

VILLAGE OF BALD HEAD ISLAND

AMENDED COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE

**Adopted
February 7, 2024**

**Mayor – Peter Quinn
Mayor Pro Tem – Scott Gardner
Councilor – Emily Hill
Councilor – Scott Thomas
Councilor – Virginia White**

Village Clerk – Darcy Sperry

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RULE 1. REGULAR MEETINGS

The Council shall hold a regular meeting on the third Friday of each month or other regular monthly date to be scheduled by the Council on a yearly basis, except that if a regular meeting day is a legal holiday, the meeting shall be held on the next business day. A copy of the Council's current meeting schedule shall be filed with the Village Clerk.

RULE 2. SPECIAL, EMERGENCY, AND RECESSED MEETINGS

(a) **Special Meetings.** The Mayor, the Major Pro Tempore, or any two (2) members of the Council may at any time call a special Council meeting by signing a written notice stating the time and place of the meeting and the subjects to be considered. At least forty-eight (48) hours before a special meeting called in this manner, written notice of the meeting stating its time and place and the subjects to be considered shall be (1) delivered to the Mayor and each Council member or left at his or her usual dwelling place; (2) posted on the Council's principal bulletin board, or if none, at the door of the Council's usual meeting room; and (3) mailed, emailed, or delivered to each newspaper, wire service, radio station, television station, and person who has filed a written request for notice with the Village Clerk. Only those items of business specified in the notice may be transacted at a special meeting called in this manner, unless all members are present or have signed a written waiver of notice.

A special meeting may also be called or scheduled by vote of the Council in open session during another duly called meeting. The motion or resolution calling or scheduling the special meeting shall specify its time, place, and purpose. At least forty-eight (48) hours before a special meeting called in this manner, notice of the time, place, and purpose of the meeting shall be (1) posted on the Council's principal bulletin board, or if none, at the door of the Council's usual meeting room; and (2) mailed, emailed, or delivered to each newspaper, wire service, radio station,

television station, and person who has filed a written request for notice with the Village Clerk. Such notice shall also be mailed, emailed, or delivered at least forty-eight (48) before the meeting to each Council member not present at the meeting at which the special meeting was called or scheduled, and to the Mayor if he or she was not present at the meeting.

(b) **Emergency Meetings.** Emergency meetings of the Village Council may be called only because of generally unexpected circumstances that require immediate consideration by the Council. Only business connected with the emergency may be considered at an emergency meeting. One of the following two procedures must be followed to call an emergency meeting of the Council:

(1) The Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, or any two (2) members of the Council may at any time call an emergency Council meeting by signing a written notice stating the time and place of the meeting and the subjects to be considered. The notice shall be delivered to the Mayor and each Council member or left at his or her usual dwelling place at least six (6) hours before the meeting.

(2) An emergency meeting may be held at any time when the Mayor and all members of the Council are present and consent thereto, or when those not present have signed a written waiver of notice, but only in either case if the Council complies with the notice provisions of the next paragraph.

(3) Notice of an emergency meeting under (1) or (2) shall be given to each local newspaper, local wire service, local radio station, and local television station that has filed a written emergency meeting notice request, which includes the newspaper's, wire service's, or station's telephone number, with the Village Clerk. This notice shall be given either by email, telephone or by the same method used to notify the Mayor and the Council members and shall be given

immediately after notice has been given to the Mayor and the Council Members. This notice shall be given at the expense of the party notified.

(c) **Recessed Meetings.** A properly called regular, special, or emergency meeting may be recessed to a time and place certain by a procedural motion made and adopted as provided in Rule 18, Motion 2, in open session during the regular, special, or emergency meeting. The motion shall state the time and place when the meeting will reconvene. No further notice need be given of a recessed session of a properly called regular, special, or emergency meeting.

