading of Mayoral Appointments
7. Second Reading of Mayor's Appointments
8. Communications
9. Orders (including Transfers/Appropriation Orders) and Resolutions
10. Ordinances
11. Committee Reports (including all Measures for the Council to consider)
12. Good of the Order
13. Adjournment

Rule 17A. The Consent Agenda shall be reserved for routine and non-controversial matters that may be considered apart from the rest of the Agenda and approved collectively and without debate.

The President has the sole discretion to place matters on the Consent Agenda excepting Committee Measures. Pursuant to the deadlines set in Rule 16, Committee Chairs may ask the Clerk to place Committee Measures on the Consent Agenda. This rule shall not be construed to limit or alter other rules relating to removing measures from Committee including, without limitation, Rules 7F and 7G. The retention thereon of any measure in the Consent Agenda is subject to the unanimous consent of the members present when the Council reaches the Consent Agenda during its meeting. Committee items removed from the Consent Agenda shall be handled during the regular agenda under the measure's respective Committee report, under Rule 7F.

The Clerk shall read matters on the Consent Agenda by title only. At any time before the Council acts upon the Consent Agenda, any member of the Council may cause any matter or matters listed upon the Consent Agenda to be removed and then placed into the appropriate portion of the regular Agenda, either by providing written notice to the President and/or the Clerk, or, alternatively, by rising and so requesting by motion. The

Council shall then, without debate permitted, vote collectively on all matters remaining on the Consent Agenda, by simple majority of the Full Council. Such vote may be conducted by voice vote at the discretion of the presiding officer.

Rule 17B. Supporting copied (paper copy) documents for Council agenda items shall be placed in the packet and provided to Council members only the first time the item is introduced to the Council. Subsequently, as items are taken up for debate, whether in committee or during regular meetings, it shall be the responsibility of each Councillor to have retained the documents for reference. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the electronic version of the packet, posted on the website, shall be complete.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rule 18. There shall be designated a Public Comment time during each meeting of the City Council. The procedure for this comment time is listed below:

1. Individuals who wish to speak before the Council, whether on their own behalf or on behalf of a group, must sign in on the door of the Council Chamber prior to the start of the Public Comment segment of the meeting. Each speaker must provide his or her name and the address where he or she resides permanently (i.e. legal domicile), and indicate which Agenda item he or she will be speaking on. The President will advise attendees of their right to speak and responsibility to sign-up.
2. Two minutes allotted to each speaker.
3. One opportunity per individual to speak.
4. Comment must be related to an Agenda item.
5. Speakers who are attorneys shall disclose the identity of all clients whose interests are materially affected by the Agenda item upon which they speak.

Rule 18A. There shall be designed a Mayor's Comment time during each regular meeting of the City Council. The procedure for this comment time is listed below:

1. To address the Council during the Mayor's Comment period, the Mayor may provide notice to the President at any time prior to the Call to Order.
2. The Mayor will be allowed to speak for a total of seven (7) minutes.
3. The Mayor will be offered reserved seating on the front bench of the Council Chambers
4. Notwithstanding the normal deadline for written materials to be submitted to the City Clerk under Rule 16, the Mayor may submit a written report to the Full City Council not later than 11:00am on the day of the Council meeting, and such report shall not be deemed a Late-Filed item.
5. Nothing in this rule prohibits the Mayor from speaking otherwise in compliance with the Charter and these Rules.

PRESENTATIONS

Rule 19. To be included on the Council Agenda, presentations by individuals or groups must be sponsored by a Councillor in writing pursuant to Rule 16, and approved by the President, in which case such presentation shall be placed in the Communications segment of the Agenda, for a period not longer than twenty (20) minutes.

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS

Rule 20. Mayoral Appointments do not require sponsorship by a member of the Council, but shall require two (2) readings and two (2) votes by the Council, the second such vote by roll call. For its first reading, each such appointment, including reappointments, shall be accompanied by submittal to the Clerk of the appointee's resume in accordance with Rule 16. The first reading shall be placed in the Consent segment of the Council's Agenda for referral to the Council's next meeting, sitting as the Committee of the Whole.

