

**RULES OF PROCEDURE  
Resolution No. 183**

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**Section 1. Authority.**

- 1.1 These rules constitute the official rules of procedure for the Shoreline City Council. In all decisions arising from points of order, the Council shall be governed by the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, a copy of which is maintained in the office of the Shoreline City Clerk.
- 1.2 These rules of procedure are adopted for the sole benefit of the members of the City Council to assist in the orderly conduct of Council business. These rules of procedure do not grant rights or privileges to members of the public or third parties. Failure of the City Council to adhere to these rules shall not result in any liability to the City, its officers, agents, and employees, nor shall failure to adhere to these rules result in invalidation of any Council act.

**Section 2. Council Organization.**

- 2.1 New Councilmembers shall be sworn in by a judge or the City Clerk.
- 2.2 Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor.
  - A. The Council shall elect a Mayor and Deputy Mayor for a term of two years.
  - B. The motion to elect the Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be placed on the agenda of the first meeting of even-numbered years.
  - C. In the event the Mayor is unable to serve the remainder of the term, a new Mayor shall be elected at the next meeting. In the event the Deputy Mayor is unable to serve the remainder of the term, a new Deputy Mayor shall be elected at the next meeting.
  - D. The election of the Mayor shall be conducted by the City Clerk. No one Councilmember may nominate more than one person for a given office until every member wishing to nominate a candidate has an opportunity to do so. Nominations do not require a second. The Clerk will repeat each nomination until all nominations have been made. When it appears that no one else wishes to make any further nominations, the Clerk will ask again for further nominations and if there are none, the Clerk will declare the nominations closed. A motion to close the nominations is not necessary. After nominations have been closed, voting for Mayor takes place in the order nominations were made. Only affirmative votes for Mayor shall be given and Councilmembers will be asked to vote by a raise of hands. As soon as one of the nominees receives a majority vote (four affirmative votes), the Clerk will declare that nominee elected. No votes will be taken on the remaining nominees. If none of the nominees receives a majority vote, the Clerk will call for nominations again and repeat the process until a single candidate receives a majority vote. Upon election, the Mayor will

conduct the election for Deputy Mayor following the same process.

- E. A super majority vote (five votes) shall be required to approve a motion to remove the Mayor or Deputy Mayor from office for cause.

2.3 Duties of Officers.

- A. The Mayor, or in the Mayor's absence, the Deputy Mayor, shall be the Presiding Officer of the Council and perform the duties and responsibilities with regard to conduct of meetings and emergency business. In the absence of both the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor, the Council shall elect one of the members to the Council to act as a temporary Presiding Officer.
- B. It shall be the duty of the Presiding Officer to:
  - 1. Call the meeting to order.
  - 2. Keep the meeting to its order of business.
  - 3. Control discussion in an orderly manner.
    - a. Recognize every Councilmember who wishes to have an opportunity to speak.
    - b. Permit audience participation at the appropriate times.
    - c. Require all speakers to speak to the question and to observe the rules of order.
  - 4. State each motion before it is discussed and before it is voted upon.
  - 5. Put motions to a vote and announce the outcome.
- C. The Presiding Officer shall decide all questions of order, subject to the right of appeal to the Council by any member.
- D. The Presiding Officer may at their discretion call the Deputy Mayor or any Councilmember to take over as Presiding Officer so they may make a motion or for other good cause.
- E. The Mayor shall appoint Councilmembers to boards and committees that are not otherwise specified by the National League of Cities, Association of Washington Cities, or King County/Sound Cities Association.
- F. The Mayor shall appoint Councilmembers to ad hoc City Council subcommittees such as interview panels. Prior to appointment, the Mayor shall solicit interest from Councilmembers for their preferred appointments. The appointment list may be referred to the full Council pursuant to Rule 3.2(A) or 3.3.

2.4 Appointments to Boards and Commissions.

The Council will use the following process in managing the appointment of

individuals to Boards and Commissions.

