

Governing the Conduct of City Council Meetings and Work Sessions

Adopted ~~December 17, 2024~~September 1, 2026
Resolution ~~2024-148~~2026-XXX

Section 1. Attendance and Participation in Regular or Special Council Meetings.

- a. Councilmembers may participate in discussion at Council Regular and Special meetings, including executive sessions, using remote technology, except that only Councilmembers present in person at a meeting are allowed to participate in consideration of quasi-judicial items, to be treated as present for the purpose of establishing a quorum, or to vote on any item.

In the event the Mayor, or City Council by majority vote, determines at any time that circumstances necessitate that Council conduct all or a portion of a regular or special meeting using remote technology, Councilmembers may fully participate in and vote in that meeting using remote technology.

- b. The public may participate in any Regular or Special Council meeting as set out in these Rules using the remote technologies that have been arranged for that meeting and may participate in person unless public access for a particular meeting is limited to remote-only access, whether in advance of that meeting, or during the meeting in response to disruption of the planned meeting location or arrangements.
- c. If circumstances prevent or are reasonably expected to prevent the Council from carrying out its business in the Council Chambers, the Mayor, or the Council by majority vote, may relocate or adjourn such meeting to an alternative location.
- d. In the case of any such location change or change to the mode of public participation allowed, notice of the change must be prominently posted for the public at Council Chambers and the meeting broadcast and stream. The meeting must, at a minimum, be freely available to the public by electronic means or broadcast, or at a remote viewing location. If a meeting is relocated and reconvened, or shifted to remote-only public viewing, a minimum of forty-five (45) minutes must elapse between the adjournment of the meeting to the new location or mode and reconvening in the new location or mode.

Section 2. Order of Business for Regular or Special Council Meetings.

- a. Regular Council meetings shall be conducted in the following order (except for special items described below):
 - (A) Proclamations and Presentations. (Prior to the meeting)
 - (B) Call Meeting to Order
 - (C) Pledge of Allegiance
 - (D) Roll Call

- (E) City Manager's Agenda Review (including City Manager removal of items from Consent Calendar for individual discussion)
 - (F) Community Reports (as needed): The purpose of the Community Report is to provide an opportunity for organizations affiliated with the City (or partnering with the City in specific ways) to update Council and the general public on activities and accomplishments within its organization of interest to the City. Examples include County Health Department, Library District, Platte River Power Authority. Reports are provided at the request of Council or City Leadership.
 - (G) Public Comment on Any Topics or Items or Community Events (including comments on the Consent Calendar and any requests by commenters for removal of items from Consent Calendar for individual discussion) The first 40 speakers will speak plus additional speakers as can be heard in a total of 90 minutes.
 - (H) Public Comment Follow-up (Staff will indicate to Mayor if anyone signed up to speak on a Consent item and was not able to speak under public comment. Those speakers will be able to speak at this point in the agenda.)
 - (I) Councilmember Removal of Items from Consent Calendar for Discussion
 - (J) Adoption of Consent Calendar
 - (K) Consent Calendar Follow-up
 - (L) Staff Reports (as needed): The purpose of the Staff Report is to provide City Council with information on specific City projects or issues of concern to City Council. Reports may be requested by either Council or staff.
 - (M) Councilmember Reports (as needed): The purpose of the Councilmember Reports is to allow Councilmembers to update one another and the community of any outside activities, meetings, or learning opportunities relevant to the business of the City.
 - (N) Consideration of Items Removed from Consent Calendar for Individual Discussion
 - (O) Consideration of Items Planned for Discussion
 - (P) Resumed Public Comment (if applicable)
 - (Q) Other Business
 - (R) Adjournment
- b. Special Council meetings shall be conducted in the following order (except for special items described below):
- (A) Call Meeting to Order
 - (B) Pledge of Allegiance
 - (C) Roll Call

