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CHAPTER 21.02: BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

21.02.010 PURPOSE

This <u>Chapter chapter</u> identifies the roles and responsibilities of <u>various</u> appointed and elected boards, <u>as well as and commissions and</u> the duties of the municipal staff, in the administration of this <u>Titletitle</u>.

21.02.020 BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS GENERALLY

- A. Summary Table of Major Decision-Making and Review Bodies Responsibilities
 - 1. Table 21.02-1 summarizes the major review and decision-making responsibilities of the Assembly, the municipal staff, and the other entities that have roles in the administration of the-procedures set forth in Chapter chapter 21.03, Review and Approval Procedures. The referenced notes are set forth immediately below the table. Other duties and responsibilities of the Such other entities are set forth in referred to in this chapter as the "boards and commissions within the scope of this chapter" and include: the Planning and Zoning Commission; the Platting Board; the Zoning Board of Examiners and Appeals; the Board of Adjustment; the Urban Design Commission; and the Geotechnical Advisory Commission.
 - Table 21.02-1 is a summary tool and includes many, but not all, duties of these entities. Other duties and responsibilities are set forth in subsequent sections of this Chapter.chapter and this title and other parts of the Municipal Code. Some other duties and responsibilities not listed in the table may require public hearings.
 - **3.** The referenced notes are set forth immediately below the table.
 - **4.** Even though not referenced in this <u>Chapterchapter</u>, other boards, commissions, government agencies, and non-governmental agencies may be asked to review some applications, including, but not limited to, <u>zoning mapamendmentsrezonings</u>, site plans, and subdivisions. Title 21 matters referred to other agencies will <u>generally</u> follow the procedures established in <u>Chapterchapter</u> 21.03. *Review and Approval Procedures*.

¹ NOTE: This draft table will continue to evolve throughout the entire drafting process as discussions continue and new policy decisions are made. For example, the need for hearings is included on the draft table — we have attempted to assign this designation to the appropriate fields based on the current draft text. However, the need for a hearing, versus a consent agendatype approval, is one of the incentives being explored as a means to induce developers to organize and/or attend preliminary meetings.

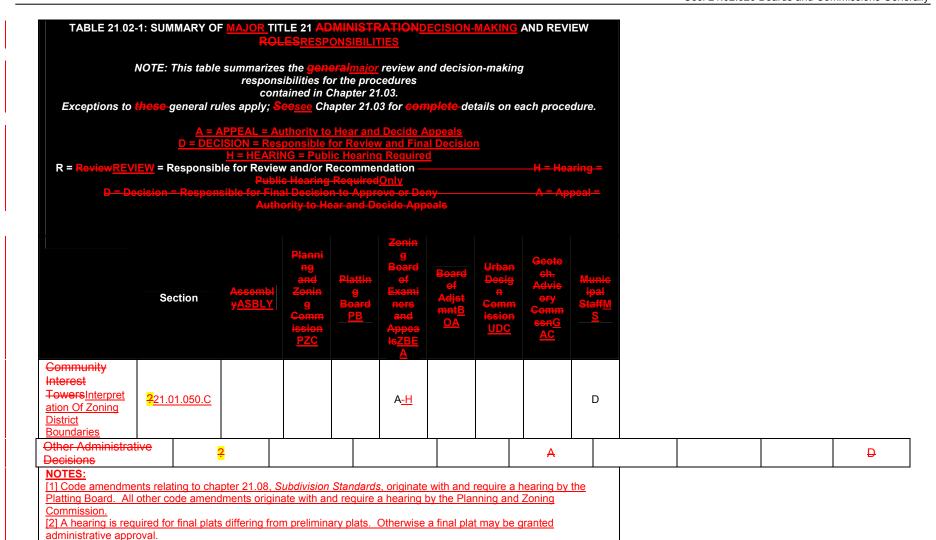
TABLE 21.02-1: SUMMARY OF TITLE 21 A **AND REVIEW** NOTE: This table summarizes the ge review and decision-making responsibilities for the procedures contained in Chapter 21.03. Exceptions to these general rules apply; Se Chapter 21.03 for complete details on each procedure. = Responsible for Review and/or Recommendation Section Amendments to <u>R</u> [4] Comprehensive 21.03.030.B D-H R R-H Plan, Substantive Amendments to Comprehensive R 21.03.030.C D R Plan, Cosmetic <u>R</u> [4] Amendments to R-H R-H 21.03.040 D-H R Text of Title 21 [1] [1] Rezonings (Map 21.03.050 D-H R-H R R [5] Amendments) R - if deleg ated R D-H Preliminary Plat 21.03.060.C.3 D-H R Α [4] [4] bу **Plattin**

TABLE 21.02-1: SUMMARY OF MAJOR TITLE 21 ADMINISTRATION DECISION-MAKING AND REVIEW ROLES RESPONSIBILITIES NOTE: This table summarizes the general major review and decision-making responsibilities for the procedures contained in Chapter 21.03. Exceptions to these general rules apply; Seesee Chapter 21.03 for complete details on each procedure. A = APPEAL = Authority to Hear and Decide Appeals D = DECISION = Responsible for Review and Final Decision H = HEARING = Public Hearing Required R = Review REVIEW = Responsible for Review and/or Recommendation Public Hearing Required Only D = Decision = Responsible for Final Decision to Approve or Deny A = Appeal = Authority to Hear and Decide Appeals									
	Section	Assembl yASBLY	Planni ng and Zonin g Comm ission PZC	Plattin 9 Board PB	Zonin 9 Board of Exami nors and Appea IsZBE	Board of Adjst mntB OA	Urban Dosig n Comm ission UDC	Geote ch. Advis ory Comm ssnG AC	Munic ipal Staff <u>M</u> S
							Board [5]		
Final Plat	21.03.060.C.4			D-H [2]			R		D [2]
Minor SubdivisionAbbr eviated Plat	21.03.060.D		A [3]	A <u>-H [6]</u>		A-H <u>/6/</u>			D
Right-of-Way Acquisition Plat	21.03.060.E			А					D
Conditional Uses	21.03.070		D-H			А-Н	<u>R [5]</u>		R
Site Plan Review, Administrative	21.03.080.B		А						D
Site Plan Review, Major	21.03.080.C		<u>A-H</u>				D-H	<u>R [4]</u>	<u>R</u>

