

What is a policy?

A policy is a set of actions taken by the Commission to address a topic that impacts our city. Policies may include ordinances, regulations, administrative actions and funding priorities.

What is an ordinance?

An ordinance is a law brought forth by a city government, usually spelled out in a municipal code or a code of ordinances. It establishes how a government operates, and how government officials can oversee resident actions and behavior.

What is a resolution?

According to Florida Statutes, resolutions are an “expression of a governing body concerning matters of administration, an expression of a temporary character, or a provision for the disposition of a particular item of the administrative business of the governing body.”

Resolutions can be binding or non-binding.

What is a binding resolution? A binding resolution is a resolution that can and should be turned into formal legislation.

What is a non-binding resolution? A non-binding resolution is a resolution that is not turned into formal legislation.



References

Local government resource desk: Municipal Ordinances. (2014, December 31). State of Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development. Retrieved December 1, 2022, from <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/dcra/LocalGovernmentResourceDesk/Ordinances/MunicipalOrdinances.aspx>

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City of
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City Hall 101



How Public Policy is Made

Policies, Ordinances, and Resolutions

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Resolutions, ordinances, and policies all stem from an idea. The processes by which those ideas become policy or law will be outlined as follows.

How does an idea become policy?

A policy begins with an issue or idea identified by the City Commission. The idea is presented at a series of public meetings. At each stage it is debated and refined by the Commission, neighbors, experts and other concerned stakeholders. Gainesville has a Policy Research Program to support this process. The Commission can request support from policy staff to study certain issues and propose a policy idea.



The Idea is Researched

A City Commissioner and/or the City Commission requests preliminary research on an idea, which is conducted by Policy Research staff.

The Research is Presented

Policy Research staff present findings to the General Policy Committee, which discusses the item and provides direction to staff.

A Working Group Convenes

If advanced, the lead charter officer for the item convenes a cross-departmental working group which creates a timeline and resource estimate for policy development.

The Working Group Analyzes

Relevant charter officer staff conduct analyses of the policy and draft a proposal for policy development.



The Proposal is Discussed

The General Policy Committee considers the final proposal by the charter offices and votes on whether to adopt the policy. If the item requires an ordinance, it goes through the ordinance passage process.

The Proposal Becomes Policy

If the proposal becomes policy, metrics are gathered for key performance indicators (KPIs).



How does an idea become an ordinance?



The Idea is Proposed

At a City Commission or General Policy Committee meeting, an idea is proposed by a City Commissioner or City staff member.

The Idea is Discussed

The idea is discussed among members of the city commission, and the commission provides direction to city staff.



The Ordinance is Drafted

The idea is drafted into an ordinance by the city attorney based on the direction given by the commission.



The Ordinance Goes Through First Reading

The proposed ordinance is reviewed by the City Commission, and the Commission votes on whether to adopt the ordinance on first reading.

The Ordinance Goes Through Second Reading

The proposed ordinance is reviewed again by the City Commission, and the Commission votes on whether to adopt the ordinance on second reading.



The Ordinance Becomes Law

If passed, the proposed ordinance becomes law and is adopted under the City of Gainesville Municipal Code.



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- Meet your commissioners
- Watch livestreamed meetings
- Join an advisory committee

How does an idea become a resolution?

The process for resolutions is similar to ordinances. However, for non-binding resolutions a commissioner may draft a resolution themselves and place it on an agenda for adoption with no prior discussions.

The process for a binding resolution is typically as follows.



The Resolution is Proposed

A resolution idea is brought up by a city commissioner.

The Resolution is Discussed

The potential resolution is placed on the City Commission meeting for discussion and from here, the City Commission provides direction.

The Resolution is Drafted

The resolution is drafted into resolution format after City Commission discussion and presented at a City Commission meeting.



The Resolution Becomes Adopted

The resolution is voted on and if approved, it gets adopted as city code.

City Hall

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