



Expectations of the Greenwood Village City Council

By The Greenwood Village City Council
2012

City Councilmembers should show respect for each other at all times. Disagreement and debate is positive and expected. An effective Council is composed of members who are able to agree to disagree and Councilmembers should not take things personally or make things personal.

Councilmembers should keep an open mind, not prejudge things and listen to the concerns of other Councilmembers before making a decision.

Councilmembers should understand that the power and value of a City Council is the collective wisdom of the group. There may be star players but the group as a whole will always make better decisions than any one Councilmember.

City staff will only follow the direction of the Council not the direction of an individual Councilmember. So if a Councilmember wants to direct the staff to do something, the Councilmember must first convince a majority of the Council to do so. An individual Councilmember may request actions from the City Manager and City Attorney directly or from a Department head if the City Manager is informed of the request.

The Council is responsible for making policy. The staff is responsible for implementing policy. Councilmembers and staff should understand the difference between making policy and implementing policy.

After a decision is made, Councilmembers on the short end of a vote should accept the decision and move on.

Councilmembers should read the packet before the meetings.

During study sessions and Council meetings, Councilmembers should only speak after the Mayor recognizes the Councilmember. A Councilmember should not interrupt a speaker except if the question is a point of order and addressed to the Mayor, not the speaker.

Councilmembers should keep things in perspective. We honor our small role when we do what's right and help make our community a better place. We should aspire to make a lasting difference in people's lives but the reality is that many of the things we do are inconsequential. The importance of a Councilmember should not be exaggerated.

A Councilmember should enjoy the job and should contribute to the enjoyment by other Councilmembers.



Expectations of Our Mayor

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The Mayor should fulfill all the Duties of the Office of Mayor as listed in the City Charter, especially noting that the Charter requires the Mayor to do certain things by the use of the word "shall".

As the presiding officer of the City Council, we want the Mayor to focus discussions during meetings on the matter at hand and not let discussions stray or be prolonged. A good Mayor will be able to balance the need for efficiency with the need for a full debate.

An effective Mayor will ensure that all parties in a discussion are fairly heard.

A Mayor will recognize that the power and value of a City Council is the collective wisdom of the group as a whole and not derived from any one individual Councilmember. A Mayor should work with all Councilmembers evenhandedly.

While the Charter grants the Mayor the right to participate in discussions and debate with the Council, a wise Mayor will be judicious in the exercise of such rights. Impartiality will help a Mayor guide the Council towards compromise and consensus when difficult issues are discussed.

A Mayor will treat everyone with respect at all times and will encourage other city officials to do likewise.

A Mayor will be open-minded and not pre-judge issues and will encourage other city officials to do likewise.

A Mayor and the City Manager should have a strong working relationship built on trust and open communications. A Mayor should be honest and forthright with the City Manager and should expect the same treatment from the City Manager.

A Mayor should help the Council focus on policy issues and avoid becoming involved in operations.