TABLE 21.02	-1: SUMI	MARY OF	MAJOR TIT ROL	LE 21 AD ESRESP	MINISTF ONSIBILI	RATION <u>D</u> TIES	ECISION-	MAKING	AND REV	IEW			
	NOTE: This table summarizes the generalmajor review and decision-making responsibilities for the procedures contained in Chapter 21.03. Exceptions to these general rules apply; Seesee Chapter 21.03 for complete details on each procedure.								dure.				
R = Review <u>REV</u>	IEW = Re	esponsib	APPEAL = AUSION = Resi H = HEARIN Ile for Review Public	NG = Publ	ic Hearing	g Require	appeals al Decisio d	<u>n</u>	- H = Ho a	aring =			
D = De	eision =	Respon	sible for Fina Autho	II Decisio ority to Ho	n to Appr par and Do	ove or De ecide App	eals		<u> А = Ар</u>	peal =			
	Sec	etion	Assembl yASBLY	Planni ng and Zonin g Comm ission PZC	Plattin 9 Board PB	Zonin 9 Board of Exami ners and Appea IsZBE	Board of Adjst mntB OA	Urban Desig n Comm ission UDC	Geote ch. Advis ory Comm ssnG AC	Munic ipal Staff <u>M</u> S			
Public Facility Site Selection (except schools)	21.03	.090 .B		D-H					<u>R [4]</u>	R			
School Site Selection	<u>25</u>	.090.B .25	D-H						<u>R [4]</u>	R		_	
Public Facility Sit Selection and Pro Landscaping Rev	oject	21.03	.090.C			A					D H		R
Special Flood Hazard Permits	21.0	3.100				A-H				D			
Land Use Permits	21.0	3.110				A <u>-H</u>				D			
Certificates of Zoning Compliance	21.0	3.120				A <u>-H</u>				D			
Sign Permits	21.0	3.130				А-Н				D			

TABLE 21.02-1: SUMMARY OF MAJOR TITLE 21 ADMINISTRATION DECISION-MAKING AND REVIEW ROLES RESPONSIBILITIES									
	NOTE: This table summarizes the generalmajor review and decision-making responsibilities for the procedures contained in Chapter 21.03. Exceptions to these general rules apply; Seesee Chapter 21.03 for complete details on each procedure.								
	A = APPEAL = Authority to Hear and Decide Appeals D = DECISION = Responsible for Review and Final Decision H = HEARING = Public Hearing Required								
R = ReviewREV	EW = Responsib	le for Review	v and/or F					H = Hea	ring =
D - D-	cision = Respon	Publi	c Hearing	Required	<u>Only</u>			A - A	
D = De	cision = Respon	SIDIC TOF FIN	II Decisio ority to U	n to Appr	ove or De ocide App	n y		— A = Ap	oeal=
		Auta	onty to H e	sar and De	scrae App	cals			
			Planni ng and	Plattin	Zonin g Board of	Board	Urban Desig	Geote	Munic
	Section	Assembl yASBLY	Zonin g Comm ission PZC	g Board PB	Exami ners and Appea IsZBE	ef Adjst mnt <u>B</u> OA	n Comm ission UDC	Advis ery Comm ssnG AC	ipal StaffM S
Temporary Use Permits	21.03.140				A <u>-H</u>				D
Record of Survey Maps	21.03.150			А					D
Vacation of Public Property Other Than Utilities	21.03.160	A-H		D					R
Vacation of Public Utility Easements	21.03.160	А-Н							D
Street Name Alterations Verifi cation of Nonconforming Use	21.03. 170 <u>180</u>	A H			<u>A-H</u>				D
Certification of Nonconforming	21.03. 180 <u>190</u>				A <u>-H</u>				D

	TABLE 21.02-1: SUMMARY OF MAJOR TITLE 21 ADMINISTRATION DECISION-MAKING AND REVIEW ROLESRESPONSIBILITIES NOTE: This table summarizes the generalmajor review and decision-making responsibilities for the procedures contained in Chapter 21.03. Exceptions to these general rules apply; Seesee Chapter 21.03 for complete details on each procedure.								
	A = A D = DEC EW = Responsib cision = Respons	Dubli	VG = Publ v and/or F	ic Hearing Recomme Required n to Appr	Required Indation —	ny.	<u>n</u>	— H = Hea — A = Ap	ring = poal =
	Section	Assembl yASBLY	Planni ng and Zonin g Comm issien PZC	Plattin 9 Board PB	Zonin g Board of Exami ners and Appea IsZBE	Board of Adjet mntB OA	Urban Dosig n Comm ission UDC	Geote ch. Advis ery Comm senG AC	Munic ipal StaffM S
Use <u>Minor</u> Modifications									
Minor ModificationsVa riances [from all other provisions of this title except chapter 21.08, Subdivision Standards]	21.03. 190 200				A <u>D-H</u>				D R
Variances [from all otherthe provisions of this Title except Chapterchapter 21.08, Subdivision Standards]	21.03.200			<u>D-H</u>	Đ	A			R