- (D) Consideration of Items Identified in the Call of Special Meeting
 - (E) Adjournment
- c. Appeals to Council shall be conducted in accordance with Division 3 of Article II of Chapter 2 of the City Code.
- d. Addition of Permitted Use applications pursuant to Land Use Code Section 1.3.4(c)(3) and zonings and rezonings of land with an area of six hundred forty acres or less (“Quasi-judicial Rezonings”), shall be conducted as follows subject to such limitations in time and scope as may be imposed at the discretion of the presiding officer:
- (1) Announcement of Item;
 - (2) Consideration of any procedural issues;
 - (3) Explanation of the application by City staff;
 - (4) Presentation by the applicant and/or by the affected property owner (if not the applicant);
 - (5) Public testimony regarding the application;
 - (6) Rebuttal testimony by the applicant/property owner;
 - (7) Councilmember questions of City staff, the applicant/property owner and other commenters; and
 - (8) Motion, discussion and vote by the City Council.
- e. Protest hearings required under Chapter 7 of the City Code regarding certain election-related matters shall be conducted in the following order, as part of the agenda item for the item under protest:
- (1) Announcement of Item;
 - (2) Staff Presentation for Agenda Item;
 - (3) Presentation by each person who timely filed a Protest;
 - (4) Councilmember questions of City staff and the protesting parties; and
 - (5) Motion on each Protest, discussion and vote on each Protest by the City Council.
- After completion of the Protest Hearing, Council will return to the Agenda Item and receive comments from any persons desiring to speak on the Agenda Item.
- f. Procedures for conduct of other types of special proceedings by the Council shall be established by the presiding officer and shall comply with any applicable legal requirements.

- g. Items for which a public hearing is required may be considered as part of the Consent Calendar, and if any item is not pulled from the Consent Calendar for individual consideration and is adopted as part of the Consent Calendar, it will be deemed to have been the subject of a public hearing as required by any applicable Code or other legal requirements.

Section 3. Length of Regular Meetings

- a. Regular Council meetings will begin at 6:00 p.m. Proclamations will be presented prior to the meeting at approximately 5:00 p.m. and will end no later than 5:30 p.m.
- b. Appropriate breaks will be taken during meetings at the presiding officer's discretion based on meeting length and agenda.
- c. Every regular Council meeting will end no later than midnight, except that: (1) any item of business commenced before midnight may be concluded before the meeting is adjourned and (2) the Council may, at any time prior to adjournment, by majority vote, extend a meeting beyond midnight for the purpose of considering additional items of business. Any matter that has been commenced and is still pending at the conclusion of the Council meeting, and all matters scheduled for consideration at the meeting that have not yet been considered by the Council, will be deemed continued to the next regular Council meeting, unless Council determines otherwise.
- d. If the Council for any reason is unable to complete its meeting agenda, all Consent and Discussion items on the agenda that were not considered will be deemed continued to the next regular Council meeting, except as otherwise specified by the Council or, if appropriate, determined by the City Manager.

Section 4. Public Comment During Regular and Special Council Meetings.

a. Introduction

- 1. **Findings and Purpose.** The City Council finds that its meetings constitute a limited public forum established for the orderly conduct of the City's business. The City Council further finds that it has significant governmental interests at its public meetings to:
 - i. Maintain a safe, orderly, and accessible environment;
 - ii. Ensure that all persons are afforded the opportunity to observe;
 - iii. Provide fair and meaningful opportunities for public participation;
 - iv. Create an atmosphere of civility that is respectful to diverse opinions;
and
 - v. Complete the City's business in an efficient and effective manner.

The City Council further finds that conduct that materially disrupts, delays, or interferes with the orderly progression of a meeting, that creates an unsafe environment, or that obstructs access to or participation in the meeting, undermines the City Council's interests and the rights of others.

The purpose of Sections 4 and 5 of these City Council Procedures is to implement reasonable regulations governing attendance and participation at City Council meetings to protect the City Council's interests and the rights of others. For purposes of these Sections 4 and 5 of these City Council Procedures, the City Council Chambers or other City Council meeting room is referred to as the "Meeting Room".

- a. **b. Public Comment during Public Participation Segment.** During the "Public Comment" segment of ~~each~~ City Council meeting, members of the public may provide comment ~~will be allowed~~ on matters of interest or concern to members of the public, including items the City Council will consider at that ~~night's~~ day's meeting.

(1) 1. Each speaker will be required to sign up to provide public comment on a City-provided form or system by 5:30 ~~pm~~ of p.m. on the day of the meeting.

(2) 2. Each speaker will only be allowed to speak one time during the Public Comment segment.

(3) 3. If a speaker comments on a particular agenda item during the time for ~~general public comment~~ Public Comment, that speaker will not ~~also~~ be entitled to speak during discussion of the particular agenda item.

4. Section 2-48 of the City Code allows certain interested parties to appeal development review decisions and other types of decisions to City Council for review. In considering a matter on appeal, the City Council must follow certain procedures and must limit its review to the matters on appeal and the record of the decision that was appealed. Because of ~~this~~ these requirements, once the application, review, and decision-making process has been initiated, comments during Public Comment on matters that are the subject of a board or hearing ~~officer~~ decision that will be appealable to the City Council are not permitted ~~once the application, review and decision-making process has been initiated~~.