RULE 3. ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

On the date and at the time of the first regular meeting in December following a general election in which Council members are elected, or at an earlier date, if any, set by the incumbent Council, the newly elected members shall take and subscribe the Oath of Office, and shall, as the first order of new business, elect from among its members a Mayor Pro Tempore. This organizational meeting shall not be held before the municipal election results are officially determined, certified, and published in accordance with Subchapter IX of Chapter 163 of the North Carolina General Statutes.

RULE 4. AGENDA

(a) **Proposed Agenda.** The Village Clerk shall prepare a proposed agenda for each meeting. A request to have an item of business placed on the agenda must be received at least two (2) working days before the meeting. Any Council member may, by a timely request, have an item placed on the proposed agenda. A copy of all proposed ordinances shall be attached to the proposed agenda. An agenda package shall be prepared and may include, for any item of business placed on the proposed agenda, pertinent information that may be helpful to the Council and that is reasonable to reproduce. Each Council member and the Village Attorney shall receive a copy

of the proposed agenda and the agenda package and they shall be available for public inspection and distribution or copying when they are distributed to the Council members.

(b) **Adoption of the Agenda.** As its first order of business at each meeting, the Council shall discuss and revise the proposed agenda and adopt an agenda for the meeting. The Council may, by majority vote, add items to or subtract items from the proposed agenda for a regular meeting. If items are proposed to be added to the agenda of a regular meeting, the Council may, by majority vote, require that written copies of particular documents connected with the items be made available at the meeting to all Council members.

The Council may designate certain agenda items “for discussion and possible action.” Such designation means that the Council intends to discuss the general subject area of the agenda item before making any motion concerning that item.

(c) **Consent Agenda.** The Council may designate a part of the agenda as the “consent agenda.” Items shall be placed on the consent agenda by those preparing the proposed agenda if they are judged to be non-controversial and routine. Any member may remove an item from the consent agenda and place it on the regular agenda while the agenda is being discussed and revised prior to its adoption at the beginning of the meeting. All items on the consent agenda shall be voted on and adopted by a single motion, with the Minutes reflecting the motion and vote on each item.

(d) **Open Meetings Requirements.** The Council shall not deliberate, vote, or otherwise take action on any matter by reference to a letter, number, or other designation, or other secret device or method, with the intention of making it impossible for persons attending a meeting of the Council to understand what is being deliberated, voted, or acted on. The Council may, however, deliberate, vote, or otherwise take action by reference to an agenda, if copies of the

agenda – sufficiently worded to enable the public to understand what is being deliberated, voted, or acted on – are available for public inspection at the meeting.

RULE 5. PUBLIC COMMENT

(a) The public shall be given the opportunity to comment once per month at a regular meeting of the Council. Any individual or group who wishes to make public comments at a regular meeting of the Council shall make a request to be on the agenda to the Village Clerk in advance of the public comment period.

(b) The Council may choose to provide for a period of public comment at any special or emergency meeting of the Council but is not required to do so.

(c) The Council may adopt reasonable rules governing the conduct of any public comment period, including but not limited to rules providing for (1) speaker time limits, (2) the designation of a spokesperson for groups supporting or opposing the same position, (3) the selection of delegates from groups supporting or opposing the same position when the number of persons wishing to attend the comment period exceeds the capacity of the hall, and (4) the maintenance of order and decorum.

(d) All persons in attendance during a public comment period shall, unless given leave by the Mayor or meeting chair, adhere to the following guidelines for the maintenance of order and decorum in addition to any specific rules adopted by Council for a particular public comment period: (1) keep statements to a length of three (3) minutes, particularly when there are other persons waiting to speak, (2) do not interrupt other speakers when it is their turn to speak or engage in public discussion with other persons present in the hall during the public comment period, (3) remain courteous and respectful to other persons and/or viewpoints when making public comments, including through the language used, the tone adopted, and the manner of presentation,

and (4) avoid making comments that are likely to be harmful, discriminatory, or embarrassing to other citizens, public officials, or Village employees.