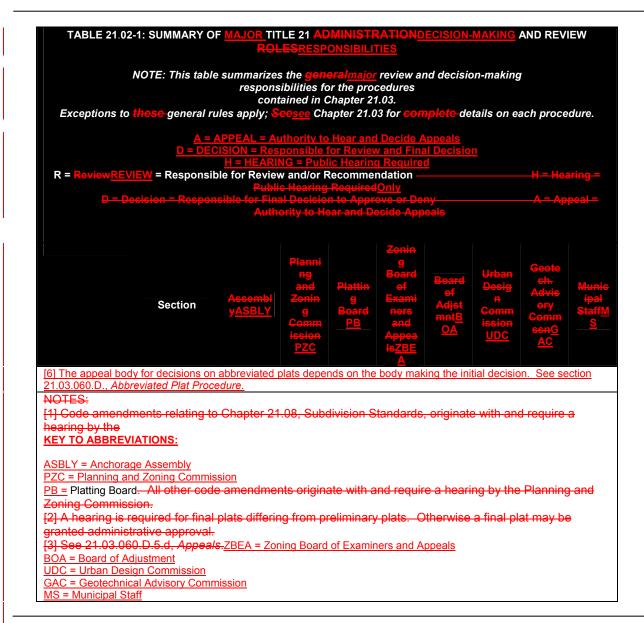


[3] See 21.03.060.D.5.d, Appeals.

making authority for the application.

[4] The entity has review responsibility only when appropriate, as specifically provided in this title.

[5] The UDC may review and make recommendations on rezonings, conditional uses, and platting cases for sites within the CBD districts and sites within any mixed-use district, if delegated such responsibility by the entity with final decision-



B. Composition of Boards and Commissions²²

1. Size of Appointed Bodies

The Planning and Zoning Commission, <u>Urban Design Commission</u>, Platting Board, Zoning Board of Examiners and Appeals, <u>Urban Design Commission</u>, and Geotechnical Advisory Commission shall each consist of nine members. The Board of Adjustment shall consist of three members, <u>as described in Section 21.02.070</u>.

2. Qualifications for Appointive Office

Members of appointed boards and commissions shall be qualified in accordance with <u>SectionAMC section</u> 4.05.035 of the Anchorage <u>Municipal Code</u>³³ and shall also meet any other qualifications for membership to specific boards and commissions set forth in this <u>Chapterchapter</u>.

3. Board and Commission Appointment and Confirmation

- Appointments to boards and commissions within the scope of this Chapterchapter shall be made by the Mayor and confirmed by the Assembly in accordance with the rules set forth in Section—section 5.07(b) of the Anchorage Municipal Home Rule Charter and Section AMC section 4.05.030 of the Anchorage Municipal Code.
- b. When transmitting to the Assembly for confirmation the name of appointees to the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Platting Board, the Urban Design Commission, the Zoning Board of Examiners and Appeals, the Board of Adjustment, and the Geotechnical Advisory Commission, boards or commissions within the scope of this chapter, the Mayor shall cause a notice of a ten-day comment period inviting public comment on the qualifications of such appointees to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Municipality. The notice shall advise that comments shall be in writing and filed with the municipal clerk. Upon receipt, the municipal clerk shall forward comments received to the Mayor and the Assembly. The Assembly shall not take action on any appointment to the named boards or commissions until after the close of the public comment periods.

4. Vacancies [RESERVED]⁴

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²-NOTE: Adapted from current AMC 21.10.010.

³ NOTE: This is a new cross reference to the Boards and Commissions portion (Title 4) of the AMC. Many provisions under Title 4 pertain to the boards and commissions described in this chapter (e.g., requirement that the appointee be a "qualified voter of the Municipality."

⁴-NOTE: Staff has suggested a new requirement that the Administration fill vacancies within a certain period of time, with perhaps a penalty for non-compliance. The nature of such a penalty still is being discussed, though it has been suggested that perhaps the PZC could be prohibited from taking action on cases after a certain period of months of being under strength. Is there general support for such a provision?

C. Conduct of Boards and Commissions⁵⁴

This <u>sub</u>section sets forth procedures that <u>are commonapply</u>, <u>unless otherwise indicated</u>, to all <u>appointed</u> boards and commissions <u>under within the scope of this chapter</u>, including the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Platting Board, the Zoning Board of Examiners and Appeals, the Board of Adjustment, the Urban Design Commission, and the Geotechnical Advisory Commission.

1. Absence of Member

Any member of an appointed board of or commission under this chapter anticipating an absence from a meeting of their board of commission shall so advise the chair or secretary prior to the meeting.

2. Agenda

Each board and commission shall adopt a general agenda order for all meetings. The specific agenda for each regular meeting of an appointed board or commission under this chapter shall be prepared by the secretary and shall be distributed to each member at least seven days prior to the meeting, except for special meetings, the procedure for which is set forth in AMC section 1.25.015.

3. Meeting Time and Location

Each board and commission shall establish a regular meeting time and location for regularly scheduled meetings, and shall adopt procedures for publicizing changes to such time and location when necessary, pursuant to AMC section 4.05.090.

4. Officers

Each board and commission shall have a chair and a vice-chair, pursuant to AMC 4.05.070; shall establish procedures for the selection of such officers; and shall adopt rules assigning the duties of such officers.

5. Code of Ethics

In addition to and amplifying the provisions of Anchorage Municipal Code Chapter AMC chapter 1.15, the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Platting Board, the Urban Design Commission, and the Zoning Board of Examiners and Appeals and their members, in the performance of their quasi-judicial, adjudicatory responsibilities in all matters before them, including all matters which their members should reasonably know or expect to come before them, shall:

a. Make their decisions solely on the applicable law and the evidence in the record presented to the panel through the clerk or secretary of the

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⁵ NOTE: This section consolidates various common provisions from the resolutions that currently appear outside of Title 21. Per staff direction, this section includes materials that are applicable to all bodies and so appear only once in the Code (e.g., how disclosures of potential or actual conflicts of interest are to occur). This consolidation was done so that all the bodies will work under the same general procedural rules, and thus there will be less opportunity for errors.