- A. In closed session, the ad hoc subcommittee of Councilmembers gathers and reviews the applications, and determines which applicants will be interviewed.
- B. Subcommittee members inform the City Manager which applicants they plan to interview so that the City Manager can inform the other Councilmembers. If any Councilmember feels strongly that someone not on the interview list should be interviewed, that Councilmember may make this known to the City Manager to relay to the subcommittee.
- C. Notice is then given to the public that the subcommittee shall conduct interviews of the finalists.
- D. In open public meetings, the subcommittee interviews the finalists. Ground rules will govern the conduct of the meetings and be communicated to all participants. These ground rules will notify audience members that they will not be asked to comment during the meeting, and must not do or say anything that creates the impression that they support or oppose any candidate.
- E. In a closed meeting the subcommittee members review the findings from the interviews and reach consensus on whom to recommend that the full Council appoint.
- F. In a regular public meeting of the Council, the subcommittee's recommendations are made an agenda item and discussed by the Council. Each Councilmember will have the ability to support, oppose, or amend the list of candidates proposed by the ad hoc committee. The recommendations will not be part of the Consent Calendar to ensure a full and thorough vetting of the subcommittee's recommendations. The Council will vote to appoint new members to the board or commission.

2.5 Filling a Council Vacancy.

- A. If a vacancy occurs in the office of Councilmember, the Council will follow the procedures outlined in RCW 42.12.070. In order to fill the vacancy with the most qualified person available until an election is held, the Council will widely distribute and publish a notice of the vacancy, the procedure by which the vacancy will be filled, and an application form.
- B. The City Manager's Office will draw up an application form to aid the Council's selection of the new Councilmember.
- C. Those candidates selected by Council will be interviewed by the Council

during a regular or special Council meeting open to the public. The order of the interviews will be determined by drawing the names; in order to make the interviews fair, applicants will be asked to remain outside the Council Chamber while other applicants are being interviewed. Applicants will be asked to answer questions posed by each Councilmember during the interview process. The interview process will be designed to be fair and consistent. Each candidate will then be allowed two (2) minutes for closing comments. Since this is not a campaign, comments about other applicants will not be allowed.

- D. The Council may recess into Executive Session to discuss the qualifications of all candidates. Nominations, voting and selection of a person to fill the vacancy will be conducted during an open public meeting.

**Section 3. Agenda Preparation.**

- 3.1 Upon direction by the City Manager, the City Clerk will prepare an agenda for each Council Meeting specifying the time and place of the meeting and setting forth a brief general description of each item to be considered by the Council. The agenda is subject to review by the Presiding Officer.
- 3.2 An item for a Council meeting may be placed on the agenda of a specific meeting date by any of the following methods:
  - A. Majority vote or consensus of the Council.
  - B. By the City Manager.
  - C. By the Mayor, or Deputy Mayor when acting in the absence of the Mayor.
- 3.3 Any two Councilmembers may place an item on the List of Pending Agenda Items on the Council's Agenda Planner by making the request in writing to the City Manager or City Clerk. The names of the requesting Councilmembers shall be indicated on the Agenda Planner and set forth in the staff report supporting the agenda item. In coordination with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, the City Manager will determine the timing for when the item will be scheduled on a specific agenda. Unless waived by the requesting Councilmembers, the item must be scheduled on a specific agenda within 60 days of making the request.
- 3.4 Staff reports shall be in a standard format approved by the City Council.
- 3.5 Agenda items will be prioritized in the following order of importance: 1) items scheduled for statutory compliance; 2) advertised public hearings; 3) continued items from a prior meeting and 4) items scheduled for convenience.
- 3.6 Ordinances scheduled for Council action will generally receive three readings

(with the exception of items that have had a public hearing before the Planning Commission).

