

# City Council Announcements

## August 27, 2013

### **Information needed by Staff**

#### **A. Constable Services in the City**

Council Member Love is interested in reviewing constable services in the City. She would like to advance an ordinance that would give the City flexibility of appointing a City Constable if desired.

- Is the Council supportive of an ordinance giving the City the option of appointing a constable?

#### **B. Proposed change to the term of the Council Chairperson**

Council Member Garrott has proposed that the Council discuss allowing the option for a Council Member to serve Chairperson for two consecutive years. The Council practice relating to the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson are outlined within Council Policy, and would not be affected by State or City Codes.

The proposal includes continuing to hold annual elections, as before, but the current serving Chairperson would be eligible for re-election in order to serve for an additional year, not to exceed two consecutive years. Below are amendments to the Council Policy for the Council's discussion.

Council Member Garrott provides the following points in support of the change:

- Increasing the council's efficacy. Continuity in leadership is one of the ways that the council's priorities can be advanced, in part by lowering transaction costs with the Administration and our other partners. New priorities and process each year with a new council chair sometimes increases these costs.
- While not all leadership will be rewarded with a second year, a second possible year of leadership is a significant accountability mechanism to other council members. I don't think this new rule would abet dominance by a narrow 4-vote block, a concern that may have motivated the original "no consecutive term" rule.

Please note: Amendments to section 'd' below relate to the changes that the Council discussed during the Chair elections this past January: Council Members declaring their candidacy, taking up to two minutes to explain their interests or goals for a Chair term, and that for the purpose of record-keeping, the Executive Director would read the name of the Council Member along with their vote when tallying the ballots.

Council Policy Amendments:

A.7 ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON (08/13)



a. The Salt Lake City Council shall select one of its Members as Chairperson, on an annual basis, to sign documents, represent the position of the Council to the media and the administration, and oversee the management of the Office of the City Council including monitoring and guiding the Council priorities, and assistance in staff work load evaluation, pursuant to Rule 1 of the Salt Lake City Council Rules of Procedure. The Salt Lake City Council will also select one of its

Members as Vice Chairperson, on an annual basis, to act as backup to the Chairperson in the event that the Chairperson is unavailable for any reason.

b. Elections: Elections will be held on an annual basis, including for a Council Member wishing to serve a second consecutive year as Chairperson.

c. Term & Eligibility: The term for the Chairperson shall be limited to two consecutive years. If the current Chairperson wishes to serve for a second consecutive year, the Council Member would follow the steps below for declaration of candidacy. Council Members who have served for two consecutive years may serve as Chairperson following another Council Member's term. (Council Members may serve more than once as Chairperson, as long as the term does not exceed two consecutive years.) All Members are eligible to serve as the Council Vice Chairperson.

d. Declaration of Candidacy and Voting Procedure:

1. At the first Work Session in January each year, the Council Members shall elect one Member as Chairperson and one Member as Vice Chairperson.

i) During the Work Session, Council Members interested in serving as Chairperson or Vice Chairperson shall declare their candidacy.

ii) If necessary, following the declaration Council Member(s) may take no more than two minutes to explain their interest in serving as Chairperson.

2. The election shall be by written ballot, with the Executive Director announcing each Council Member's name and their vote for the record.

3. Separate ballots shall be held for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson positions.

4. Election shall require a majority of four votes.

5. This action shall be ratified at the first formal Council meeting in January.

e. The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall serve from the date the action is ratified until the ratification of new officers occurs in the following year.

f. The Chairperson from the calendar year prior to the Work Session vote will conduct at the Induction Ceremony and any other official Council meetings until the vote is ratified for the incoming Chair. If the prior year's Chairperson is scheduled to leave office at the end of the calendar year in which he or she is serving as Chairperson, or is not available for any reason, the Vice Chairperson will conduct all official Council meetings. If the prior year's Vice Chairperson is scheduled to leave office at the end of the calendar year in which he or she is serving as Vice Chairperson, or is not available for any reason, all official Council meetings will be conducted by the continuing Council Member who has the greatest seniority of the Council. If more than one Council Member has an identical amount of seniority, those Council Members will flip a coin to determine who will conduct at official Council meetings until the votes for incoming Chairperson and Vice Chairperson can be ratified.

g. In the event of a vacancy in the position of Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson shall become Chairperson and shall serve the remainder of the term. A vacancy in the position of Vice Chairperson shall be filled by election in the manner prescribed in this rule.

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Moved up [1]: All Members are eligible to serve as the Council Vice Chairperson.

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