

## **New Requirements Regarding the Way in Which City Council Meetings, Council Committees and Other City Legislative Bodies Are Run**

Under existing regulations, City legislative bodies (which include the City Council and Council Committees) are subject to the Brown Act (California's Open Meeting Law), the Oxnard City Code and rules of procedure adopted by the City Council.

The proposed initiative would impose specific new local regulations regarding the way in which the meetings of City legislative bodies are run. The proposed new rules are as follows:

- *Robert's Rules of Order* – The proposed initiative would require that the latest version of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised govern subject to certain exceptions the way the City's legislative bodies (including the City Council and Council Committees) are run. The proposed initiative requires that each member of the City's legislative body receives a copy of the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised. In addition, the City is required to use the services of a Professional Registered Parliamentarian certified by the National Association of Parliamentarians or a Certified Parliamentarian credentialed by the American Institute of Parliamentarians to train the members of the legislative bodies regarding Robert's Rules of Order.
- *Allowed Start Time for Meetings* – The proposed initiative would require with certain exceptions that meetings of the City's legislative bodies could not start before 5 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. on weekends.
- *Pre-Taping of Staff Presentations* – The proposed initiative would require that staff presentations for City legislative bodies must be videotaped in advance. Such videotape must be available for viewing at City Hall at the time of the posting of the agenda for the meeting. The initiative then states that: “[t]he primary role of the staff at meetings is to answer questions posed by the legislative body, not the reenactment of pre-recorded presentations.”
- *Public Comments* – The proposed initiative adds the requirement that each person shall have no less than three minutes to comment on an agenda item at a meeting. This requirement will apply even if the matter has been considered at a

prior committee composed exclusively of members of the City Council. In addition, the City will be required to make reasonable accommodations to allow for presenters to present video, PowerPoints and similar presentations during public comments.

*Word Count: 377 [Maximum of 500 words]*