- A. The first reading will be the scheduling of the item on the Council Agenda Planner by title or subject. If reasonably possible the item should be listed on the Agenda Planner at least two weeks prior to the second reading. The Mayor or City Manager may authorize exceptions for items of an emergency or unexpected nature requiring immediate action.
- B. The second reading will be scheduled for review and discussion by the City Council. Items of a routine nature may bypass this meeting and be scheduled directly to a Consent Calendar. In such cases Council shall, by motion, waive the second reading as part of the adopting motion.
- C. The third reading will be Council review and action at a subsequent meeting.

**Section 4. Consent Calendar.**

- 4.1 The City Manager, in consultation with the Presiding Officer, shall place matters on the Consent Calendar which: (a) have been previously discussed by the Council, or (b) based on the information delivered to Councilmembers by the administration, can be reviewed by a Councilmember without further explanation, or (c) are so routine or technical in nature that passage is likely.
- 4.2 The motion to adopt the Consent Calendar shall be non-debatable and have the effect of moving to adopt all items on the Consent Calendar.
- 4.3 Since adoption of any item on the Consent Calendar implies unanimous consent, any member of the Council shall have the right to remove any item from the Consent Calendar. Councilmembers are given an opportunity to remove items from the Consent Calendar after the motion is made and seconded to approve the agenda. If any matter is withdrawn, the Presiding Officer shall place the item at an appropriate place on the agenda for deliberation at the current or future Council Meeting.

**Section 5. Council Meetings.**

- 5.1 All Council Meetings shall comply with the requirements of the Open Meetings Act (RCW Section 42.30). All Regular Meetings, Special Meetings, and Workshop Dinner Meetings of the Council shall be open to the public. Opportunities for remote attendance by the public at Regular and Workshop Dinner Meetings will also be provided.

For all meetings at which remote attendance is provided, if a technology issue prevents the City from providing for remote attendance this shall not prevent



such a meeting from convening or continuing due to the technology issue.

- 5.2 Any Council Meeting may be canceled by a majority vote or consensus of the Council. The Mayor or Deputy Mayor may cancel a Council Meeting for lack of agenda items.
- 5.3 The Council shall hold **Regular Meetings** on Mondays of each week at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Shoreline City Hall, located at 17500 Midvale Avenue N, Shoreline, Washington. Should any meeting date occur on a legal holiday, the meeting shall be canceled. There will be no Regular Meetings between December 15th and the end of the year.
- A. Order of Business for Regular Meetings. The order of business shall be as follows:
- Regular Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
1. Call to Order
  2. Flag Salute, Roll Call
  3. Approval of the Agenda
  4. Report of the City Manager
  5. Council Reports
  6. Public Comment, as set forth in Section 6.1(A)
  7. Consent Calendar
  8. Action Items: The following procedures shall be used:
    - a. Introduction of item by Clerk staff
    - b. Presentation by staff
    - c. Public Hearings, if any noticed
    - d. Council motion to move adoption of legislation
    - e. Council discussion and possible action
  9. Study Items: The following procedure shall be used:
    - a. Staff reports
    - b. Council discussion
  10. Executive Session, if needed
  11. Adjournment
- 5.4. The Council shall make available at one meeting of each month, a **Community Group Presentation**. The order of business shall omit Council Reports and include Community Presentations following the Consent Calendar. The intent of the presentations is to provide a means for non-profit organizations to inform the Council, staff and public about their initiatives or efforts in the community to address a specific problem or need. The presentations are available to individuals who are affiliated with a registered non-profit organization. In order to schedule the presentation, two Councilmembers under Rule 3.3 must sponsor the request. The presentations shall be limited to 30 minutes, with approximately 15 minutes for the presentation and 15 minutes for questions. Guidelines for presentations include:

- A. Each organization or agency may complete a request form and submit it to the City Manager's Office. The blank form shall be available on the City's website and from the City Clerk's Office.
- B. For planning purposes, the presentation must be scheduled on the agenda planner at least four (4) weeks in advance of the meeting date requested.
- C. Information and sources used in the presentation should be available in hard copy or electronically for reference.
- D. Up to three (3) members of the organization are invited to participate.
- E. The presentation must support the adopted position/policy of the organization.
- F. The presentation should be more than a general promotion of the organization. The information presented should be about specific initiatives/programs or planning that the organization is doing which is relevant to Shoreline residents and government.
- G. Presentations shall not include:
  - 1. Discussion of ballot measures or candidates.
  - 2. Issues of a partisan or religious nature.
  - 3. Negative statements or information about other organizations, agencies or individuals.
  - 4. Commercial solicitations or endorsements.

5.5 The Council shall hold **Workshop Dinner Meetings** on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 5:45 p.m. in Conference Room 303 of Shoreline City Hall, located at 17500 Midvale Avenue N, Shoreline, Washington. Should any meeting occur on a legal holiday, the meeting shall be canceled. There will be no Workshop Dinner Meetings between December 15 and the end of the year.

- A. Workshop Dinner Meetings will be informal meetings for the purpose of meeting with other governmental agencies and officials such as the School District, utility districts, Fire District, neighboring city officials, regional organizations, Shoreline-Lake Forest Park Arts Council, Transit, etc., and other agencies and topics as deemed appropriate by the City Council or City Manager. Workshop Dinner Meetings may also be used by the Council to conduct Executive Sessions.
- B. No final votes may take place at Workshop Dinner Meetings, however, the Council may provide administrative direction to staff by consensus or vote. The agenda for these meetings will be appended to the Regular Meeting agenda and posted and distributed in the same manner as the Regular

Meeting agenda.

- 5.6 The Council may hold Executive Sessions from which the public may be excluded, for those purposes set forth in RCW 42.30.110 and RCW 42.30.140. Before convening an Executive Session, the Presiding Officer shall announce the purpose of the Session and the anticipated time when the Session will be concluded. Should the Session require more time, a public announcement shall be made that the Session is being extended. Any final action by Council must be taken at an open session.
- 5.7 **Special Meetings** may be held by the Council subject to notice requirements prescribed by State law. Special Meetings may be called by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, or any four Councilmembers by written notice delivered to each member of the Council at least twenty-four hours before the time specified for the proposed meeting. The notice of such Special Meetings shall state the subjects to be considered, and no subject other than those specified in the notice shall be considered. The order of business for Special Meetings may follow Section 5.3(A). Public comment for Action Items will follow the procedure found in Section 6.1. Special Meetings will be at a time and place as Council directs.
- 5.8 An **Emergency Meeting** is a special Council meeting called without the 24-hour notice. It deals with an emergency involving injury or damage to persons or property or the likelihood of such injury or damage, when time requirements of a 24-hour notice would make notice impractical and increase the likelihood of such injury or damage. Emergency meetings may be called by the City Manager or the Mayor with the consent of a majority of Councilmembers. The minutes will indicate the reason for the emergency. Emergency Meetings will be at a time and place as Council directs and can include a remote meeting without a physical location.
- 5.9 **Meetings while under Declaration of Emergency.** After the declaration of an emergency by a local, state, or federal government, Council may direct that all its meetings be held remotely without a physical location; or at a physical location where physical attendance by some or all members of the public is limited due to the declared emergency.
- 5.10 The City shall comply with the provisions of RCW 35A.12.160. The public shall receive notice of upcoming public hearings through publication of such notice in the City's official newspaper at least ten (10) days prior to the hearing.
- 5.11 At all Council Meetings, a majority of the Council (four members) shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. In the absence of a quorum, the members present may adjourn that meeting to a later date.
- 5.12 A Councilmember may be excused from attending a City Council meeting by contacting the Mayor prior to the meeting and stating the reason for their inability

to attend. If the Councilmember is unable to contact the Mayor, the Councilmember shall contact the City Manager, who shall convey the message to the Mayor. Following roll call, the Presiding Officer shall inform the Council of the member's absence, state the reason for such absence, and inquire if there is a motion to excuse the member. This motion shall be nondebatable. Upon passage of such motion by a majority of Councilmembers present, the absent Councilmember shall be considered excused and the Clerk will make an appropriate notation in the minutes. Councilmembers who do not follow the above process will be considered unexcused and it shall be so noted in the minutes. A motion to excuse a Councilmember may be made retroactively at the next meeting.