Rule 20A. As with any Consent Agenda item, a single member of the Council may move such item to the regular Agenda. As provided in the Charter, the Council may elect to refer any proposed Mayoral Appointment to a standing or ad hoc Committee, which shall review such appointment and may make a recommendation to the Full Council not fewer than seven (7) nor more than 45 days after such referral. Such Committee may require any person whose name has been referred to it to appear before such Committee, or before the Full Council, to give any information relevant to the appointment that the Committee of the Full Council may require. Notwithstanding the optional referral of proposed appointments provided for in this Rule 20A, appointments and reappointments of the following officers shall always be referred through the Consent Agenda to the standing committee with oversight over such board or commission:

- Members of the Board of Health and Health Director;
- Building Inspector;
- City Auditor/Director of Finance;
- City Librarian;
- City Treasurer;
- Director of the Department of Public Services;
- Members of the Conservation Commission and Conservation Agent;
- Harbormaster;
- Members of the License Commission;
- Members of the Newburyport Redevelopment Authority board;
- Members of the Newburyport Waterfront Trust board;
- Members of the Planning Board, Planning Director, and Zoning Administrator;
- Members of the Water and Sewer Commission; and
- Members of the Zoning Board of Appeal.

MID-YEAR BUDGET REVIEW

Rule 21. Each calendar year, the Committee on Budget & Finance shall schedule and hold a public meeting to conduct a Mid-Year Budget Review as soon as practical after six (6) months of actual expenditures are available in written form, but no later than February 28. The Chair of the Committee shall cause the Finance Director to attend, pursuant to the Charter, the Chair shall invite all members of the Council, as well. Pursuant to the Charter, the Chair shall ask the Finance Director to distribute to the Full Council documentation in support of the Mid-Year Budget Review no less than two (2) weeks before such meeting, including a year-to-date actual budget summary. Further pursuant to the Charter, any member of the Council may request that a Department Head be present at the Mid-Year Budget Review meeting, by making a request through the Chair of Budget & Finance.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Rule 22. The audible use of mobile phones, radios, and other electronic communication devices by any person, including members of the Council, but excepting on-duty public safety officers, is strictly prohibited within the Council Chamber while the Council is in session, and all such devices shall be turned off or otherwise made to be silent.

Rule 22A. Members of the Council may read from or otherwise obtain information from a computer, tablet, or other electronic device within the Council Chamber while the Council is in session, such as by conducting computer searches online.

Rule 22B. Except as otherwise permitted under the Open Meeting Law, no member of the Council shall, at any time while the Council is in session, be permitted to communicate with other people, either located within or without the Chamber, using such any electronic device, whether verbally or otherwise, audibly or inaudibly.

PARLIAMENTARY PRACTICE

Rule 23. In all matters of parliamentary practice not provided for in these rules, the Council shall use Robert's Rules of Order as a guide.

RECUSAL

Rule 24. Upon his or her recusal regarding a matter, a member of the Council or a Committee shall leave the room where the meeting is being conducted, and such member shall not be counted as part of the quorum on that matter. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a recused member may, if permitted under applicable law, remain in the room solely if he and she wishes to give testimony on the matter.

Rule 24A. If the matter is to be addressed in open session, then the recusal shall be made orally and shall be included as part of the official public record. The recused member may obtain and review any records of such public discussions and/or action by the Council or Committee on the matter.

Rule 24B. If the matter is to be addressed in executive session, then the recusal must be made orally during the open session before the Council or Committee goes into such executive session and shall be included as part of the official public record. A member so recused shall not knowingly obtain or review a recording, minutes, or any other non-public information regarding such matter, other than the fact of his or her own recusal.

AMENDING THE RULES

Rule 25. Any amendment of these Rules shall require successful passage of an order by the Full Council, by simple majority, as provided in these Rules.

SUSPENDING THE RULES

Rule 26. Except as otherwise, expressly provided in these Rules, a motion to suspend the rules shall require a two-thirds super-majority vote of the Full Council.