(e) The Mayor or meeting chair will acknowledge speakers in an orderly fashion. Speakers should not comment unless they have first been acknowledged by the Mayor or meeting chair.

(f) After being acknowledged, speakers should address the Council from the lectern at the front of the room, or other Council-designated location, and begin their remarks by stating their name and address for the record.

(g) Council and/or staff will not typically answer or respond to questions posed by speakers during the Public Comment Period. Speakers are encouraged to address comments to the entire Council and not one individual member. Discussions between speakers and members of the audience will not be permitted.

(h) Speakers who have prepared written remarks or supporting documents are encouraged to leave a copy of such remarks and documents with the Clerk to the Council.

(i) The following subjects are generally not appropriate for discussion during the public comment period: (1) support or opposition for the candidacy of any person seeking public office, including the candidacy of a person addressing the Council, (2) Commercial solicitations or advertisements, (3) matters that are not germane to the operation or management of the Village, (4) matters which are the subject of a specific public hearing.

RULE 6. ORDER OF BUSINESS

Items shall be placed on the agenda according to the order of business. The order of business for each regular meeting shall be as follows:

- Discussion and revision of the proposed agenda, including consent agenda; adoption of an agenda
- Approval of Minutes
- Public hearings
- Old Business
- New Business
- Committee Reports
- Administrative Reports
- Informal discussion and public comment.

By general consent of the Council, items may be considered out of order.

RULE 7. OFFICE OF MAYOR

The Mayor shall be elected by the majority of voters. The Mayor shall preside at all meetings of the Council and may vote in all matters but shall not have the power to vote again in instances where there is an equal division on a question. In order to address the Council, a member must be recognized by the Mayor.

The Mayor or other presiding officer shall have the following powers:

- (a) To rule motions in or out of order, including any motion patently offered for obstructive or dilatory purposes;
- (b) To determine whether a speaker has gone beyond reasonable standards of courtesy in his or her remarks and to entertain and rule on objections from other members on this ground;
- (c) To entertain and answer questions of parliamentary law or procedure;
- (d) To call a brief recess at any time;
- (e) To adjourn in an emergency.

A decision by the presiding officer under (a), (b), or (c) may be appealed to the Council upon motion of any member, pursuant to Rule 18(b), Motion 1. Such a motion is in order immediately after a decision under (a), (b), or (c) is announced and at no other time. The member making the motion need not be recognized by the presiding officer, and the motion, if timely made, may not be ruled out of order.

RULE 8. OFFICE OF MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

At the organizational meeting described in Rule 3, the Council shall elect from among its members a Mayor Pro Tempore to perform the duties of the Mayor during the Mayor's absence or disability. If the Mayor should become physically or mentally unable to perform the duties of his or her office, the Council may, by unanimous vote (excluding the Mayor), declare that the Mayor is incapacitated and confer any of the Mayor's powers and duties on the Mayor Pro Tempore. When a Mayor declares that he or she is no longer incapacitated, and a majority of the Council concurs, the Mayor shall resume the exercise of his or her powers and duties. If both the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tempore are absent from a meeting, the Council may elect from among its members a temporary Chairman to preside at the meeting.

RULE 9. WHEN THE PRESIDING OFFICER IS IN ACTIVE DEBATE

If the Mayor or other presiding officer becomes actively engaged in debate on a particular proposal, he or she may designate another Council member to preside over the debate. The Mayor or other presiding officer shall resume presiding as soon as action on the matter is concluded.

RULE 10. ACTION BY THE COUNCIL

The Council shall proceed by motion, except as otherwise provided for in Rule 4 and in Rule 31. Any member may make a motion.

RULE 11. [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED]

RULE 12. ONE MOTION AT A TIME

A member may make only one motion at a time.

RULE 13. SUBSTANTIVE MOTIONS

A substantive motion is out of order while another substantive motion is pending.

RULE 14. ADOPTION BY MAJORITY VOTE

A motion shall be adopted by a majority of the votes cast, a quorum as defined in Rule 27 being present, unless otherwise required by these Rules or the laws of North Carolina. A majority is more than half.