- 5.13 Remote Attendance. The Council recognizes the benefits of full attendance of its members at regular, special, and emergency meetings and expects Councilmembers attend meetings in-person. However, remote attendance by a Councilmember who is not able to physically be present, whether for all or part of a meeting, is allowed as needed subject to the following:

- A. Notice: A Councilmember shall contact the Mayor and the City Clerk no later than three hours prior to the Council meeting for which they will attend remotely or 15 minutes prior to an emergency meeting. If the Councilmember is unable to contact the Mayor, the Councilmember shall contact the City Manager, who shall convey the message to the Mayor/Presiding Officer.

After the City Clerk has called the roll at a meeting, the Presiding Officer shall indicate any Councilmember attending remotely. If joining after roll call, the Presiding Officer shall note the time the Councilmember joined and, if before adjournment, when the Councilmember left. The City Clerk will document both the remote attendance and times of attendance, if applicable, in the minutes.

B. Remote Attendance Requirements:

1. Remote attendance by a Councilmember shall be through the City's approved videoconferencing application.
2. A Councilmember's camera should be turned on when participating in the meeting.
3. In order to effectively preside over the meeting, the Presiding Officer needs to be physically present at the meeting, unless the entire Council is remote. The Mayor may attend the meeting remotely with the Deputy Mayor or another Councilmember presiding over the meeting from the physical meeting location. The Mayor or Deputy Mayor may select, without a vote of the Council, one of the Councilmembers to act as a temporary Presiding Officer.
4. A Councilmember attending remotely will be marked present, counting towards a quorum and can vote during the meeting as if they were physically present.

5. A Councilmember attending remotely must be able to hear public comment or testimony and staff's presentation in real time.
6. A Councilmember may attend an executive session or closed session remotely if the conditions in this subsection are met.

5.14 General Decorum.

- A. While the Council is in session, the Councilmembers must preserve order and decorum. A Councilmember shall neither, by conversation or otherwise, delay or interrupt the proceedings or the peace of the Council, nor disrupt any member while speaking nor refuse to obey the orders of the Council or the Presiding Officer, except as otherwise provided in these Rules.
  - B. Any person making impertinent, slanderous or threatening remarks while addressing the Council during public comment or public testimony that disrupt, disturb, or otherwise renders orderly conduct of the meeting unfeasible shall be asked to leave the Council Chambers by the Presiding Officer and barred from further audience before the Council for that meeting. If the person is participating in the meeting remotely, the Presiding Officer shall ask the City Clerk to remove their permission to talk in the videoconferencing application.
- 5.15 At all **Regular Meetings**, the Mayor shall be addressed as "Mayor (surname)", the Deputy Mayor shall be addressed as "Deputy Mayor (surname)", and members of the Council shall be addressed as "Councilmember (surname)."
- 5.16 At all Council Meetings except Workshop Dinner Meetings, the Mayor shall sit at the center of the Council, and the Deputy Mayor shall sit at the right hand of the Mayor. Other Councilmembers are to be seated in a manner acceptable to Council. If there is a dispute, seating shall be in position order.
- 5.17 Any Councilmember shall have the right to express dissent from or protest against any ordinance or resolution of the Council and have the reason therefore entered in the minutes.
- 5.18 Motions shall be reduced to writing when required by the Presiding Officer or any Councilmember. All resolutions and ordinances shall be in writing.
- 5.19 Councilmembers should keep confidential all written materials and verbal information provided to them during Executive Sessions, to ensure that the City's position is not compromised. Confidentiality also includes information provided to Councilmembers outside of Executive Sessions when the information is considered to be exempt from disclosure under the Revised Code of Washington. If a Councilmember unintentionally discloses Executive Session discussion with another party, that Councilmember shall make full disclosure to

the City Manager and/or the City Council in a timely manner.