Later sections of this chapter include, for each body: the powers and duties of that body, and how and to whom it can delegate authority. Other matters that are more specific to each body (e.g., agenda order, meeting time and location, election of officers) are left out of the code, with the intent that such materials can be adopted by each body as its own rules. Generally, there is concern that including such minor provisions in the code (e.g., agenda order) could open the door to procedural appeals if errors are made.

board or commission or, when permitted, submitted to the panel in an open hearing on the record;

- b. Be impartial in fact and in appearance in the performance of their functions, which means that the panel and its members shall make their decisions without any actual or seemingly apparent personal or financial bias, prejudice, prejudgment or partiality with respect to any person, party, or principle of law; and
- **c.** Conduct their proceedings according to the applicable procedures provided by law.

6. Conflict of Interest

- a. No member of an appointed board or commission under this chapter shall participate in any decision in which the board or commission determines either that such member has a conflict of interest, as defined in Anchorage Municipal CodeAMC 3.60.070; or that such member has a personal interest or involvement in the case that would prevent that member from fairly evaluating the case; or that, based on all surrounding circumstances, participation by such member would create the appearance of impropriety in the proceedings.
- b. The determination shall take into consideration the interest of the public in boards and commissions that have familiarity with the community and its past and future development. No member shall be excused from participation solely on the basis of personal familiarity with the case or the parties involved.
- c. Any member who has a possible conflict of interest in a pending matter shall bring this information to the attention of the chair before the staff begins its presentation or as soon thereafter as the member recognizes his or her possible conflict. It shall be the responsibility of each member to fully disclose facts showing any known conflict of interest or other personal interest or involvement. Where appropriate, the conflict may be discussed in executive session.
- d. Immediately upon discovering the existence of any conflict of interest prohibited by this <u>Sectionsubsection 6.</u>, the Municipal Code, or any state law applicable to local government officials, the board or commission member shall fully disclose on the record in open session of the board or commission the nature of and the facts creating the conflict and shall be disqualified from any participation in or communications with other members of the board or commission on the matter with which a conflict exists.
- **e.** A member who has a possible conflict of interest in a matter for decision may participate in the discussion of that matter and the decision upon that matter only upon the affirmative vote of a majority of all remaining Commission members present. Such vote shall be recorded on the public record.⁵

f. Any member found by the Board to have a conflict of interest with regard to a particular matter shall not participate in any manner in that matter.

7. Ex Parte Contacts Prohibited 66

- a. Ex parte contacts and communications are defined for the purposes of this subsection as the receipt, either directly or indirectly, of verbal, visual, or written communications outside a duly noticed, open hearing on the record at which all parties and all board or commission members have an opportunity to be present.
- a. Members of adjudicatory or quasi-judicial The intent of this subsection is to ensure that applicants in quasi-judicial proceedings required under this title receive fair and impartial hearings. For purposes of this subsection, the term "quasi-judicial" applies to any proceeding in which the Assembly or a board or commission is required to investigate facts, ascertain the existence of facts, hold hearings, weigh evidence and draw conclusions, and exercise discretion of a judicial nature.
- b. As established by AMC section 3.60.065, members of boards and commissions acting in a quasi-judicial capacity shall refrain from permitting² ex parte contacts or communications² with any person regarding any matter pending before or which may be reasonably expected to be pending before them.
- c. As established by Anchorage Municipal Code Section 3.60.065, ex parte contacts shall not influence⁸ quasi-judicial proceedings. If a member of a member of adjudicatory or quasi-judicial board or commission, as identified in this Sectionacting in their quasi-judicial capacity, obtains information outside of the public hearing process, whether through inadvertent ex parte communications with interested parties or through specific personal knowledge of a case, they shall fully disclose the information or knowledge to the board or commission during the public hearing, along with the source of that information.
- d. Such ex parte communications or personal knowledge of a case shall not constitute a conflict of interest or other basis for excuse from participation in any case. Ex parte contacts shall be also prohibited for matters under reconsideration by the board.
- e. The prohibition against ex parte contacts remains in effect as long as a matter may reasonably be expected to come before the board or commission, until after all appealappeals and remands for further

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Anchorage, Alaska

⁶ NOTE: This language adapted in part from current AMCR 21.12.370, which was formerly specific to the Zoning Board of Examiners and Appeals, and also 21.10.010(C)(1)(d).

NOTE: "Refrain from permitting" replaces the more restrictive "refrain from and not permit." This revision is consistent with the disclosure policy in the next provision and avoids procedural challenges based on the inevitable unintended ex parte contact.

⁸-NOTE: "...shall not influence..." replaces "are prohibited... by..." This edit clarifies that ex parte contacts are not fatal to a process, but should be dealt with in accordance with this specific procedure. The word "however" was also removed from the beginning of the second sentence to further accomplish this clarification that ex parte contacts may be remediated.

consideration and reconsideration have concluded, or the time for such proceedings has expired.

- f. As part of the gathering of evidence to make a quasi-judicial decision under this title, a board or commission may visit the site of a development application.
 - i. Such a site visit shall not constitute a formal hearing, and members shall not discuss the case during the visit, unless a quorum of the board or commission is present and a duly noticed hearing is opened pursuant to the rules of the board or commission.
 - ii. A member may visit a development site individually, or a group of members that does not constitute a quorum may visit the site. In such cases, such member(s) shall write a report documenting the visit for the other members of the board or commission, and shall provide such report to the Director prior to the hearing for addition to the case record. Such a report is not necessary if a quorum of the members of a board or commission attend the site visit.

8. Consent Agenda

Any appointed board or commission under within the scope of this chapter may establish a consent agenda. The consent agenda shall consist of all matters brought before the board or commission for action that do not require a public hearing. All items on the consent agenda shall be approved by motion without debate. An item may be removed from the consent agenda prior to the approval at the request of any member of the board or commission present at the meeting. Items removed from the consent agenda shall be considered on the regular agenda.

