

# General Public Comments

## City of Paso Robles Council Meeting--October 3, 2023

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From: Jeff Carr—Paso Robles, CA

### **Housing Constraints & Opportunities Committee (HCOC)**

For a year now, I've been trying to resolve questions with the city related to the Housing Constraints & Opportunities Committee (HCOC).

I've addressed my concerns with the HCOC (public comments October 13, 2022) and in a subsequent meeting with Mayor Martin and Warren Frace on October 24, 2022. This later meeting was simply a restating of the concerns with no answers or resolutions provided. The last words I heard then were, "I'll get back to you". No one has got back to me on these concerns.

The HCOC was originally formed as an ad hoc, but quickly evolved into an advisory committee in 2015. Even in an item on tonight's agenda (Item L3), it is still being referred to as an ad hoc-- though the city website currently has it listed as a committee among 'Boards and Commissions'-- <https://www.prcity.com/257/Boards-Commissions>. From my investigation, I find it has not been operating per council direction or city policies for committees.

My recent observations of HCOC meetings have me concerned about HCOC operation and its discrepancies from policy. I feel it is the best interest of the city and the public that the HCOC be immediately aligned with city policy for standing committees. I hope the city will finally answer my questions and clarify this matter.

### **Key concerns:**

#### **The HCOC has no established bylaws.**

At the October 17, 2015 Council Meeting, the council's direction was to form an "advisory committee" consisting of members of the City Council, Planning Commission, and members of the public. The council also directed staff to prepare bylaws. Council policy requires the council's adoption of committee bylaws prior to convening a standing committee. In October 2022, the city told me: "*There have been no established bylaws for the HCOC*". A year later, I've still not seen HCOC bylaws.

Excerpt from: "City of Paso Robles Council Policies & Procedures" (revision no.6),

#### *3.2 COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION & CONDUCT*

*3.2.1 Standing committees are established by resolution of the City Council and are organized under Council adopted by-laws specific to each.*

btw: I find no resolution of the City Council establishing the HCOC.

**The HCOC has no term periods defined for its members.**

Term periods for the HCOC have been shown on the city website as "TBD" and I know of no effort, past or present, to change this. After 8 years, it's time to set term periods and additionally, reevaluate the HCOCs current membership.

**The HCOC includes 2 council members that are acting as voting members.**

Excerpt from: "City of Paso Robles Council Policies & Procedures" (revision no.6),

*Chapter 1 - Council Powers & Responsibilities*

*1.1.5 No Councilmember may serve as a voting member of any standing City commission, board, or committee composed solely of citizen volunteers, city employees, or a combination of both as commissioned pursuant to Chapter 3 of these policies*

**I ask that the city resolve this confusion with the HCOC and request that staff properly align it as a standing committee according to city policy--including but not limited to establishing bylaws, member term limits, and council members that act only as liaisons and not voting members.**

**City of Paso Robles Council Policies & Procedures**

As an addition to these comments regarding the HCOC, I have questions and comments regarding the city document, "City of Paso Robles Council Policies & Procedures"

From that document:

*7.1 REVIEW OF POLICIES & PROCEDURES*

*The policies and procedures contained herein shall be reviewed whenever at least one member of the Council commences a new term pursuant to any General Election.*

The last update to this document that I can find is from May 2, 2017. In 2018, when Council Member Garcia was newly elected, I sent an email to the city manager at the time inquiring about a council review of this document. I did not receive a reply. Considering the council changes since the last review, and the confusion the city appears to have with respect to the HCOC, perhaps it is time to formally review this document with the council.

In addition, in recent press comments in response to the passing of Mayor Steve Martin, SLO County Supervisor Peschong mentioned the Mayor's efforts on the Code of Civility that was approved in 2018. According to the meeting minutes at the city council adoption on June 5, 2018: *"The final version will be brought back to Council for approval by resolution, as an attachment to the Council's Policies and Procedures."*

I cannot find such a resolution and the Code of Civility is not attached to the most recent copy of Council's Policies and Procedures on the city website. This appears to be an oversight that can easily be remedied and should be as soon as possible.