Jared J. Eigerman, Council President

Barry N. Connell, Councillor-At-Large

Joseph H. Devlin, Councillor-At-Large

Afroz Khan, Councillor-At-Large

Charles F. Tontar, Councillor-At-Large

Bruce L. Vogel, Councillor-At-Large

Sharif I. Zeid, Ward 1 Councillor

Heather L. Shand, Ward 3 Councillor

Christine E. Wallace, Ward 4 Councillor

James J. McCauley, Ward 5 Councillor

Byron J. Lane, Ward 6 Councillor

CITY OF NEWBURYPORT



IN CITY COUNCIL

July 23, 2012

ORDERED:

THAT, The CITY COUNCIL of the City of Newburyport hereby authorizes remote participation in meetings held by all City of Newburyport public bodies subject to the Open Meeting Law and pursuant to 940 CMR 29.10. For the purposes of this order, remote participation shall be permitted under the following terms and conditions:

Media: Telephone, internet, satellite enabled audio/video conferencing, or other similar technology may be used for remote participation provided that the participant and all in attendance can hear each other. If videoconferencing is used, the member participating remotely must be visible to all in attendance.

Quorum: A quorum of the public body, including the chair or, in the chair's absence, the person authorized to chair the meeting, must be physically present at the meeting location before an absent member may participate remotely.

Votes: If any member of the public body is participating remotely, all votes of the body, including those taken in open session, are required to be by roll call and the results of the roll must be recorded in the minutes.

Status: A member participating remotely may vote, and is not deemed to be absent from the meeting, including for purposes of MGL Chapter 39 Section 23D.

Reasons: Acceptable reasons for participating remotely include one or more of the following: personal illness, personal disability, emergency, military service or geographic distance. A member cannot participate remotely for convenience.

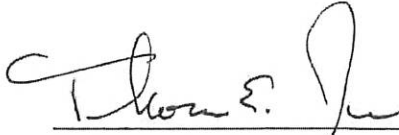
Notification: A member who will not be present at a meeting must notify the chair as far in advance as possible. The chair must announce at the beginning of the meeting the name of the person participating remotely and the reason. The categories listed above under Reasons may be used for this announcement such that a member's privacy rights are protected, especially with respect to illness or disability.

Technical Issues: If technical issues arise with the media connection, the chair must decide how to address them. Deliberations shall be suspended while the difficulties are addressed. If the remote member is disconnected during the meeting, the minutes must reflect this fact.

Use of Plans and Other Visuals: The chair or, in the chair's absence, the person authorized to chair the meeting, shall distribute to remote participants, in advance of the meeting, copies of all relevant documents, exhibits, and presentation materials used during the meeting. If a member of the public body is remotely participating in a public hearing relative to the issuance of any permit involving a site plan or architectural drawings, that member must utilize video conferencing such that all maps, plans or other presentation materials used or referenced during the meeting are visible. This requirement for video conferencing is not necessary where the member has already received a copy of all relevant maps, plans, or other presentation materials and no new materials are introduced during the meeting.

Executive Session: There shall be no remote participation in any executive session including, but not limited to, any vote to go into or out of said executive session.

FURTHER, any City of Newburyport public body utilizing remote participation is required to comply with all provisions of 940 CMR 29.10 as summarized above, as well as all other requirements of the Open Meeting Law and all of the Massachusetts Attorney General's Division of Open Government's regulations.



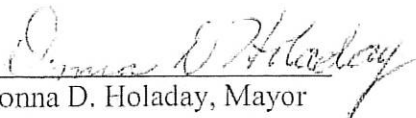
Councillor Thomas E. Jones

In City Council July 23, 2012

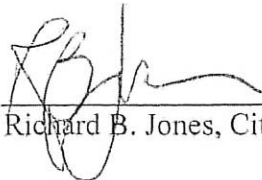
Motion to approve by Councillor Jones, seconded by Councillor Heartquist. Motion withdrawn. Motion to refer to General Government by Councillor Jones, seconded by Councillor Sullivan. So voted.

In City Council December 10, 2012

Motion to remove from committee by Councillor Cronin, seconded by Councillor Connell. Motion to approve by Councillor Cronin, seconded by Councillor Jones. So voted.

Approve: 

Donna D. Holaday, Mayor

Attest: 

Richard B. Jones, City Clerk

Date: JAN 30 2013

ARTICLE 9

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 9-1: CHARTER CHANGES

This charter may be replaced, revised or amended in accordance with any procedure made available under the state constitution, or by statutes enacted in accordance with the state constitution.