9. Meetings Open to Public⁹⁸

- All meetings of the appointed boards and commissions under this chapter shall be open to the public except when executive session is authorized as otherwise provided in paragraph b. below.AMC section 4.05.100. Except when voice votes are authorized, the vote shall be conducted in such a manner that the public may know the vote of each person entitled to vote. This section does not apply to any votes required to be taken to organize a board or commission.
- h. A board or commission may at any time go into executive session from which the general public may be excluded by a vote of the majority of the members taken at a public meeting. No subjects may be considered at the executive session except for those mentioned in the motion calling for an executive session unless auxiliary to the main question. No action may be taken at the executive session, except to give direction to an attorney or labor negotiator regarding the handling of a specific legal matter or pending labor negotiations.

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⁹-NOTE: This section adapted from the various "open to public" provisions currently found in the T21 operating resolutions, and also A.S. 44.62.310.

- **b.** If the member fails to meet the attendance requirements set forth in Sectionsection 4.05.060; or
- **c.** If the office becomes vacant pursuant to <u>Sectionsection</u> 7.01 of the Municipal Charter, *Determining Vacancies*.

In such cases, the member shall automatically cease to be a member of his or her board or commission and a vacancy shall exist.

12. Public Hearings⁹

<u>Public hearings shall be conducted according to the rules adopted by each board or commission.</u>

13. Representatives

Persons appearing before an appointed board or commission under this chapter may appear in person or through a personal representative or attorney. The representative shall provide satisfactory proof of his or her authority upon the request of the board or commission.

14. Reconsideration or Rehearing of Decisions¹⁰

Motion by Board or Commission Member

A member of a board or commission within the scope of this chapter may move to reconsider or rehear a decision made pursuant to this title by that board or commission, so long as such member voted on the prevailing side in the original decision, and so long as such motion is made within 24 hours of the initial vote.

b. Filing of Request by Any Party of Interest

A party of interest may request that a decision of an appointed board or commission under this chapter be brought up for reconsideration or rehearing only if:

- i. There was substantial procedural error in the original proceeding:
- ii. The board or commission acted without jurisdiction in the original proceeding; or
- iii. <u>The original decision was based upon fraud or misrepresentation.</u>

For purposes of this subsection, a "party of interest" for a particular application shall include the applicant, the owner of the subject property, an owner of property within the notification area for the subject application, or anyone that presented oral or written testimony at a public hearing on the application. A party of interest seeking reconsideration or a rehearing must file a request with the municipal clerk, together with materials supporting one or more of the grounds stated in this subsection, within 15 days of the original decision. The board or commission, by majority vote, may schedule a rehearing only if it finds the allegations to be correct. A rehearing shall be conducted in the same manner as the original proceedings before the board or commission.

15. Resolutions All recomme commissions

All recommendations and decisions made by the appointed boards and commissions under this chaptertitle shall be made by written resolution and shall include precise findings made. Resolutions shall be numbered consecutively within each year, according to sequence of approval and shall be signed by the chair and the secretary. The motion adopting the resolution shall show the vote of each member.

16. Secretary

The Director shall be the secretary of each appointed board and commission in this chapter. In the Director's absence, another member of the planning staff shall act as secretary. The secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of each board or commission and shall keep such files as may be required.

17. Applicability of Other Provisions

The provisions of this <u>Sectionsection</u> 21.02.020 shall not be a limitation on more restrictive rules regarding the conduct of boards and commissions set forth elsewhere in the Anchorage Municipal Code or within this <u>Chapterchapter</u> specifically.

21.02.030 ASSEMBLY 4911

A. Review and Decision-Making Responsibilities

The Assembly of the Municipality of Anchorage, constituted in accordance with the provisions of Article IV of the Anchorage Municipal Home Rule Charter and other applicable laws, shall have the review and decision-making responsibilities set forth in Table 21.02-1, to be carried out in accordance with the terms of this Titletitle.

B. Other Powers and Duties

In addition, the Assembly shall have the following powers and duties, to be carried out in accordance with the terms of this Titletitle.

- **1.** Adopt policies, plans, design guidelines, and ordinances to implement the municipal function of planning for the economic, social, and land use needs of the community;
- 2. Take any other action not delegated to the Planning and Zoning Commission, Platting Board, Zoning Board of Examiners and Appeals, Board of Adjustment, Urban Design Commission, the Director, the Traffic Engineer, and the Municipal Engineeror municipal staff, as the Assembly may deem desirable and necessary to implement the provisions of this Titletitle.

C. Rules of Procedure

1. In its exercise of authority over <u>Titletitle</u> 21 cases, the Assembly shall adhere to any applicable procedures specified in <u>Chapterchapter</u> 21.03, *Review and Approval Procedures*.

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⁴⁰ NOTE: New section. No Assembly authority or procedures are described in the current chapter 21.10.

- 2. In general, the The rules of the Assembly and conduct of hearings shall be as established under Titletitle 2 of the Anchorage Municipal Code.
- 3. Where the procedures of this <u>Titletitle</u> grant authority to review and/or make recommendations on a land use matter to a board or commission subordinate to the Assembly, the Assembly shall not take final action until it has received and taken notice of the review comments and recommendations of such subordinate body or bodies.

21.02.040 PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

A. Review and Decision-Making Responsibilities

As authorized by <u>Sectionsection</u> 12.02 of the Anchorage Municipal Home Rule Charter and <u>Sectionsection</u> 4.40.100 of the Anchorage Municipal Code, there shall be a Planning and Zoning Commission, which shall have the powers and duties set forth in Table 21.02-1, to be carried out in accordance with the terms of this <u>Titletitle</u>.

