

DIVISION 4. - PLANNING BOARD

Sec. 2-466. - Membership: appointment, removal, terms, vacancies.

- (a) There shall be a planning board of seven regular and two associate members. Members of the planning board shall be residents of the city and shall not be officers or employees of the city. Persons appointed by the city council to serve on other boards, agencies, panels, and or commissions shall not serve concurrently on the planning board. Members shall serve without compensation.
- (b) Regular members of the planning board shall be appointed by the city council for terms of three years. Such terms shall be staggered so that the term of not more than three members shall expire in any calendar year. Incumbent members of the planning board shall serve for the balance of their terms and thereafter until their successors are appointed.
- (c) The city council shall appoint two associate members for a term of three years each. Such terms shall be staggered so that the terms of not more than one associate member, expires in any calendar year. Associate members may participate in deliberations of the planning board but shall not vote unless temporarily acting on behalf of a regular member who is absent or has been recused.
- (d) Permanent vacancies on the planning board shall be filled by the city council for the unexpired term of the former member.
- (e) Any member of the planning board may be removed for cause by the city council at any time; provided, however, that before removal such members shall be given an opportunity to be heard in his own defense at a public hearing before the city council.
- (f) The planning board may appoint a high school student advisory representative who is a high school student residing in Auburn for a one year term. The student advisory representative may participate in deliberations of the planning board but shall not be entitled to vote.

(Ord. of 5-7-1979; Ord. No. 02-04012013, att. A, 4-16-2013; Ord. No. 01-01202015, att., 2-9-2015)

Sec. 2-467. - Chairperson and vice-chairperson.

The members of the planning board shall annually elect one of the board members as chairperson to preside at all meetings and hearings, and another of their number as vice-chairperson. In the absence of the chairperson, the vice-chairperson shall act as chairperson and shall have all the powers of the chairperson. If no chairperson or vice-chairperson is present or able to preside over an agenda item, the attending members may elect an acting chairperson.

(Ord. of 5-7-1979; Ord. No. 02-04012013, att. A, 4-16-2013; Ord. No. 01-01202015, att., 2-9-2015)

Sec. 2-468. - Staff secretary: minutes, public records.

- (a) The director of planning and development shall designate a member of their staff who shall serve as staff secretary of the planning board and attend all of its proceedings.
- (b) The staff secretary shall provide for the keeping of minutes of the proceedings of the planning board, noting the vote of each member on every question, or the member's absence or failure to vote, and shall maintain the permanent records and decisions of all planning board meetings, hearings, and proceedings and all correspondence of the planning board.

(Ord. of 5-7-1979; Ord. No. 02-04012013, att. A, 4-16-2013; Ord. No. 01-01202015, att., 2-9-2015)

Sec. 2-469. - Quorum and necessary vote.

- (a) As to any matter requiring a public hearing, no business shall be transacted by the planning board without a quorum, consisting of four members, being present. The concurring vote of at least four members shall be necessary to authorize any action by the board.
- (b) If less than a quorum is present, the hearing shall be rescheduled. The staff secretary shall notify in writing all members of the date of the reschedule hearing and shall notify such other interested parties as may be directed in the vote to reschedule.

(Ord. of 5-7-1979; Ord. No. 02-04012013, att. A, 4-16-2013; Ord. No. 01-01202015, att., 2-9-2015)

Sec. 2-470. - Meetings, hearings and procedures.

- (a) Regular meetings of the planning board shall be held at the call of the chairperson or as provided by rule of the board. Special meetings may be called by any four members of the planning board, or at the request of the city council. Testimony at any hearing may be required by the planning board to be given under oath.
- (b) The planning board shall adopt its own rules for the conduct of its business not inconsistent with this chapter and with state law. Such rules shall be filed with the staff secretary of the planning board and with the city clerk. Any rule so adopted that relates solely to the conduct of hearings, and that is not required by the city council, this chapter or state law, may be waived by the chairperson upon good cause being shown.

(Ord. of 5-7-1979; Ord. No. 02-04012013, att. A, 4-16-2013; Ord. No. 01-01202015, att., 2-9-2015)

Sec. 2-471. - Workshop or informational meetings.

Informal meetings or workshops of the planning board or any of its committees may be held at the call of any of its members or the director of planning and development, as the case may be, for the presentation of information.

(Ord. of 5-7-1979; Ord. No. 02-04012013, att. A, 4-16-2013; Ord. No. 01-01202015, att., 2-9-2015)

Sec. 2-472. - Record and decisions.

- (a) The minutes of the staff secretary, and any transcript of the proceedings, and all exhibits, papers, applications and requests filed in any proceeding before the planning board and the decision of the board shall constitute the record.
- (b) Every final decision of the planning board and every recommendation of the planning board to the city council shall include written findings of fact, and shall specify the reason or reasons for such decision or recommendation.
- (c) The staff secretary shall mail notice of any decision of the board to the applicant or any designated interested parties within five business days of such decision.

(Ord. of 5-7-1979; Ord. No. 02-04012013, att. A, 4-16-2013; Ord. No. 01-01202015, att., 2-9-2015)

Sec. 2-473. - Conflicts.

No member of the planning board shall participate in the hearing or disposition of any matter in which he or she has an interest. Any question of whether a member has a conflict of interest sufficient to disqualify the member shall be decided by a majority vote of the members present, except the member whose possible conflict is being examined. Where such vote results in a tie, the subject member shall be disqualified.

(Ord. of 5-7-1979; Ord. No. 02-04012013, att. A, 4-16-2013; Ord. No. 01-01202015, att., 2-9-2015)

Sec. 2-474. - Appeals.

An appeal from any final decision of the planning board as to any matter over which it has final authority may be taken by any party or by any authorized officer or agent of the city to the superior court.

(Ord. of 5-7-1979; Ord. No. 02-04012013, att. A, 4-16-2013; Ord. No. 01-01202015, att., 2-9-2015)

Sec. 2-475. - Jurisdiction and authority.

In addition to the jurisdiction conferred on it by other provisions of state law and the ordinances of the city and in accordance therewith, the planning board shall have the following jurisdiction and authority:

- (1) To prepare and recommend to the city council a comprehensive plan.
- (2) To prepare and recommend to the city council changes in and amendments to the comprehensive plan as necessary.
- (3) To aid and assist the city council and departments and agencies of the city in implementing general plans and in planning, developing and completing specific planning related projects.
- (4) To hear, review, and approve or deny applications for subdivision approval as provided in this Code.
- (5) To hear, review, and offer its recommendations to the city council on applications for zoning changes and amendments to, or revisions of, the city's zoning regulations, and to initiate recommendations for zoning changes and amendments to or revisions of the city's zoning regulations as necessary.
- (6) To review and offer its recommendations to the city council on public planning related projects.
- (7) To offer its recommendations to the city council with regard to the compatibility of the city manager's proposed capital improvements program with the comprehensive plan.
- (8) To make such investigations and compile maps and reports, and recommendations in connection therewith, relating to the planning and development of the city as it deems desirable.

(Ord. of 5-7-1979; Ord. No. 02-04012013, att. A, 4-16-2013; Ord. No. 01-01202015, att., 2-9-2015)

Sec. 2-476. - Committees.

The chairperson of the planning board may from time to time assign the members of the board to such regular and special committees as may be established by the board. Such committees shall have no final authority but shall assist the board in the conduct of its business by making recommendations to it concerning such specific items as may be assigned to them for study and report.

(Ord. of 5-7-1979; Ord. No. 02-04012013, att. A, 4-16-2013; Ord. No. 01-01202015, att., 2-9-2015)