- 5.20 Prior to commencement of discussion of a quasi-judicial item, the Presiding Officer will ask if any Councilmember has a conflict of interest or Appearance of Fairness Doctrine concern which could prohibit the Councilmember from participating in the decision-making process. If it is deemed by the Councilmember, in consultation with the City Attorney, that it is warranted, the Councilmember should step down and not participate in the Council discussion or vote on the matter. The Councilmember shall leave the Council Chamber while the matter is under consideration.
- 5.21 Council meetings shall adjourn no later than 10:00 p.m. The adjournment time established thereunder may be extended to a later time certain upon approval of a motion by a majority of the Council. Any Councilmember may call for a Point of Order to review agenda priorities.
- 5.22 The City Clerk or an authorized Deputy City Clerk shall attend all Council meetings. If the Clerk and the Deputy Clerk are absent from any Council meeting, the City Manager shall appoint a Clerk Pro Tempore. The minutes of the proceedings of the Council shall be kept by the City Clerk and shall constitute the official record of the Council.
- 5.23 Any City officer or employee shall have the duty when requested by the Council to attend Council Meetings and shall remain for such time as the Council may direct. The City Manager will work with City officers or employees to determine whether they will attend Council Meetings in-person or remotely.

**Section 6. Public Testimony.**

6.1 Regular Meetings.

- A. Members of the public may address the City Council in-person in the Council Chambers or remotely through the telephone or online at the beginning of any Regular Meeting under Agenda Item 6 Public Comment. During the Public Comment portion of the meeting, individuals may speak to agenda items or any other matter pertaining to City business except those scheduled for a Public Hearing or pertaining to a quasi-judicial action. Individuals may speak for three (3) minutes or less, depending on the number of people wishing to speak. If more than 10 people are signed up to speak each speaker will be allocated two (2) minutes. The total public comment period under Agenda Item 6 will be no more than 30 minutes. Individuals will be required to sign up prior to the start of the Public Comment period. Individuals appearing in-person wishing to speak to agenda items must sign up prior to the start of Agenda Item 6 and will be called to speak first, generally in the order in which they have signed. Individuals participating remotely wishing to speak to agenda items must

sign up thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of the meeting and will be called on after in-person speakers, generally in the order in which they have signed. If time remains, the Presiding Officer will call individuals wishing to speak to topics not listed on the agenda generally in the order in which they have signed, with in-person attendees being called on first and remote attendees next. If time is available, the Presiding Officer may call for additional in-person and remote unsigned speakers.

- B. If during a Regular Meeting an Action Item is before the Council for the first time and is not part of the Consent Calendar, public comment for that item will follow the staff report but precede Council review. Individuals may speak for three (3) minutes or less, depending on the number of people wishing to speak. If more than 10 people are signed up to speak each speaker will be allocated two (2) minutes. The total public comment period for the agenda item will be no more than 30 minutes. The order in which speakers are called on is the same as outlined in Rule 6.1.A.