B. Other Powers and Duties

In addition, the Planning and Zoning Commission shall have the following powers and duties, to be carried out in accordance with the terms of this Titletitle:

- 1. Develop, review, and make recommendations to the Assembly regarding policies, plans, and ordinances to implement the municipal function of planning for the economic, social, and land use needs of the community;
- 2. Review and make recommendations to the Assembly and school board regarding the annual capital improvement program of the Municipality and school district:
- 3. Review and make recommendations to the Mayor regarding the annual work program of the Department of Community Planning and Development. The Director of the Department of Community Planning and Development shall submit the annual work program to the Commission for review before preparing the annual budget;
- **4.** Promulgate regulations to implement, interpret, or make specific the provisions of this Titletitle, except provisions of Chapterschapters 21.08, Subdivision Standards; and
- **5.** Exercise such other powers, and perform such other duties, as are provided by law.

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¹¹ NOTE: This could be made more restrictive by adding "conduct hearings or [take action]..." A more restrictive approach may not be warranted in Title 21, since the Assembly or staff may wish to retain some ability to "fast track" projects.

Delegation of Authority 1213 1 C. 2 The Planning and Zoning Commission may delegate to the Urban Design 3 Commission other bodies the authority to review and decidecomment upon, with 4 regard to site design, landscaping and structure design: 5 A conditional use; or 6 A special limitation. Qualifications 13 7 8 At least four members of applications, but the Planning Commission shall retain final 9 decision-making authority over such applications. Recommended Qualifications¹⁴ 10 D. 11 At least four members of the Planning Commission should possess degrees in architecture, planning, landscape architecture, or law, as well as practical experience 12 and knowledge of planning issues in the Municipality. 13 14 21.02.050 PLATTING BOARD 15 Α. **Review and Decision-Making Responsibilities** 16 As authorized by Section section 4.40.110 of the Anchorage Municipal Code, there 17 shall be a Platting Board, which shall have the powers and duties set forth in Table 18 21.02-1, to be carried out in accordance with the terms of this Titletitle. 19 В. Other Powers and Duties 20 In addition, the Platting Board shall have the following powers and duties, to be carried out in accordance with the terms of this Title:title: 21 22 1. Review, and make recommendations to the Assembly, regarding all proposed 23 amendments to Chapterchapter 21.08, Subdivision Standards, and all 24 proposed regulations to implement, interpret, or make specific Chapterchapter 25 21.08. Subdivision Standards. The Assembly shall not adopt such an amendment or regulation until it has been reviewed by the Platting Board-; 26 27 Promulgate regulations to implement, interpret, or make specific Chapter 28 21.08, Subdivision Standards in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 29 3.40.

Authorize extensions of subdivision agreements as provided in [Section 21.87.020, "Time limit for completion of improvements"]. 14

Title 21: Land Use Planning (Module 1)
Anchorage, Alaska

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¹²NOTE: The current references to the ability of the Planning and Zoning Commission to delegate cases to a hearing officer have been deleted. See discussions of this issue below.

⁴³ NOTE: Per staff request, this is a suggested new qualifications statement. The intent behind requiring qualifications in only some members is to provide a balance of those with professional qualifications, also those who have a more general knowledge of the issues being heard by the body.

In addition, the <u>PlattingZoning</u> Board <u>of Examiners and Appeals</u> shall have the following powers and duties, to be carried out in accordance with the terms of this <u>Title:title:</u>

 Hear and decide appeals from enforcement orders and denials of permit or certificate applications under Sectionspursuant to section 21.30.110 through

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⁴⁴NOTE: This section added in anticipation of the passage of planning case # 2002-110.

⁴⁵ NOTE: This section added in anticipation of the passage of planning case # 2002-110.

⁴⁶ NOTE: The proposed revision of UDC powers does not appear to disturb this Platting Board delegation provision. However, modifications to the site plan process may eliminate or modify the site planning authority of the board, which are not specifically enumerated above in any event.

¹⁷-NOTE: Provisions carried forward from AMC 21.10.025.

1			21.30.170, and 21.55.040. [cross-references not yet updated]03.210.B., Appeals to Zoning Board of Examiners and Appeals;
3 4		2.	Promulgate regulations concerning permitted uses under Section 21.40.015. [cross-references not yet updated]
5 6 7		2.	Adopt general rules or make findings in specific cases regarding proposed changes of nonconforming uses, pursuant to section 21.11.020.B., <i>Change of Use</i> ;
8 9		3.	Interpret or make specific the provisions of this title, except provisions of chapters 21.08, Subdivision Standards;
10 11		4.	Hear and decide appeals relating to section 21.11.030.D., Legalization of Nonconforming Dimensional Yard Setback Encroachments;
12 13		5.	Review and ratify decisions of the Director regarding unlisted uses, pursuant to section 21.03.210, Use Classification Requests; and
14 15		6.	Exercise such other powers, and perform such other duties, as are provided by law.
16	C.	Qualifi	cations ¹⁸
17 18 19		(prefer	oning Board of Examiners and Appeals shall include at least one attorney ably with land use experience), at least one surveyor, at least one civil er, and at least one planner.
20	21.02.070 BOAR	D OF A	DJUSTMENT ¹⁸¹⁹
21	A.	Reviev	v and Decision-Making Responsibilities
22 23 24 25		Section Adjustr	thorized by Sectionsection 5.07 of the Anchorage Municipal Charter and esection 4.05.020 of the Anchorage Municipal Code, there is a Board of ment, which shall decide appeals in accordance with Chapterchapter 210, Appeals, from:
26 27		1.	Decisions regarding the approval or disapprovaldenial of a plat or variance from the provisions of Chapterchapter 21.08, Subdivision Standards; and
28 29		2.	Decisions regarding the approval or disapprovaldenial of applications for approval of conditional uses.