RULE 15. VOTING BY WRITTEN BALLOT

The Council may choose by majority vote to use written ballots in voting on a motion. Such ballots shall be signed, and the Minutes of the Council shall show the vote of each member voting. The ballots shall be available for public inspection in the office of the Village Clerk immediately following the meeting at which the vote took place and until the Minutes of that meeting are approved, at which time the ballots may be destroyed.

RULE 16. DEBATE

The Mayor shall state the motion and then open the floor to debate on it. The Mayor shall preside over the debate according to the following general principles;

- (a) The maker of the motion is entitled to speak first;
- (b) A member who has not spoken on the issue shall be recognized before someone who has already spoken;
- (c) To the extent possible, the debate shall alternate between proponents and opponents of the measure.

RULE 17. RATIFICATION OF ACTIONS

To the extent permitted by law, the Council may ratify actions taken on its behalf but without its prior approval. A motion to ratify is a substantive motion.

RULE 18. PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

(a) **Certain Motions Allowed.** In addition to substantive proposals, only the following procedural motions, and no others, are in order. Unless otherwise noted, each motion is debatable, may be amended, and requires a majority of the votes cast, a quorum being present, for adoption. Procedural motions are in order while a substantive motion is pending and at other times, except as otherwise noted.

(b) **Order of Priority of Motions.** In order of priority (if applicable), the procedural motions are

Motion 1. To Appeal a Procedural Ruling of the Presiding Officer. A decision of the presiding officer ruling a motion in or out of order, determining whether a speaker has gone beyond reasonable standards of courtesy in his or her remarks, or entertaining and answering a question of parliamentary law or procedure may be appealed to the Council, as specified in Rule 7. This appeal is in order immediately after such a decision is announced and at no other time. The member making the motion need not be recognized by the presiding officer and the motion, if timely made, may not be ruled out of order.

Motion 2. To Adjourn. This motion may be made only at the conclusion of Council consideration of a pending substantive matter; it may not interrupt deliberation of a pending matter. A motion to recess to a time and place certain shall also comply with the requirements of Rule 2(c).

Motion 3. To Take a Brief Recess. This motion may be made at any reasonable time.

Motion 4. Call to Follow the Agenda. The motion must be made at the first reasonable opportunity, or the right to make it is waived for the out-of-order item in question.

Motion 5. To Suspend the Rules. For adoption, the motion requires a vote equal to two-thirds of the actual membership of the Council, excluding vacant seats. The Council may not suspend provisions of the Rules that State requirements impose by law on the Council.

Motion 6. To Go into Closed Session. The Council may go into closed session only for one or more of the permissible purposes listed in G.S. 143-318.11(a). The motion to go into closed session shall cite one or more of these purposes and shall be adopted at an open meeting. A motion based on G.S. 143-318(a)(3) shall identify the parties in each existing lawsuit concerning which the Council expects to receive advice during the closed session, if in fact such advice is to be received.

Motion 7. To Leave Closed Session. This motion may be made at any reasonable time.

Motion 8. To Divide a Complex Motion and Consider It by Paragraph. The motion is in order whenever a member wishes to consider and vote on subparts of a complex motion separately.

Motion 9. To Defer Consideration. The Council may defer a substantive motion for later consideration at an unspecified time. A substantive motion, the consideration of which has been deferred, expires one hundred twenty (120) days thereafter unless a motion to revive consideration is adopted. If consideration of a motion has been deferred, a new motion with the same effect cannot be introduced while the deferred motion remains pending (has not expired). A member who wishes to revisit the matter during that time must take action to revive consideration of the original motion (Rule 18(b), Motion 14), or else move to suspend the Rules (Rule 18(b), Motion 5).

Motion 10. Motion for Previous Question. The motion is not in order until there have been at least twenty (20) minutes of debate, and every member has had an opportunity to speak once.