## 6.2 Public Hearings.

The following rules shall be observed during any public hearing:

- A. Individuals will be allowed three (3) minutes to speak.
  - B. The Presiding Officer may allow additional time for receipt of written testimony when needed.
  - C. Prior to closing the hearing, the Presiding Officer shall inquire if there are any additional speakers, in-person or remote, other than those that have signed up and previously spoken, and if there are they shall be allowed to testify.
- 6.3 When large numbers of people are signed up to speak on the same topic, the Presiding Officer may request individuals not to provide repetitive comments of those previously provided by other individuals but, rather, to simply state they agree with the comments of the other speaker(s) on a topic.
- 6.4 Public testimony authorized in Section 6.1 may not include comments or information on any quasi-judicial matter pending before the City Council, or on any topic for which Council has closed the public record. During election season, which starts when a candidate officially files their candidacy with the State or a county election office and runs through the election, no person may use public comment to promote or oppose any candidate for public office. Promoting a candidate for public office includes announcing a candidacy for public office, mentioning a specific campaign, or wearing a visible campaign button at the speaker's podium.

- 6.5 No person shall be allowed to address the Council while it is in session without the recognition of the Presiding Officer.
- 6.6 Persons testifying shall identify themselves for the record as to name, city of residence and any organization represented.
- 6.7 An instruction notice for speakers will be provided. Speakers will be advised by the Presiding Officer that their testimony is being recorded.
- 6.8 The Clerk shall be the timekeeper for all public testimony. Time cannot be donated by one speaker to another.
- 6.9 Printed forms shall be made available at all Council Meetings to allow for written testimony to Council.
- 6.10 Speakers will not be permitted to present testimony via electronic methods (e.g. PowerPoint or screen sharing). Speakers attending in-person may utilize visual aids. Hardcopies of all materials may be submitted to the City Clerk to distribute to the Council.

**Section 7. Motions.**

- 7.1 Unless otherwise provided for by statute, ordinance, resolution, or these Rules of Procedure, all votes shall be taken by voice, except that at the request of any Councilmember, a random roll call vote shall be taken by the City Clerk.
- 7.2 Prior to discussion of an Action Item, a Councilmember should make a motion, which is seconded by another Councilmember, on the topic under discussion. If the motion is not seconded, it dies. Some motions do not require a second: nominations, withdrawal of a motion, request for a roll call vote, and point of order.
- 7.3 In case of a tie vote on any motion, the motion shall be considered lost.
- 7.4 Motions shall be clear and concise and not include arguments for the motion.
- 7.5 After a motion has been made and seconded, Councilmembers may discuss their opinions on the issue prior to the vote. If they wish to do so, they may state why they will vote for or against the motion.
- 7.6 When the Council concurs or agrees with an item that does not require a formal motion, the Presiding Officer will summarize the Council's consensus at the conclusion of the discussion.
- 7.7 A motion may be withdrawn by the maker of the motion, at any time, without the consent of the Council.



- 7.8 A motion to table is nondebatable. It requires a majority to pass. If the motion to table prevails, the matter may be "taken from the table" only by adding it to the agenda of a future meeting, at which time discussion can continue. If an item is tabled, it cannot be reconsidered at the same meeting.
- 7.9 A motion to postpone to a specific time is debatable, is amendable, and may be reconsidered at the same meeting. It requires a majority to pass. The motion being postponed must be considered at a later time in the same meeting or a specific future meeting.
- 7.10 A motion to postpone indefinitely is debatable, is not amendable, and may be reconsidered at the same meeting. It requires a majority to pass. The merits of the main motion may be debated.
- 7.11 A motion to call for the question shall close debate on the main motion and is nondebatable. This motion must receive a second and fails without a two-thirds (2/3) vote. Debate is reopened if the motion fails.
- 7.12 A motion to amend is defined as amending a motion that is on the floor and has been seconded, by inserting or adding, striking out, striking out and inserting, or substituting.
- 7.13 When the discussion is concluded, the motion maker, Presiding Officer, or City Clerk, shall repeat the motion prior to voting.
- 7.14 The City Council votes on the motion as restated. If the vote is unanimous, the Presiding Officer shall state that the motion has been passed unanimously according to the number of Councilmembers present, such as "7-0" or "6-0." If the vote is not unanimous, the Presiding Officer shall state the number of Councilmembers voting in the affirmative and the number voting in the negative and whether the motion passes or fails.
- 7.15 If a Councilmember has a conflict of interest or an appearance of fairness question under State law, the Councilmember may recuse themselves from the issue and shall leave the Council Chamber during discussion and voting on the issue. That Councilmember shall be considered absent when voting occurs.
- 7.16 If a Councilmember is silent on a vote, it shall be recorded as an affirmative vote. If a Councilmember abstains, it shall be recorded as an abstention and not included in the vote tally.
- 7.17 No vote may be cast by proxy.
- 7.18 Once the vote has been taken, the discussion is closed. It is not necessary for Councilmembers to justify or explain their vote. If they wish to make their positions known, this should happen during the discussion preceding the vote.