¹⁸ NOTE: This section reflects changes to the land use code under the recently drafted ordinance AO 2003 58. This section contains no specific rules of procedure, reflecting the absence of such provisions in the recent ordinance language. Formerly, the BOA section was not in compliance with Charter Section 5.07, which required "quorum and voting requirements" to be part of any authorization for the Assembly to act as the Board of Adjustment. Since the Assembly is no longer acting as the BOA, the provisions in the recent ordinance now meet municipal requirements. Without specific rules, the BOA is empowered (by AMC 4.05.120) to establish its own rules. Should the Assembly wish to provide such rules, we need feedback on this draft to determine if general rules will be developed, or if boilerplate rules should be specifically adapted to the BOA section.

^{***} NOTE: Map and text interpretations, a typical BOA function, are not included in the board's current powers. In fact, the interpretation powers are still unclear in this draft.

1 B. Composition

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There shall be a three-member Board of Adjustment, whose members are nominated by the Mayor and confirmed by the Assembly for three-year staggered terms. The Board's seats shall be designated Seats 1, 2, and 3.

C. Qualifications²⁰

The Board of Adjustment shall include at least one attorney and at least one planner.

21.02.080 URBAN DESIGN COMMISSION

A. Review and Decision-Making Responsibilities

There shall be an Urban Design Commission, which shall have the powers and duties set forth in Table 21.02-1, to be carried out in accordance with the terms of this Title.title.

B. Other Powers and Duties 2021

In addition, the Urban Design Commission shall have the following powers and duties, to be carried out in accordance with the terms of this **Titletitle**:

- 1. Advise the Mayor and Assembly regarding urban design matters;
- 2. Review and decide make recommendations regarding special limitations of zoning map amendments, conditional uses, and plats in accordance with authority delegated by the Planning and Zoning Commission or Platting Board under this Title; title;
- Review and decide upon applications for highway screening landscaping approval under [Section 24.15.030.];
- Review and decide upon individual street and highway landscape plans in accordance with Section 24.15.030;
- Feview and make recommendations to the Planning and Zoning Commission regarding rezoning, conditional use, and platting cases for sites within the central business district (CBD), and for sites within any mixed use or town center districts as defined in Chapter 21.04, Zoning Districts. (possible to move this to Table 21.02-1)
- 6. Review and make recommendations to the administrative official charged with making decisions on site plans and other administratively reviewed cases for sites within the central business district (CBD), and for sites within any mixed

²⁰ NOTE: This draft section carries forward the provisions, as amended or proposed for amendment, of AMC 21.10.028. This section reflects modifications based on the proposed changes to the UDC in planning case # 2003-040. Several new UDC authorities are also included, as noted. As discussed in the Diagnosis and Outline, the authority of the UDC is a major policy issue and will continue to require ongoing discussion.

Title 21: Land Use Planning (Module 1) Anchorage, Alaska

²¹ NOTE: Sections 5 and 6 were added based on feedback regarding UDC capabilities received during Clarion visits to Anchorage. This language is based on no prior ordinance and presumes the desire for a greater, more substantive role for the UDC. The status of the UDC ordinance and related discussions will determine the viability of this provision.

NOTE: This section reflects modifications based on the proposed changes to the UDC in planning case # 2003-040, updated and revised by proposed ordinance AO 2003—.

²³ NOTE: Per staff request, this is a suggested new qualifications statement. The intent behind requiring qualifications in only some members is to provide a balance of those with professional qualifications, also those who have a more general knowledge of the issues being heard by the body.

21.02.090 GEOTECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMISSION 2428

A. Authority

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- 1. The Geotechnical Advisory Commission shall serve as a technical advisory board in the Municipality as established in Sectionsection 4.50.050 of the Anchorage Municipal Code.
- 2. The Commission shall act in an advisory capacity to the Assembly, the Mayor, boards, commissions, and heads of executive municipal departments and agencies, and shall have the following powers and duties:
 - a. To make recommendations and give advice on geotechnical matters, including but not limited to revisions to the Anchorage Environmental Atlas.engineering issues and natural hazards risk mitigation.
 - **b.** To make such special studies on geotechnical matters as may be designated from time to time.
 - **b.** To recommend and review special studies be performed relating to geotechnical engineering and natural hazards risk mitigation issues.
 - c. To act in an advisory capacity to the Platting Board and Planning and Zoning Commission regarding proposed subdivision plats development located in high or moderate snow avalanche hazard zones and proposed development location, in areas designated with high or very high susceptibility to seismically induced ground failure, and in areas susceptible to other natural hazards.

B. Qualifications²⁵

At least fivefour members of the Geotechnical Advisory Commission shall possess appropriate technical qualifications, including professional registrations and certifications, practical experience, and civil engineering registration in the State of Alaska and have knowledge of geotechnicalpast studies utilized byof the natural hazards affecting the Municipality. The remaining members shall have skills and experience that complement the overall mission of the commission (e.g., structural engineering, geology, hydrology, seismology, planning).

21.02.100 MUNICIPAL STAFF 2624

Municipal departments shall have the review and decision-making responsibilities set forth in Table 21.02-1, to be carried out in accordance with the terms of this <u>Title.title.</u> The departments also shall have such additional powers and duties as may be set forth elsewhere

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²⁴ NOTE: This section reiterates and expands upon the language of 4.50.050 creating the Geotechnical Advisory Commission.

²⁵NOTE: Per staff request, this is a suggested new qualifications statement. The intent behind requiring qualifications in only some members is to provide a balance of those with professional qualifications, also those who have a more general knowledge of the issues being heard by the body.

²⁶NOTE: Per direction from the legal department in May 2003, this section contains generic language about staff responsibilities under the code. This approach should allow maximum flexibility, in case duties shift among departments, or in case of reorganization under the new administration. We have relocated the old provisions from the code into the file of submittal requirements that is being submitted along with this draft chapter.

