

What is an ordinance?

An ordinance is a law. An ordinance may affect the public at large by establishing a penalty. The city council may pass an ordinance after considering it at two or more separate meetings or declaring an emergency.

Who determines that a resolution or ordinance is an emergency reading?

City council members determine if an ordinance is an emergency following strict state law guidelines.

How does an issue become an ordinance or a resolution?

A city council member or city department requests an ordinance or resolution be considered by the city council. Once requested, the city Legal Department prepares and reviews it before it is placed on a city council meeting agenda for consideration by the council.

For an ordinance to pass, how many city council members must approve it?

A majority of the seven city council members must approve a resolution or ordinance before it can take effect. At least five council members must pass an ordinance for it to be approved as an emergency.



For more information:

City Hall
105 West Juan Linn
Victoria, Texas 77901
361-485-3000

City Departmental Listings

(All city phone numbers begin with area code 361)

EMERGENCIES –
POLICE, FIRE & AMBULANCE 911
Air Quality 485-3230
City Web Site www.victoriatx.org
City Hall 485-3000
City Manager & City Council 485-3030
City Secretary 485-3040
Community Center 573-2651
Employment Office 485-3500
Engineering & Public Works 485-3340
Environmental Services 485-3230
Finance 485-3080
Fire 485-3450
Inspections and Maintenance Services 485-3320
Library 485-3302
Municipal Court 485-3050
Parks and Recreation 485-3200
Planning 485-3360
Police 573-3221 or 573-3222
Pretreatment 485-3186
Public Information Office 485-3110
Public Works 485-3340
Purchasing 485-3170
Solid Waste 485-3220
Streets & Utilities Administration 485-3381
Utility Billing 485-3400



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A Citizen's Guide To Victoria's City Government



 THE CITY OF
VICTORIA
Public Information Office
 700 Main Center, Suite 105
 485-3110
www.victoriatx.org

Victoria's City Government

Victoria was founded in 1824 under a Spanish land grant. It was formally incorporated in 1839 while Texas was an independent country.

Victoria has a "Council - Manager" type of government. The city manager is the Chief Executive Officer and is in charge of all city operations on a daily basis. The mayor and the six city council members select the city manager. (For current information about city council meetings, agendas and minutes from past meetings, browse to <http://www.victoriatx.org/council/councilpdfs.htm> on the city Web site.)



A good understanding of the governing authority of Victoria can be read in the City Charter section of the Victoria City Code.

The Victoria City Code is the written record of all city ordinances. This rather large document is available in the reference section at the Victoria Public Library. To link to the city code through the Internet, go to the City Secretary's Web site <http://www.victoriatx.org/citysecretary/index.htm> and click on the [City Code and Charter](#) link.

Our local city council meetings are good examples of democracy at work. Council chambers are located at 105 West Juan Linn Street next to City Hall.



Questions and Answers About Victoria's City Government

"The City of Victoria shall have all the powers granted to cities by the constitution and laws of the State of Texas." ... *City Charter*

What is a Home Rule city?

Victoria is a Home Rule city. The city council has the power to pass laws that do not contradict Texas or Federal law.

Who governs Victoria?

Victoria is governed by the city council which is composed of seven elected representatives, a mayor and six district council members. The mayor presides over city council meetings.

Who is eligible to be a city council member?

Anyone can serve on the council who: is at least twenty-one years of age, is a United States citizen, is a qualified voter of Texas, resides in Victoria for not less than one year immediately preceding the election, is elected from a district and has lived in the district from which elected for not less than six months immediately preceding the election. *

**If any member of the city council shall cease to reside in the city during their term of office, or in their respective district, their term of office as a member of the city council shall terminate immediately.*

How long are city council terms? Are there term limits?

Council terms are 3 years. There are no limits to the number of terms city council members may serve.



What are the duties of the city council?

The city council enacts legislation, revises and determines policies, adopts budgets and makes appointments to offices as provided in the city charter.

When does the city council meet?

The city council meets every first and third Tuesday of the month at 5:00 p.m. City council meetings are open to the public.

Are any part of city council meetings not open to the public?

The Texas Government Code allows the city council to go into an executive session to discuss issues where an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the city's position. These issues include personnel matters, security, the purchase of property and other topics. The public or media cannot attend executive sessions.

Who serves as city manager?

The city manager is appointed by the city council and manages all city operations on a daily basis. The city manager cannot vote on issues before the city council but may participate in all discussions before the council.

What is a resolution?

A resolution is action taken by the city council that expresses an opinion, authorizes an act by city staff, issues a permit or variance, or other action authorized under procedures that have been established by ordinance. A resolution can be passed with only one hearing.

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