Motion 11. To Postpone to a Certain Time or Day. If consideration of a motion has been postponed, a new motion with the same effect cannot be introduced while the postponed motion remains pending. A member who wishes to revisit the matter must either wait until the specific time, or move to suspend the Rules (Rule 18(b), Motion 5).

Motion 12. To Refer a Motion to a Committee. The Council may vote to refer a substantive motion to a committee for its study and recommendations. Sixty (60) days or more after a substantive motion has been referred to a committee, the introducer of the substantive motion may compel consideration of the measure by the entire Council, whether or not the committee has reported the matter to the Council.

Motion 13. To Amend.

- (a) An amendment to a motion must be pertinent to the subject matter of the motion. An amendment is improper if adoption of the motion with that amendment added would have the same effect as rejection of the original motion. A proposal to substitute completely different wording for a motion or an amendment shall be treated as a motion to amend.
- (b) A motion may be amended, and that amendment may be amended, but no further amendments may be made until the last-offered amendment is disposed of by a vote.
- (c) Any amendment to a proposed ordinance shall be reduced to writing before the vote on the amendment.

Motion 14. To Revive Consideration. The Board may vote to revise consideration of any substantive motion earlier deferred by adoption of Motion 9 of Rule 18(b). The motion is in order at any time within one hundred twenty (120) days after the day of a vote to defer consideration. A substantive motion on which consideration has been deferred expires one hundred twenty (120) days after the deferral unless a motion to revive consideration is adopted.

Motion 15. To Reconsider. The Council may vote to reconsider its action on a matter. The motion to do so must be made by a member who voted with the prevailing side (the majority side except in the case of a tie; in that case the “no’s” prevail) and at the meeting during which the original vote was taken, including any continuation of that meeting through recess to a time and place certain. The motion cannot interrupt deliberation on a pending matter but is in order at any time before final adjournment of the meeting.

Motion 16. To Rescind or Repeal. The Council may vote to rescind actions it has previously taken or to repeal items that it has previously adopted. The motion is not in order if rescission or repeal of an action is forbidden by law.

Motion 17. To Prevent Reintroduction for Six (6) Months. The motion shall be in order immediately following the defeat of a substantive motion and at no other time. The motion requires for adoption a vote equal to two-thirds of the actual membership of the Council, excluding vacant seats. If adopted, the restriction imposed by the motion remains in effect for six (6) months or until the next organizational meeting of the Council, whichever occurs first.

RULE 19. RENEWAL OF MOTION

A motion that is defeated may be renewed at any later meeting unless a motion to prevent reintroduction has been adopted.

RULE 20. WITHDRAWAL OF MOTION

A motion may be withdrawn by the introducer at any time before it is amended or before the presiding officer puts the motion to a vote, whichever occurs first.

RULE 21. DUTY TO VOTE

(a) **Generally.** No member shall be excused from voting, except upon matters involving the consideration of his or her own financial interest or official conduct or upon matters which he or she is otherwise prohibited from voting under state law. A member who wishes to be excused from voting shall so inform the presiding officer. After consultation with the Village Attorney, the remaining Council members shall take a vote as to whether the member may be excused from voting. Every member must vote unless excused by a majority vote of the remaining members. In all other cases, a failure to vote by a member who is physically present in the Council Chamber, or who has withdrawn, without being excused by a majority vote of the remaining members present, shall be recorded as an affirmative vote.

(b) **Quasi-Judicial Land Use Decisions.** Where objection is raised to a Council member's participation in or vote on a quasi-judicial function pursuant to Article 19, Chapter 160A of the North Carolina General Statutes and that member does not recuse himself, the remaining members shall by majority vote rule on the objection.

RULE 22. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

A proposed ordinance shall be deemed to be introduced on the date the subject matter is first voted on by the Council.

