

ORDINANCE NO. 1529

***AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CREATION OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL AND
ADDING A NEW CHAPTER TO TITLE 2 OF THE GLADSTONE MUNICIPAL CODE,
CHAPTER 2.90 - YOUTH COUNCIL***

WHEREAS, the City of Gladstone finds that well informed and engaged youth are necessary for a complete community that addresses the needs of all the community members; and

WHEREAS, the creation of the Gladstone Youth Council will give local students a voice in their municipal government; and

WHEREAS, the Gladstone Youth Council will be guided by the belief that local involvement at a young age is crucial to ensuring a well-informed and engaged citizenry in the future; and

WHEREAS, the creation of the Gladstone Youth Council will provide an opportunity for members to gain knowledge about governance, build leadership skills, create programs to engage the youth of the Gladstone area, and to participate in community programs that benefit the community;

NOW, THEREFORE, the City of Gladstone ordains as follows:

Section 1. The City of Gladstone hereby creates and adopts the Gladstone Youth Council into Title 2, new Chapter 2.90 – Youth Council, of the Gladstone Municipal Code, which is attached hereto as Exhibit “A”.

Section 2. All remaining provisions of Title 2 of the Gladstone Municipal Code are reaffirmed in their entirety.

Section 3. This Ordinance is effective 30 days after adoption.

This Ordinance is adopted by the Gladstone City Council and approved by the Mayor this 12th day of March, 2024.

ATTEST:



Michael Milch, Mayor



Tami Bannick, City Recorder

ORDINANCE 1529
EXHIBIT "A"

Chapter 2.90 - Youth Council

2.90.010- Created.

There is created a Youth Council for the City of Gladstone having the duties and responsibilities provided in this chapter.

2.90.020 - Purpose.

The Gladstone Youth Council (Youth Council) is created to provide local students a voice in their municipal government, build an understanding of governance and leadership and to provide opportunities to engage and serve the community. The Youth Council shall be guided by the belief that local involvement at a young age is crucial to ensuring a well-informed and engaged citizenry in the future and to provide an opportunity for members to become equipped with the knowledge and leadership skills necessary to become active contributors in the community now and in the future.

2.90.030 - Membership

The Youth Council shall consist of seven youth members, one non-voting City Councilor appointed by the Mayor, and the non-voting City Administrator (or designee).

- (1) Members of the Youth Council shall be high school students at the time of swearing in and shall reside within the city limits of Gladstone and/or attend Gladstone High School or a homeschooled equivalent.
- (2) The term of service operates on an academic year that shall be considered from September through June and there are no term limits. A special meeting in August may be scheduled to prepare for each term.
- (3) All youth member applicants shall submit an application and will be interviewed by the City Councilor liaison and City Administrator (or designee) before being appointed.
- (4) After interviews are conducted the City Council will, by majority vote consider approval of the City Councilor liaison and City Administrator's (or designee) recommendations to the Youth Council.
- (5) Appointed Youth Council members may be re-appointed for an additional term without an interview at the discretion of the City Councilor liaison. Future appointments may require a recommitment interview.
- (6) All new Youth Council members shall be sworn in by the City Councilor liaison at the first regular City Council meeting in September.

2.90.040 - Election of Officers.

(1) Co-Chairs

- (a) At the beginning of each term the Youth Council shall elect Co-Chairs, who shall

hold the positions for one term of service. The co-chairs shall be a junior or senior in high school if possible.

- (b) The Co-Chairs are responsible for running the Youth Council meetings, assigning tasks, and working with the City Councilor liaison to set the upcoming agendas.

(2) Communication Coordinator

- (a) At the beginning of each term the Youth Council shall elect a communication coordinator.

- (b) The Communication Coordinator is mainly responsible for the strategic coordination of all communications on behalf of the Youth Council. This could include social media platforms (in accordance with the City' social media policy), websites, flyers, and communications on specific outreach projects identified in the annual work plan.

- (3) **Additional Assignments** - Youth Council members shall have the ability to create and elect for additional assignments (i.e. secretary, treasurer, etc.) with the concurrence of the City Councilor liaison.

2.90.050 - Meetings and Quorum

- (1) The Youth Council shall meet at least once a month. The City Councilor liaison or City Administrator (or designee) may call for a special meeting outside of the regular meetings for a reasonable purpose.
- (2) All meetings shall be open to the public and public meetings laws shall apply.
- (3) A majority of appointed members shall constitute a quorum.
- (4) If a quorum is present, all matters shall be decided by a vote of the majority present.

2.90.060 - Youth Council Member Responsibilities

- (1) Review and prepare strategies addressing issues of interest in the greater Gladstone community determined to be of importance by the Youth Council.
- (2) Members shall participate in an annual work plan session at the beginning of each term.
- (3) Members shall be responsible for completing tasks and projects as assigned.
- (4) The Youth Council shall prepare an annual report at the end of the term to present to the City Council detailing the accomplishments, challenges, areas for improvement, and goals for the future.
- (5) Members shall remain in good standing by maintaining passing grades.

2.90.070 - Absences

- (1) A missed meeting is qualified as excused if a member informs the City Councilor liaison

as soon as it has become known they will miss the meeting and states the reason for not attending. The City Councilor liaison will make the final determination of whether the absence is excused or unexcused.

- (2) If a member has more than two unexcused absences the member will meet privately with the City Councilor liaison to determine the status of membership.
- (3) If a member is still on the Youth Council after the determination of membership then any additional absence will indicate the member has resigned (barring any medical reasons or extenuating circumstances such as family emergencies).
- (4) Absences may be made up for in consultation with the City Councilor liaison, within 30 days of the absence.
- (5) Violations and expectations of this section can be reviewed by the member and City Councilor liaison, with the goal of improving the performance and participation of the member.

2.90.080 - Termination of Membership

- (1) Youth Council members may resign at any time.
- (2) Any member will be deemed to have voluntarily concluded their membership automatically upon the occurrence of any of the following:
 - (a) The member is disruptive to the efficiency of the Youth Council and/or does not follow through with assignments.
 - (b) The member does not embody professionalism in their conduct.
- (3) The City Councilor liaison and City Administrator (or designee) shall have the discretion to determine if a member shall be removed from the Youth Council.

2.90.090 - Expenditures

The City will make every reasonable attempt to financially support the Youth Council in completing its annual work plan.

- (1) The Youth Council shall have no authority to make any expenditure on behalf of the City or to obligate the City for payment of any sums of money unless the City Administrator or their designee authorizes such expense.
- (2) The Youth Council may fundraise for identified goals in their annual work plan. Donations will be deposited and expended in accordance with governmental accounting practices.