SECTION 9-2: SEVERABILITY

The provisions of this charter are severable. If any provision of this charter is held invalid the other provisions shall not be affected by this holding. If the application of this charter, or any of its provisions, to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the application of the charter and its provisions to other persons and circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 9-3: SPECIFIC PROVISION TO PREVAIL

To the extent that any specific provision of this charter shall conflict with any provision expressed in general terms, the specific provision shall prevail.

SECTION 9-4: RULES AND REGULATIONS

A copy of all rules and regulations adopted by any city agency shall be placed on file in the office of the city clerk no later than their effective date and shall be available for review by any person who requests such information at any reasonable time. Unless an emergency exists as determined by the mayor, no rule or regulation adopted by any city agency shall become effective until at least 5 days following the date it is so filed.

SECTION 9-5: PERIODIC REVIEW OF ORDINANCES

Not later than the first day of July, at 5 year intervals, in each year ending in a 5 or in a zero, beginning in 2015, the mayor and city council shall provide for a review to be made of the ordinances of the city for the purpose of preparing a proposed revision or recodification of them, without substantive change. This review shall be made by a special committee to consist of 9 members, 4 of whom shall be appointed by the city council president and 5

of whom shall be appointed by the mayor. At least 2 of the persons appointed by the city council president shall be members of the city council. All members of said committee shall be voters of the city. The appointing authority shall fill any vacancies within 14 days. The special committee shall file its report with the city clerk not later than the first day of May in the year following the year in which the committee is appointed. The recommendations of the special committee shall appear on the city council agenda for action before the fifteenth day of June in that year and if not so scheduled by the city clerk, the matter shall come before the city council for action at its next meeting held following the fifteenth day of June, and no other business shall be in order until the report has been acted upon, by roll call vote. The review of city ordinances shall be under the supervision of the city solicitor. Copies of the revision, recodification or republication shall be made available to the public at a cost not to exceed the actual cost of the reproduction. In each year between these reenactments, an annual supplement shall be published which shall contain all ordinances and amendments to ordinances adopted in the preceding year.

SECTION 9-6: PERIODIC REVIEW OF CHARTER

Not later than the first day of July, at 10 year intervals, in each year ending in a 9, the mayor and city council shall provide for a review to be made of the city charter. This review shall be made by a special committee to consist of 9 members, 4 of whom shall be appointed by the city council president and 5 of whom shall be appointed by the mayor. At least 2 of the persons appointed by the city council president shall be members of the city council. All members of the committee shall be voters of the city. The appointing authority shall fill any vacancies within 14 days. The special committee shall file its report with the city clerk, not later than the first day of May in the year following the year in which the committee is appointed. The recommendations of the special committee shall appear on the city council's

agenda for action before the fifteenth day of June in that year and if not so scheduled by the city clerk the matter shall come before the city council for action at its next meeting held following the fifteenth day of June, and no other business shall be in order until such report has been acted upon, by roll call vote.

SECTION 9-7: UNIFORM PROCEDURES GOVERNING MULTIPLE-MEMBER BODIES

(a) Meetings - All appointed multiple member bodies of the city shall meet regularly at the times and places that they by their own rules prescribe. Special meetings of any multiple member body shall be held on the call of the chairman or by a majority of the members of the body by written notice delivered in hand or to the place of residence of each member at least 48 hours in advance of the time set, which shall contain notice of the subjects to be acted upon. A copy of the notice shall also be posted in accordance with law. Except as may otherwise be authorized by law, all meetings of all multiple member bodies shall at all times be open to the public.

(b) Meeting Documents and Submissions - Each appointed multiple member body shall determine its own rules and order of business and shall provide for the keeping agendas, minutes and related submissions of its proceedings. All such documents shall be a public record, and certified copies shall be placed on file in the office of the city clerk and in the Newburyport Public Library within 15 days of their approval.

(c) Voting - If requested by any member, any vote of any appointed multiple member body shall be taken by a call of the roll and the vote of each member shall be recorded in the minutes, but if the vote is unanimous, only that fact need be recorded.

