

From: [Ron](#)
To: [Ball, Jeremy](#); [Cordova, Gilda](#); [Osborne, Jenelle](#); [Starbuck, Dirk](#); [Vega, Victor](#)
Cc: [Haddon, Stacey](#); jmalawy@awattorneys.com; [Throop, Jim](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Overview and Discussion of Policies, Procedures, and Rules in City Council Handbook.
Date: Saturday, January 02, 2021 10:05:24 AM

Please accept this as Public Comment and a Written Communication for Item #4 on the January 5th, 2021 Council Agenda.

The City Council Handbook in the second paragraph on page 1, "Introduction and Adoption" says "Council business on behalf of the City of Lompoc and its citizens will be transacted in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and generally in accordance with this Handbook. However, the provisions of this Handbook are directory, not mandatory. Failure to adhere strictly to any provision of this Handbook will not affect the Council's jurisdiction or invalidate any of its actions or discussions that otherwise conform to applicable law. Where this Handbook conflicts with statutory law, the statutes will prevail."

So, question is "why are you even discussing this item if there is no obligation to follow any of the provisions of the 40-page document?"

If you chose to retain this document, I suggest that you simply delete the highlighted portion of the preamble and delete the word "generally" in the first sentence of this paragraph.

For example, in the past few years there have been several occasions when keeping in compliance with the provisions of the "Debate and Decorum" section on page 16 of this document, would have allowed for a much more civil and focused discussion of the issues before the Council.

There are no ethical standards mentioned in the document. There have been situations concerning a lack of ethical standards by some Council members in the past and this should be a priority for anyone serving the public. I suggest that you discuss the inclusion of an ethical standard section in this document.

In addition, I suggest that following each election that the newly seated Council reaffirm the provisions of this document during their first scheduled meeting.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ron Fink
Lompoc