RULE 23. ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES AND APPROVAL OF CONTRACTS

An affirmative vote equal to a majority of all the members of the Council not excused from voting on the question in issue shall be required to adopt an ordinance, to take any action that has the effect of an ordinance, or to make, ratify, or authorize any contract on behalf of the Village. In addition, no ordinance or action that has the effect of an ordinance may be finally adopted on the date on which it is introduced except by an affirmative vote equal to or greater than two-thirds of all the actual membership of the Council, excluding vacant seats. No ordinance shall be adopted unless it has been reduced to writing before a vote on adoption is taken.

RULE 24. ADOPTION OF THE BUDGET ORDINANCE

Notwithstanding the provisions of any Village Charter, general law, or local act:

(a) Any action with respect to the adoption or amendment of the budget ordinance may be taken at any regular or special meeting of the Council by a simple majority of those present and voting, a quorum being present;

(b) No action taken with respect to the adoption or amendment of the budget ordinance need be published or is subject to any other procedural requirement governing the adoption of ordinances or resolutions by the Council; and

(c) The adoption and amendment of the budget ordinance and the levy of taxes in the budget ordinance are not subject to the provisions of any Village Charter or local act concerning initiative or referendum.

During the period beginning with the submission of the budget to the Council and ending with the adoption of the budget ordinance, the Council may hold any special meetings that may be necessary to complete its work on the budget ordinance. Except for the notice requirements of the open meetings law, which continue to apply, no provision of law concerning the call of special meetings applies during that period so long as (a) each member of the Board has actual notice of

each special meeting called for the purpose of considering the budget; and (b) no business other than consideration of the budget is taken up. This Rule does not allow, and may not be construed to allow, the holding of closed meetings or executive sessions by the Council if it is otherwise prohibited by law from holding such a meeting or session.

RULE 25. SPECIAL RULES OF PROCEDURE

(a) **Remote Participation.** A Council member may participate by any means of electronic communication in any Council meeting, including closed sessions. To the fullest extent provided by law, the Council member participating remotely shall be counted towards a quorum, permitted to vote on a matter and may participate in discussions. This provision shall apply also to Committees of Council.

(b) **Remote Participation During State of Emergency Declared Pursuant to G.S. 166A-19.20.** Should a state of emergency be declared by the Governor or General Assembly under G.S. 166A-19.20, Council and any Committees of Council may, at Council's election, hold remote meetings to the fullest extent of the law as provided for under G.S. 166A-19.24.

RULE 26. CLOSED SESSIONS

The Council may hold closed sessions as provided by law. The Council shall only commence a closed session after a motion to go into closed session has been made and adopted during an open meeting. The motion shall state the purpose of the closed session. If the motion is based on G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) (consultation with attorney; handling or settlement of claims, judicial actions, or administrative procedures), it must identify the parties in any existing lawsuits concerning which the public body expects to receive advice during the closed session. The motion to go into closed session must be approved by the vote of a majority of those present and voting. The Council shall terminate the closed session by a majority vote.

Only those actions authorized by statute may be taken in closed session. A motion to adjourn or recess shall not be in order during a closed session.

RULE 27. QUORUM

A majority of the actual membership of the Council plus the Mayor, excluding vacant seats, shall constitute a quorum. A majority is more than half. A member who has withdrawn from a meeting without being excused by majority vote of the remaining members present shall be counted as present for the purposes of determining whether or not a quorum is present.

RULE 28. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public hearings required by law or deemed advisable by the Council shall be organized by a special order (adopted by a majority vote) that sets forth the subject, date, place, and time of the hearing as well as any Rules regarding the length of time allotted for each speaker, and other pertinent matters. The Rules may include, but are not limited to, Rules (a) fixing the maximum time allotted to each speaker; (b) providing for the designation of spokespersons for groups of persons supporting or opposing the same positions; (c) providing for the selection of delegates from groups of persons supporting or opposing the same positions when the number of persons wishing to attend the hearing exceeds the capacity of the hall (so long as arrangements are made, in the case of hearings subject to the open meetings law, for those excluded from the hall to listen to the hearing); and (d) providing for the maintenance of order and decorum in the conduct of the hearing.

