City Council Meeting
08-24-26
Item 7.A.

Council Agenda Report

To: Mayor Silverstein and the Honorable Members of the City Council

Prepared by: Kelsey Pettijohn, City Clerk

Approved by: Joseph D. Irvin, City Manager

Date prepared: August 6, 2026 Meeting date: August 24, 2026

Subject: Proposed Changes to City Council Policy #33

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt revised City Council Policy #33, Seating Arrangement of the City Council.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact associated with the recommended action.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION: N/A.

DISCUSSION: The City Council meets regularly on the second and fourth Monday of each month. City Council Policy #33 establishes the seating arrangement for the Councilmembers at City Council meetings and provides direction to staff regarding the setup of the dais for each meeting.

On June 22, 2026, the City Council directed staff to bring back an item to consider revisions to City Council Policy #33. The proposed revisions would allow an alternate seating arrangement in which the Mayor is seated at the far left of the dais, to more easily see the Councilmembers and staff during meetings.

The revised policy would allow the Council to use either the traditional seating arrangement or the alternate seating arrangement at the discretion of the Mayor, and clarifies the seating arrangement for the City Manager and City Attorney.

ALTERNATIVES: The City Council may retain the existing seating arrangement only, approve the alternate seating arrangement only, or provide other direction to staff regarding revisions to City Council Policy #33.

ATTACHMENTS: Revised City Council Policy #33

City of Malibu

City Council Policy

Policy #33

Title: Seating Arrangement of the City Council

Purpose: To set forth the placement of members of the City Council at the Council table during City Council meetings

Policy Statement:

The City Council shall be seated at the Council table in accordance with one of the following two seating arrangements, as selected by the Mayor:

1. The Mayor shall be seated at the center of the five members of the City. Council. The Mayor Pro Tern shall be seated to the right of the Mayor. The Councilmember who is next in rotation to become Mayor Pro Tem shall be seated to the left of the Mayor. The outgoing Mayor shall be seated to the far right of the Mayor, and the remaining Councilmember shall be seated to the far left of the Mayor. When there is no outgoing Mayor the remaining Councilmembers shall be seated based upon length of service on the City Council with the most senior member seated to the far left of the Mayor. In the case of both members having been elected at the same time seniority shall be determined by the number of votes. received at the election. The highest vote getter shall be considered most senior and so on. The City Manager shall be seated to the far right of the Mayor and the City Council, and the City Attorney shall be seated to the far left of the Mayor and the City Council.

2. The Mayor shall be seated at the far left of the Council table, which will be the far right from the audience's perspective. The Mayor Pro Tem shall be seated immediately to the right of the Mayor. The remaining Councilmembers shall be seated to the right of the Mayor Pro Tem in order of rotation for Mayor, with the Councilmember next in rotation for Mayor Pro Tem seated closest to the Mayor Pro Tem and the outgoing Mayor seated furthest from the Mayor. The City Manager shall be seated at the far right of the Council table, with the City Attorney seated to the left of the City Manager.

Implementation:

At the direction of the Mayor, the City Clerk shall arrange the nameplates at the City Council table at all City Council meetings to ensure that the selected seating arrangement is followed.

Date Adopted:
May 11, 1998

Date Amended:
January 25, 1999
August 24, 2026

Recycled Paper