- b. **c. Comment on Agenda Items.** City Council will receive public comment during consideration of individual action items, including any item that is addressed by formal City Council action under the "Other Business" segment of the ~~meeting that may directly affect the rights or obligations of any member of the general public~~ agenda.

1. ~~(1)~~ — Each speaker ~~will be required to~~must sign up to provide public comment on a City-provided form or system by 5:30 ~~p.m.~~a.m. on the day of the meeting, except ~~for~~:

i. ~~If time allows, the presiding officer may allow speakers who have not signed up in advance the opportunity to provide public comment; and~~

ii. ~~For~~ comment on procedural or other items ~~that were~~ not noted on the published agenda for which City Council, the presiding officer may authorize additional public comment.

2. Each speaker will only be allowed to speak one time to comment on any particular agenda item.

3. Comments given during the comment period for an agenda item must pertain to the item under consideration.

~~(4) The Council may, but is not required to, receive public comment in connection with procedural matters and motions.~~

4. Except as otherwise provided in these rules, public comment will be permitted only once per item regardless of the number of motions made during City Council's consideration of the item.

e. d. **Decorum; Scope and Type of Comments Allowed.**

~~Comment and testimony are to be directed to the Council. When referring to a Councilmember, a speaker is expected to use the Councilmember's official title.~~

(1) — 1. Direction of Comments. Unless otherwise directed by the presiding officer, all comments must be made from the designated speaking area and into the microphone.

(2) ~~During general or through the video conferencing system, as applicable. The City Council encourages those providing public comment, speakers may speak to any matter of public interest or concern. During discussion of a particular agenda item, speakers shall limit their to direct the comments to that item; testimony that strays from the topic will be out of order the City Council as a body and not to individuals. The City Council encourages speakers to address City Councilmembers using their official titles.~~

2. **Prohibited Conduct; Disruption Defined.** ~~Speakers shall not make personal, impertinent, profane, vulgar, slanderous intimidating or harassing remarks that disturb, disrupt or impede the~~engage in conduct that constitutes disruption of the meeting or the. ~~For purposes of this Section 4, disruption means conduct that actually and materially interferes with, delays, or impedes the orderly conduct of the meeting or the City Council's completion of ability to complete its business. Similarly, threats of violence~~Prohibited disruptive conduct includes, but is not limited to:
- i. Speaking out of turn or after the expiration of the allotted time;
 - ii. Interrupting speakers or harm, City Council members;
 - iii. Engaging in shouting, yelling, applause or abusive language, and racial or other conduct that interferes with the hearing or ethnic slurs directed speaking of others at any the meeting, whether in person or group of persons, are prohibited. Any speaker who is disrupting the meeting will be warned of the disruption remote;
 - iv. Engaging in dialogue with audience members or directing comments toward other speakers in a manner that interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting; or
 - v. Failing to comply with the direction of the presiding officer that is reasonably necessary to maintain order.

Public comments that express disagreement, criticism, or unpopular viewpoints, in and then steps will be taken to prevent further disruption to the meeting. If the of themselves, do not constitute disruption continues, the speaker's microphone will be muted, and further.

- (3) 3. **Unprotected Speech.** ~~Speakers must avoid speech that is not protected by law, including obscenity, true threats, incitement to imminent lawless action taken to allow the Council to continue the business of the meeting agenda, or speech integral to criminal conduct.~~
- (4) 4. **Repetitive Comments.** ~~Speakers shall~~may be asked by the presiding officer to avoid lengthy substantial repetition of comments already provided; presented.

- (5) ~~Dialogue between a speaker and attendees or audience of a meeting, or comments directed to other speakers, are disruptive to the meeting and will be out of order.~~

5. **Presiding Officer Directives.** Each speaker must follow directives given by the presiding officer.

