

**ORDINANCE NO. 20170216-014**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE TITLE 2 RELATING TO CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES.**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

**PART 1.** Subsection (B) of City Code Section 2-5-103 (*Council Committees Created; Subject Matter of Each Committee*) is amended to read:

(B) Council creates the following standing committees:

- (1) The Audit and Finance Committee may review audit reports, matters related to the city auditor, the city clerk, internal services, bond oversight, purchasing and contract audits, taxation, financial policy, government performance, bonds and City debt, bond-funded programs, retirement systems, employee benefits, banking and investment policies, performance metrics and reporting, budget matters, affordability, and related matters. The Audit and Finance Committee shall also have oversight of the City's boards and commissions.
- (2) The Mobility Committee may review land use as it concerns mobility, all transportation modes including, roads, aviation, public transit, pedestrian programs, bicycle programs, ground transportation, taxicab regulation, Lone Star Rail, core transit corridors, and related matters.
- ~~[(3) The Public Utilities Committee may review issues related to the City's water, and drainage utilities, solid waste and recycling matters, telecommunication regulatory issues, and related matters.]~~
- (3) ~~[(4)]~~ The Austin Energy Utility Oversight Committee may review issues related to the City's electric utility. The Austin Energy Utility Oversight Committee is a committee of the whole council. Six members of the committee are a quorum, and the favorable votes of a majority of the quorum present at the meeting are required for the committee to take action. The committee may create subcommittees, including a subcommittee to address Austin Energy's business model.
- (4) ~~[(5)]~~ The Health & Human Services Committee may review social services, education, public health, health care services, animal welfare, sustainable food, social equity, veterans' affairs, populations at risk, and related matters.

~~[(6) The Public Safety Committee may review criminal justice, code enforcement, disaster preparedness, fire, police, emergency medical services, municipal court, judicial appointments, and related matters.]~~

(5) ~~[(7)]~~ The Housing and Planning ~~[and Neighborhoods]~~ Committee may review housing and related land use and mobility issues, community development block grants, the City's comprehensive plan, the land development code, development processes, neighborhood planning, noise, ~~[zoning,]~~ annexations, ~~[eminent domain, landmark review, design, mobility as it concerns land use,]~~ and related matters.

~~[(8) The Open Space, Environment, and Sustainability Committee may review environmental matters, climate protection, climate change, forestry, waterfront, heritage trees, open space, parks, rivers and lakes, aquifers, water quality, trash, recycling and compost, sustainability, cemeteries, and related matters.]~~

~~(9) The Housing and Community Development Committee may review housing, community development block grants, mobility as it concerns housing, land use as it concerns housing, and related matters.~~

~~(10) The Economic Opportunity Committee may review job creation and training, small and minority business development, economic incentives, improvement districts, economic development corporations, trade and commerce, minority and women owned business contracting policies, emerging technology, tourism, events, entertainment, live music, film and television production, sports, library, culture, art, and related matters.]~~

**PART 2.** Subsections (D) through (F) of City Code Section 2-5-108 (*Committee Actions*) are amended to read:

~~[(D) With respect to a zoning matter reviewed by the Planning and Neighborhoods Committee, the committee shall attempt to determine disputed facts, identify policy issues in controversy, and allow for mediation as appropriate.]~~

~~(E) The Economic Opportunity Committee shall review monthly, and provide an update to the council quarterly, on progress towards meeting the City's minority and women owned business contracting goals.]~~

(D) ~~[(F)]~~ A committee may not direct City staff beyond the council's right of inquiry.

**PART 3.** Subsections (D) through (F) of City Code Section 2-1-206 (*Joint Sustainability Committee*) are amended to read:

~~[(D) If the council's Open Space, Environment, and Sustainability Committee, or a comparable council committee assigned the authority to review climate protection, finds that a greater diversity of members is needed on the joint committee to ensure adequate community stakeholder representation, the council committee may appoint three additional community stakeholder members to the joint committee.]~~

(D) ~~[(E)]~~ The joint committee shall advise the council on matters related to conservation and sustainability; and

- (1) review City policies and procedures relevant to the Austin Community Climate Plan, including planning, implementation, community engagement, goal setting, and progress monitoring;
- (2) promote close cooperation between the council, City management, City boards, commissions, committees, and taskforces, and individuals, institutions, and agencies concerned with the politics, procedures, and implementation of the Austin Community Climate Plan with the goal of coordinating all similar activities within the City and the community in order to secure the greatest public benefit; and
- (3) forward to the city manager all advisory material that the joint committee provides to the council, the Office of Sustainability, City departments and offices, or City boards, commissions, committees, and task forces.

(E) ~~[(F)]~~ The joint committee may:

- (1) advise the council, the city manager, the Office of Sustainability, City departments and offices, and City boards, commissions, committees, and task forces on policy matters related to the Austin Community Climate Plan;
- (2) ask the city manager for information related to the Austin Community Climate Plan;
- (3) make recommendations to the ~~[council's Open Space, Environment, and Sustainability Committee before final]~~ council ~~[action]~~ on relevant policies or procedures; and

- (4) establish advisory groups or working groups related to the Austin Community Climate Plan.

**PART 4.** City Code Section 2-10-5 (*Public Safety Committee*) is deleted:

~~**[§ 2-10-5 - PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE.**~~

- ~~(A) The Council Public Safety Committee shall make recommendations to the full council on the matters enumerated in this section.~~
- ~~(B) The Council Public Safety Committee shall consult with the municipal judges to develop and recommend to the full council for adoption performance criteria for an evaluation required under Section 2-10-11(B)(10) (Presiding Judge).~~
- ~~(C) The Council Public Safety Committee shall develop information to present to the full council regarding the evaluation of the performance of the presiding judge and a judge appointed to the Downtown Austin Community Court.~~
- ~~(D) The Council Public Safety Committee shall make recommendations to the full council on the hours of work and the duties of a judge appointed to the Downtown Austin Community Court. The mayor or, in the mayor's absence, the mayor pro tem, shall schedule and approve leave for a judge appointed to the Downtown Austin Community Court.]~~

**PART 5.** Subsection (B) of City Code Section 2-10-11 (*Presiding Judge*) is amended to read:

- (B) The presiding judge shall:
  - (1) maintain administrative control and oversight of municipal court judges;
  - (2) adopt rules for the orderly trial of a case in the municipal court;
  - (3) maintain a central docket for the cases within the municipal court's jurisdiction;
  - (4) distribute cases from the central docket to the municipal judges to equalize the workload of each judge;
  - (5) set the work hours for each judge;
  - (6) schedule and approve vacation, sick leave, and other absences for each judge;
  - (7) assign the duties of each judge;
  - (8) assign municipal judges to exchange benches and to act for each other in a pending proceeding;
  - (9) if necessary, assign a substitute judge to act in a judge's absence;

- (10) at least twice during each term, evaluate the performance of each judge on criteria other than a decision made in a judicial proceeding and forward the evaluation to the Council [~~Public Safety Committee~~]; and
- (11) perform the other duties of the presiding judge under Chapter 30 ( *Municipal Courts of Record* ) of the Texas Government Code.

**PART 6.** This ordinance takes effect on February 27, 2017.

**PASSED AND APPROVED**

February 16, 2017

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Steve Adler  
Mayor

**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Anne L. Morgan  
City Attorney

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Jannette S. Goodall  
City Clerk