(d) Quorum - A majority of the members of an appointed multiple member body shall constitute a quorum. Unless some other provision is made by the multiple member body's own rules while a quorum is present, except on

procedural matters, a majority of the full membership of the body shall be required to vote on any matter representing an exercise of the powers of the multiple member body, and that General Law provisions related to any vote to meet in "executive session" shall always require a majority of members of the body.

(e)Residency – Unless otherwise allowed by law, regulation, ordinance, or by this charter, all members of multiple member bodies must be residents of the city at all times during their entire term of office. If a member of a multiple member body removes from the city during the term for which appointed, such seat shall immediately be deemed vacant and filled in the manner provided for in section 3-3.

SECTION 9-8: NUMBER AND GENDER

Words importing the singular number may extend and be applied to several persons or things; words importing the plural number may include the singular; and words importing the masculine gender shall include the feminine gender.

SECTION 9-9: REFERENCES TO GENERAL LAWS

All references to General Laws contained in the charter refer to the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and are intended to refer to and to include any amendments or revisions to such chapters or sections or to the corresponding chapters and sections of any rearrangement, revision or recodification of such statutes enacted or adopted subsequent to the adoption of this charter.

SECTION 9-10: COMPUTATION OF TIME

In computing time under this charter the day of the act or event after which the designated period of time begins to run shall not be included. The last day of the period shall be included, unless it is a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, in which event the period shall be extended to the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. When the period of time designated

is less than 7 days, intermediate Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays shall not be included, when the period is 7 days or more, every day shall be counted.

SECTION 9-11: OATH OF OFFICE OF MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL, AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

A mayor-elect (as applicable), the city council-elect, and the school committee members-elect (as applicable) shall, on the first Monday in the January of each even-numbered year, except when said first Monday falls on a legal holiday, in which event on the following day, meet and be sworn to the faithful discharge of their duties by the city clerk. In the absence of the city clerk, oaths may be administered by the assistant city clerk, or by a judge of a court of record, or by a justice of the peace. Upon receiving the oath, each said official shall document the same by entering his name in a journal maintained by the city clerk. After the oath has been administered to the city council members present, they shall organize by electing from among their number a person to serve as the president, as provided in section 2-2. If the city clerk is unable to preside during this election, the city council member senior in years of service on the city council shall preside during this election. If 2 or more members are equally senior in years of service on the city council, the member senior both in years of service and age shall preside. The president shall be sworn by the city clerk, or, in the case of the absence of the city clerk, by any person qualified to take oaths or affirmations. In the case of the absence of the mayor-elect or any member-elect of the city council or school committee on the day the oath is administered, the oath may at any time thereafter be administered to that person.

SECTION 9-12: CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION OR APPOINTMENT

Every person who is elected, including those elected by the city council, or appointed to an office of the city, shall receive a certificate of such election

or appointment from the city clerk. Except as otherwise provided by law, every person who is elected, including those elected by the city council, or appointed to an office of the city before performing any act under this appointment or election, shall take and subscribe to an oath to qualify to enter upon the duties. A record of this oath shall be kept by the city clerk.

SECTION 9-13: LIMITATION ON OFFICE HOLDING

Unless otherwise allowed by law, this charter, or personnel policy of the city, no person shall simultaneously hold more than 1 city office or position of employment. This provision may be waived by the mayor upon the appointment of any person to any additional office or position of employment by filing a notice of such waiver with an explanation and justification with the city clerk.

SECTION 9-14: ENFORCEMENT OF CHARTER PROVISIONS

It shall be the duty of the mayor to see that the charter is faithfully followed and complied with by all city agencies and city employees. Whenever it appears to the mayor that any city agency or city employee is failing to follow any provision of this charter the mayor shall, in writing, cause notice to be given to that agency or employee directing compliance with the charter. If it shall appear to the city council that the mayor personally is not following the provisions of the charter it shall, by resolution, direct the attention of the mayor to those areas in which it believes there is a failure to comply with charter provisions. The procedures made available in chapter 231A of the General Laws may be used to determine the rights, duties, status or other legal relations arising under this charter, including any question of construction or validity which may be involved in such determination.