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in this <u>Titletitle</u> and other ordinances, <u>rules</u>, <u>and operating procedures</u> of the Municipality. The following departments have the general responsibilities set forth below.

A. Office of Planning, Development, and Public Works

The staff of the Office of Planning, Development, and Public Works shall act in an advisory and support capacity to the Assembly and the boards and commissions listed in this Chapter. In accordance with the specific roles for departments under the office of planning, development, and public works, the office shall review or coordinate the review of all applications under this Title.

B. Department of Health and Human Services

In addition to other authority conferred on municipal officials within the Department of Health and Human Services by general law, this Department shall have the authority under this Title to verify compliance with conditions of land use approval relating to public health, including, but not limited to, water quality and air quality; storage and handling of hazardous materials; and site remediation.

C. Administrative Hearing Officer²⁷

The Mayor may designate one or more members of the municipal staff as an administrative official. An administrative official established under Title 14 of the Anchorage Municipal Code may administer and enforce this Title and exercise such other powers and perform such other duties as are provided by law.

²⁷ NOTE: This section clarifies and provides a cross-reference to the code enforcement role of the "Title 14" administrative hearing efficer. This section does not carry forward the old "Title 21" hearing efficer provisions.

¹ 2005 NOTE: Various edits to the table have been made based on comments received and to conform the table to new text of 21.03. The table is intended as a summary of the major procedures – not an exhaustive list of every possible procedural action under title 21.

² NOTE: Adapted from current AMC 21.10.010.

- ³ NOTE: This is a new cross-reference to the Boards and Commissions portion (title 4) of the AMC. Many provisions under title 4 pertain to the boards and commissions described in this chapter (e.g., requirement that the appointee be a "qualified voter of the Municipality."
- 2005 NOTE: Added new material on agenda order, officers, duties of officers, and meeting time and location in the 2005 draft. This section consolidates various common provisions from the resolutions that currently appear outside of title 21. Per staff direction, this section includes materials that are applicable to all bodies and so appear only once in the Code (e.g., how disclosures of potential or actual conflicts of interest are to occur). This consolidation was done so that all the bodies will work under the same general procedural rules, and thus there will be less opportunity for errors.
- ⁵ 2005 NOTE: Per a comment from the public, this section has been changed in the 2005 version to address both the decision AND the discussion leading up to that decision.
- ⁶ 2005 NOTE: This section has been edited to include a new intent statement, new description of "quasi-judicial," and a proposed new subsection dealing with site visits. Staff should review carefully to ensure the new text matches how site visits are actually conducted. Further, the Municipal Attorney's office should be consulted on the proposed new language.
- ⁷ 2005 NOTE: Coordinate the previous draft definitions from 21.02 and 21.13. Definition from previous draft: "For purposes of this subsection, "ex parte contacts and communications" are defined as the receipt, either directly or indirectly, of verbal or written communications outside a duly noticed, open hearing on the record at which all parties and all board or commission members have an opportunity to be present."
- 2005 NOTE: Revised to refer to AMC title 4 for information on executive sessions.
- ⁹ 2005 NOTE: This subsection has been relocated here; in the previous draft, it was in the Common Procedures in 21.03. Such procedures are quite different for each of the bodies. The procedures should not be in the code itself, but rather should be adopted as part of operating rules for each body.
- ¹⁰ 2005 NOTE: Per staff request, this section has been changed to distinguish between reconsiderations brought by a prevailing voting member of a board or commission, versus any party of interest.
- ¹¹ NOTE: New section. No Assembly authority or procedures are described in the current chapter 21.10.
- ¹² NOTE: This could be made more restrictive by adding "conduct hearings or [take action]..." A more restrictive approach may not be warranted in title 21, since the Assembly or staff may wish to retain some ability to "fast-track" projects.
- ¹³ 2005 NOTE: This section rewritten to clarify that the other bodies have only review authority and the PZC still makes final decisions.
- ¹⁴ NOTE: Per staff request, this is a suggested new qualifications statement. The intent behind requiring qualifications in only some members is to provide a balance of those with professional qualifications, also those who have a more general knowledge of the issues being heard by the body.
- ¹⁵ 2005 NOTE: Rewritten to parallel the delegation of authority language in the Planning and Zoning Commission section.
- ¹⁶ 2005 NOTE: Proposed new section.
- ¹⁷ 2005 NOTE: Provisions carried forward from AMC 21.10.025. Cross-references updated in 2005 draft.
- 18 2005 NOTE: Proposed new section.
- ¹⁹ NOTE: This section reflects changes to the land use code under the recently drafted ordinance AO 2003-58.
- ²⁰ 2005 NOTE: Proposed new section.
- ²¹ 2005 NOTE: In 2005 draft, removed sections regarding landscaping review, since such review is replaced by the new landscaping standards in the new code. OLD NOTE: This draft section carries forward the provisions, as amended or proposed for amendment, of AMC 21.10.028. This section reflects modifications based on the proposed changes to the UDC in planning case # 2003-040. Several new UDC authorities are also included, as noted. As discussed in the Diagnosis and Outline, the authority of the UDC is a major policy issue and will continue to require ongoing discussion.
- ²² NOTE: Per staff request, this is a suggested new qualifications statement. The intent behind requiring qualifications in only some members is to provide a balance of those with professional qualifications, also those who have a more general knowledge of the issues being heard by the body.
- ²³ 2005 NOTE: This 2005 draft includes edits by GAC members.
- ²⁴ 2005 NOTE: Per direction from the legal department in May 2003, this section contains generic language about staff responsibilities under the code. Most detail has been removed in this 2005 draft. This approach should allow maximum flexibility, in case duties shift among departments, or in case of reorganization under the new administration.