- d. e. **Process and Time Limits for Speaking.**

- (1) 1. The presiding officer may require those intending to ~~spea~~provide comment to indicate their intention by a show of hands or some other means, such as “raising a hand” using ~~remote~~video conferencing technology.
 - (2) 2. The amount of time to be allotted to each speaker will be set by the presiding officer based upon the number of persons expected to speak, in order to allow as many as possible to address the City Council within a reasonable time given the scheduled agenda and, for agenda items, as necessary to facilitate City Council’s understanding of an item. The presiding officer may grant additional time to accommodate disability or language translation.
 - (3) 3. The presiding officer may ask those speakers physically present at the meeting ~~and wishing to speak to move to form one of the two or more lines of speakers before in the Meeting Room to facilitate the speaker next ahead of them on the efficient transition of speakers list is speaking (or to take a seat nearby for those not able to stand while waiting).~~
 - (4) 4. Each speaker will be asked to provide their ~~full~~ name and ~~general, if they choose, their residential~~ address at the beginning of their comments.
 - (5) 5. Generally, speakers will be called in the order they appear on the sign-up list for speaking.
- e. f. **Yielding the Lectern.** Each speaker shall promptly cease their comments and, if physically present in the Meeting Room, yield the lectern immediately upon the expiration of the time allotted by the presiding officer. ~~or when so directed by the presiding officer.~~
- f. g. **Yielding of Time.** No speaker may yield part or all of their time to another speaker, and no speaker will be credited with time requested but not used by another.
- g. h. **Public Presentation Materials and Evidence.** The use of City projection equipment to display presentation materials to City Council will be allowed in limited circumstances that permit City staff to manage the use of the equipment, prepare materials for display and avoid delay or disruption to the meeting. The following limits will apply to all presentations by members of the public:
- (1). Persons wishing to display presentation materials using the City’s display equipment under the Public Comment portion of a meeting or during discussion of any City Council item must provide any such materials to the City Clerk no later than ~~two (2)~~twenty-four (24) hours prior to the beginning of the meeting at which the materials are to be presented. Only pdf format presentations will be allowed, and no embedded video or audio may be included.

~~(2).~~ As an exception to ~~subsection (Section 4.h.1).~~, parties-in-interest ~~infor~~ agenda items considered under Section 2.c, 2.d, 2.e or 2.f, above, shall provide all presentation materials to be displayed or proffered for City Council consideration to the City Clerk (whether in hard copy or for display) in the manner specified by the City Clerk no later than noon on the day prior to the date of the meeting at which the subject item is scheduled for consideration ~~or 4:00 p.m. the business day prior to the meeting if the meeting begins earlier than 6:00 pm.~~ Any such materials must be in pdf format and readily usable on the City's display technology.-

i. **Enforcement.** If a speaker violates any of the rules contained in this Section 4, the presiding officer may take reasonable and proportionate steps to end the violation and to restore order, including by issuing a warning, directing the speaker to conclude remarks, muting the microphone, requiring the speaker to yield the lectern, or requiring removal of the speaker from the Meeting Room. The presiding officer may not restrict speech based on the viewpoint expressed by the speaker. The City shall maintain records of enforcement actions when practicable.

Section 5. Public Conduct During Regular and Special City Council Meetings and Work Sessions.

a. ~~General Comment, or Expressions of Support or Opposition.~~ a. **Audience Conduct; Preservation of Order.** Members of the audience ~~are not entitled to speak except as provided in these Rules of Procedure, or as expressly requested by the presiding officer or City staff and shall not engage in expressions of support or opposition, such as clapping, whistling, cheering, foot stomping, booing, hissing, speaking out, yelling, or other acts, that disturb, disrupt, or impede the meeting or any recognized speaker.~~

b. ~~Signs and Props.~~

(1) ~~Signs and props no larger than 11" x 17" are permitted in the City Council Chambers or in the Council Information Center or other Council meeting room (collectively referred to as the "Meeting Room"), except no such signs or props shall be displayed during the conduct of a quasi-judicial hearing during which general public comment is not taken other than by authorized speakers in connection with their hearing testimony.~~

(2) ~~Such signs or props must be held directly in front of one's body so as not to impede the view of others.~~

~~(3)~~ Signs or props may not be waved, held by more than one person at a time, or used in a manner that, in the judgment of the presiding officer, that materially disrupts, delays, or interferes with the orderly conduct of business, the meeting or the ability of others to observe or participate. To help create a civil atmosphere that

~~(4) Signs or props may not be left unattended anywhere in the Meeting Room or left~~

~~unattended on display in the City Hall lobby area.~~

~~(5) Signs or props attached to sticks, poles, or other objects are prohibited.~~

- e. ~~Distribution of Literature. Distribution of fliers or other literature is permitted in the public lobby areas of City Hall only when City Hall is open for a public event. Distribution of fliers and other literature is permitted on the sidewalks and grounds around City Hall. Persons wishing to engage in such activities may do so only in a manner that does not interfere with to diverse opinions, audible expressions of approval or disapproval, such as applause, are not permitted. Each member of the movement of persons or obstruct the passage of pedestrians or vehicles.~~
- d. ~~Video and Audio Recording. Video and audio recording by the press or other members of the public is permitted in the Meeting Room only if the person making the recording is using a small unobtrusive recording device and is seated or standing at a speaker lectern when authorized to speak, or in line awaiting an opportunity to speak, or is either standing in the back of the Meeting Room behind all seated persons. Other video or audio recording is allowed only in a manner and area pursuant to the direction of audience must follow directives given by the presiding officer in their reasonable discretion or as designated for that purpose in advance by the City.~~

