



RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES

Board Memorandum

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

DATE: APRIL 27, 2020

ITEM NO: 9

SUBJECT: RULES OF CONDUCT FOR THE APPEARANCE OR ATTENDANCE OF BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARDMEMBERS AT NON-BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES MEETINGS

ISSUE:

Consider whether to amend the Standing Rules of the Board of Public Utilities to provide rules of conduct for Boardmembers who appear at or attend non-Board of Public Utilities meetings and provide direction to staff to prepare any such amendments.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Public Utilities consider whether to amend the Standing Rules of the Board of Public Utilities to provide rules of conduct for Boardmembers who appear at or attend non-Board of Public Utilities meetings and provide direction to staff to prepare any such amendments.

BACKGROUND:

The Standing Rules are silent as to the conduct of Board of Public Utilities Boardmembers (Boardmembers) who appear or attend non-Board of Public Utilities (Board) meetings. The Standing Rules, Rule 5.B only provides that "The Chair or a Board designee may represent the Board on an issue before the City Council." Therefore, several Boardmembers have asked that the Board consider whether to amend the Standing Rules to provide rules of conduct at such non-Board meetings.

DISCUSSION:

Staff reviewed the City Council Resolution No. 23437, which sets forth the City Council's Rules of Procedure and Order of Business, to determine how the City Council regulates the conduct of its members at non-City Council meetings. The following are several pertinent sections for Board consideration:

The City Council Rules, Section III, "Advocacy", provide the following:

- A. City Council shall represent the official policies or positions of the City Council when designated as delegates for this purpose.
- B. When representing their individual opinions and positions, City Council shall explicitly state they do not represent the City Council of the City, nor will they allow the inference that they do.

The City Council Rules, Section V, “Role of the Mayor and City Council”, provide the following:

E. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CONDUCT WITH OTHER AGENCIES

1. The Mayor and City Council shall be clear about representing the City or personal interests to members of other agencies.
2. The Mayor and City Council shall project a positive image of the City when dealing with other agencies.
3. The Mayor and individual Councilmembers can lobby or discuss with other legislators, government officials or developers issues that have been adopted by the City Council or are City Council policy; they should not represent themselves as the City if it is only an individual issue.
4. The Mayor and City Council shall show tolerance and respect for other agencies' opinions and issues and agree to disagree with them when necessary.

F. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CONDUCT WITH BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

1. The Mayor and City Council works through the board/commission chairs.
2. The Mayor and City Council shall treat all members of Boards and Commissions with appreciation and respect.
3. It has been the practice of the Mayor and City Council to not participate in Board and Commission meetings for the purpose of, and to avoid perception of, influencing the outcome of said meetings.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

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Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Certifies availability
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Attachments:

1. Board of Public Utilities Standing Rules
2. City Council Resolution No. 23437, (Rules of Procedure and Order of Business)