- 7.19 After the question has been decided, any Councilmember who voted with the prevailing side may move for a reconsideration of the motion. The motion for reconsideration must be made at the same or next regular meeting.
- 7.20 The City Attorney, in consultation with the City Clerk, shall decide all questions of interpretations of these policies and procedures and other questions of a parliamentary nature which may arise at a Council meeting. All cases not provided for in these policies and procedures shall be governed by the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order. In the event of a conflict, these Council rules of procedure shall prevail.

**Section 8. Items Requiring Four Votes.**

The passage of any ordinance, grant or revocation of franchise or license, any resolution for the payment of money, any approval of warrants, and any resolution for the removal of the City Manager shall require the affirmative vote of at least a majority of the whole membership of the Council (four votes) [RCW 35A 13.170 and 35A.13.120].

**Section 9. Council Representation.**

- 9.1 Councilmembers who meet with, speak to, or otherwise appear before a community group or another governmental agency or representative must clearly state if their statement reflects their personal opinion or if it is the official stance of the City, or if this is the majority or minority opinion of the Council.
- 9.2 When Councilmembers represent the City or attend meetings in an official capacity as Councilmember, they must support and advocate the official City position on an issue, not a personal viewpoint.
- 9.3 Once the City Council has taken a position on an issue, all official City correspondence regarding the issue will reflect the Council's adopted position.
- 9.4 City letterhead shall not be used for correspondence of Councilmembers representing a dissenting point of view from an official Council position.
- 9.5 As a matter of courtesy, letters to the editor, or other communication of a controversial nature, which do not express the majority opinion of the Council, shall be distributed to the full Council so that Councilmembers may be made aware of the impending publication.
- 9.6 If the Council, in Executive Session, gives direction or consensus to City staff on proposed terms and conditions for any type of issue, all contact with the other party shall be done by the designated City staff representative handling the issue.

**Section 10. Suspension and Amendment of Rules.**

- 10.1 Any provision of these rules not governed by State law or City ordinance may be temporarily suspended by a majority vote of the Council.
- 10.2 It is the intent of the City Council that the rules of procedure be periodically reviewed as needed. These rules may be amended, or new rules adopted, by a majority vote of the Council, provided that the proposed amendments or new rules shall have been distributed to Council at least one week prior to such action.

**Amended by Resolution No. 196**  
**Amended by Resolution No. 205**  
**Amended by Resolution No. 224**  
**Amended by Resolution No. 244**  
**Amended by Resolution No. 255**  
**Amended by Motion, Dec. 7, 2009**  
**Amended by Resolution No. 295**  
**Amended by Resolution No. 296**  
**Amended by Resolution No. 298**  
**Amended by Resolution No. 299**  
**Amended by Resolution No. 306**  
**Amended by Resolution No. 310**  
**Amended by Resolution No. 326**  
**Amended by Resolution No. 334**  
**Amended by Resolution No. 344**  
**Amended by Resolution No. 380**  
**Amended by Resolution No. 381**  
**Amended by Resolution No. 422**  
**Amended by Resolution No. 445**  
**Amended by Resolution No. 470**  
**Amended by Resolution No. 485**  
**Amended by Resolution No. 505**  
**Amended by Resolution No. 517**