All notice and other requirements of the open meetings law applicable to Council meetings shall also apply to public hearings at which a majority of the Council is present; such a hearing is considered to be part of a regular or special meeting of the Council. These requirements also apply to hearings conducted by appointed or elected committees of the Council, if a majority of the

committee is present. A public hearing for which any notices required by the open meetings law or other provisions of law have been given may be continued to a time and place certain without further advertisement. The requirements of Rule 2(c) shall be followed in continuing a hearing at which a majority of the Council is present.

The Council may vote to delegate to Council staff members, as appropriate, the authority to schedule, call, and give notice of public hearings required by law or the Council. The Council shall provide adequate guidelines to assist staff members in fulfilling this responsibility, and it shall not delegate the responsibility in cases where the Council itself is required by law to call, schedule, or give notice of the hearing.

At the time appointed for the hearing, the Mayor or his or her designee shall call the hearing to order and then preside over it. When the allotted time expires or when no one wishes to speak who has not done so, the presiding officer shall entertain or make a motion to end the hearing.

RULE 29. QUORUM AT PUBLIC MEETINGS

A quorum of the Council shall be required at all public hearings required by state law. If a quorum is not present at such a hearing, the hearing shall be continued until the next regular Council meeting without further advertisement.

RULE 30. MINUTES

Full and accurate Minutes of the Council proceedings, including closed sessions, shall be kept. The Board shall also keep a general account of any closed session so that a person not in attendance would have a reasonable understanding of what transpired. These Minutes and general accounts shall be open to inspection of the public, except as otherwise provided by law and in this Rule. The exact wording of each motion and the results of each vote shall be recorded in the Minutes, and on the request of any member of the Council, the “ayes” and “nos” upon any question

shall be taken. Members' and other persons' comments may be included in the Minutes if the Council approves.

Minutes and general accounts of closed sessions may be sealed by action of the Council. Such sealed Minutes and general accounts may be withheld from public inspection so long as public inspection would frustrate the purpose of the closed session.

RULE 31. APPOINTMENTS

The Council may consider and make appointments to other bodies, including its own committees, if any, only in open session. The Council may not consider or fill a vacancy among its own membership except in open session.

The Mayor may vote on appointments that come before the Council.

RULE 32. COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

(a) **Establishment and Appointment.** The Council or the Mayor, if the Mayor is delegated that power by the Council, may establish and appoint members for such temporary and standing Village committees and boards as are needed to help carry on the work of Village government. Any specific provisions of law relating to particular committees and boards shall be followed.

(b) **Open Meetings Law.** The requirements of the open meetings law shall apply to all elected or appointed authorities, boards, commission, councils, or other bodies of the Village that are composed of two (2) or more members and that exercise or are authorized to exercise legislative, policy-making, quasi-judicial, administrative, or advisory functions. However, the law's requirements shall not apply to a meeting solely among the Village's professional staff.

RULE 33. AMENDMENT OF THE RULES

These Rules may be amended at any regular meeting or at any properly called special meeting that includes amendment of the Rules as one of the stated purposes of the meeting, so long as the amendment is consistent with the Village Charter and general law. Adoption of an amendment shall require an affirmative vote equal to a majority of the actual membership of the Council, excluding vacant seats.

RULE 34. REFERENCE TO ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER

To the extent not provided for in these Rules, and to the extent it does not conflict with North Carolina law or with the spirit of these Rules, the Council shall refer to *Robert's Rules of Order*, to answer unresolved procedural questions.

RULE 35. PROCEDURAL IRREGULARITY

Any action duly taken by the Council at a duly constituted meeting where a quorum is present shall not be challenged or invalidated on the grounds that the Council failed to abide by any procedural rules set forth herein, provided that the action otherwise complied with North Carolina General Statutes and applicable general law.