

COUNCIL RESOLUTION No. 9-2023

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MILWAUKIE, OREGON,
ADOPTING THE COUNCIL COMMUNICATION AGREEMENT.**

WHEREAS open, direct, and positive communication among the Mayor and Councilors and between them, staff, and the public is critical to ensuring clear and easily understood public information, and

WHEREAS open, direct, and positive communication among the Mayor and Councilors and between them, staff, and the public is essential to a healthy community-wide debate on issues, and

WHEREAS the Council Communication Agreement is intended to ensure open public processes that lead to closure.

Now, Therefore, be it Resolved by the City Council of the City of Milwaukie, Oregon, that:

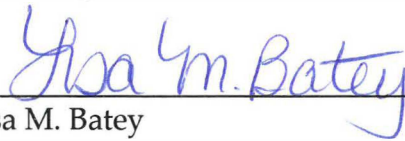
Section 1: The Council Communication Agreement (Exhibit A) is adopted.

Section 2: Resolution 23-2022 adopted March 15, 2022, is repealed.

Section 3: This resolution is effective immediately upon adoption.

Introduced and adopted by the City Council on **February 21, 2023.**

This resolution is effective immediately.



Lisa M. Batey

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Scott S. Stauffer, City Recorder



Justin D. Gericke, City Attorney

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION AGREEMENT

Guaranteed access to clear and easily understood information is a value of the City of Milwaukie. This agreement is intended to foster conduct that realizes that value and ensures a healthy debate about competing ideas. Finally, it seeks closure and a community that moves forward together, secure in the knowledge that decisions were made openly and fairly.

This agreement has one common behavioral thread—mutual respect. Thus, if the list does not anticipate a situation, a response that is respectful of all concerned should suffice.

1. In all city business, in my role as a member of Council, I will:
 - a) demonstrate respect for all who are involved,
 - b) respect various thoughts and avoid denigrating others,
 - c) clarify facts and opinions to ensure understanding,
 - d) clearly state my own opinion as being mine,
 - e) look for ways to praise worthwhile efforts and accomplishments, and
 - f) stay focused and participate.
2. In working with the Mayor and other Councilors, I will:
 - a) provide prompt notice of items requiring Council action I am introducing at meetings,
 - b) always represent the city's position before other jurisdictions unless none has been adopted, in which case I will inform the Mayor and Council in a timely manner of the position(s) I have taken,
 - c) work toward consensus,
 - d) not publicly (including all internet and written content) criticize Council, individual members of Council, or Council decisions, but may respectfully disagree with a decision, and
 - e) first address a concern about either a violation of these agreements or any other matter in a direct, appropriate, private, and timely manner.
3. In working to seek broad-based community support, I will:
 - a) communicate with the community openly and freely to exchange information and ideas,
 - b) engage the community in a shared dialogue, and
 - c) listen and respond to well-founded and constructive criticism made to, or by, Council or city staff, or citizens.
4. In working with staff, I will:
 - a) provide direction through the city manager with the concurrence of the Mayor and Council and with respect given to the city's chain of command,
 - b) refrain from contacting line staff (non-management) with requests or inquiries; this does not apply to questions stemming from Council packets when in preparation for the upcoming meeting,

- c) respect the city's "one-hour" guideline, not requesting work product from the city manager, assistant city manager, or responsible city manager / director that takes more than an hour to produce without first securing the support of a majority of Council, and
- d) never, in any public way, insult or denigrate any staff member, and if I have an unresolved disagreement concerning a staff member's actions, I will bring it to the city manager.

5. In working with the city attorney, I will:

- a) respect that the city attorney represents the city as a whole, and if the Council's direction to the city attorney conflicts with the city attorney's ethical obligations to the city, the city attorney must resolve this conflict in favor of the city,
- b) remember that information a Council member shares with the city attorney is not confidential with respect to other Council members, and the information may be disclosed to the entire Council,
- c) contain my requests for information or assistance to items that can be responded to quickly and will work to secure the support of the majority of Council for items taking more than an hour, and
- d) respect that all responses to legal questions will be sent to the entire Council in an effort to protect all parties, keep all City Councilors informed, and ensure there is no perception of favoritism.

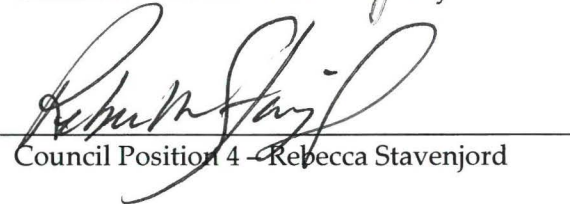
Council Position 1 – Adam Khosroabadi



Council Position 2 – Robert Massey



Council Position 3 – Desi Nicodemus



Council Position 4 – Rebecca Stavenjord



Mayor – Lisa Batey