~~Areas Permitted for Seating~~**b. Signs and Standing.** ~~Except for persons waiting in line to speak in accordance with the presiding officer's instructions, no persons shall sit~~
Objects. ~~The possession of signs or posters ("Signs"), or objects, including purses, backpacks, bags or other personal items ("Objects") is permitted in the Meeting Room except in chairs or seats provided, subject to the following requirements:~~

- ~~1. In no event may Signs exceed 11 inches by 17 inches;~~
- ~~2. Signsthe City or in wheelchairs or other assistive devices, and Objects must always be under a person's control;~~
- ~~3. Signs or no persons shall stand in the aisles or other locations in Objects may be held by a person in a seat or set under the person's seat, provided that the Sign or Object may not extend past the front edge of the seat.~~
 - ~~i. Attendees with an Object not meeting the restriction in this Section 5.b.3 may sit by the western wall of the Meeting Room except in the back of between the public entry doors with the Object if seating is available at that location, provided that the Object meets all other requirements of this Section 5.b.~~
- ~~4. Signs or Objects may not be positioned so as to obstruct the view of others;~~
- ~~5. Signs or Objects may not be positioned so as to obstruct access to or from seats, movement through aisles, or ingress to or egress from the Meeting Room, and only in accordance with;~~

6. No person may affix a Sign or Object to City property;

7. No Sign or Object may contain lighting, sound, mechanical, or other features that cause distraction;

8. No person may use a Sign or Object in a manner that materially disrupts the meeting.

Any Sign or Object that does not meet these requirements is prohibited from the Meeting Room. The presiding officer may require the repositioning or removal, as applicable limits for fire and, of any Sign or Object that violates this Section 5.b. or otherwise constitutes a disruption or obstruction.

c. **Attire.** No person shall wear attire that materially obstructs the view of any attendee or impedes access to aisles or exits.

d. **Distribution of Materials.** The distribution of written materials is permitted in designated public areas outside of the Meeting Room, provided such activity does not obstruct movement, impede ingress or egress, or otherwise interfere with access to or participation in the meeting.

e. **Recording.** Audio and video recording of City Council meetings is permitted, provided that such recording is conducted in a manner that is unobtrusive and does not disrupt the meeting, interfere with sightlines, or impede movement. The presiding officer may designate reasonable locations or impose reasonable conditions to ensure compliance with this subsection.

e. f. **Seating, Standing, and Movement.** Attendees shall remain seated in designated seating areas or stand only in permitted locations. Aisles, exits, and access points must remain clear at all times. Compliance with applicable fire, building, and safety codes is required.

f. ~~Cellphone and Pagers. The ringer or other tones of any cellphones, pagers or other communications devices must be off, to avoid disrupting the meeting.~~

Impacts to g. **Noise and Electronic Devices.** Meeting attendees must silence cellphones, pagers, and other electronic devices while in the Meeting Room. Audible use of such devices is prohibited if it disrupts the meeting or interferes with the hearing or speaking of others at the meeting, whether in person or remote.

g. h. **Protection of Public Property.** Meeting attendees are prohibited from altering or damaging any No person shall damage, alter, or misuse City furniture, equipment or other public property or from misusing the City's, or facilities in the course of attending any Council meeting or work session.

h. _____

i. **Entering and Leaving the Meeting.** Meeting attendees Attendees entering or leaving the meeting before it has been adjourned must leave Meeting Room shall do

so in a quiet and orderly manner ~~until outside of the building, to avoid disrupting the meetings~~ so as not to disrupt the proceedings.

j. Weapons and Dangerous Objects in the Meeting Room During City Council Meetings.

1. No person shall carry a firearm, whether loaded or unloaded, deadly weapon, or dangerous object within the Meeting Room during a City Council meeting. This Section 5.j.1 shall not apply to:

- i. Peace officers or other law enforcement personnel acting within the scope of their official duties; or
- ii. Security personnel authorized by the City by written contract.

2. As used in this Section:

- i. "Deadly weapon" means a knife, bludgeon, or any other weapon, device, instrument, material, or substance, whether animate or inanimate, that, in the manner it is used or intended to be used, is capable of producing death or serious bodily injury;
- ii. "Firearm" means any handgun, automatic, revolver, pistol, rifle, shotgun, or other instrument or device capable or intended to be capable of discharging bullets, cartridges, or other explosive charges.

k. Enforcement. The presiding officer may take reasonable and proportionate steps to enforce the requirements of this Section 5, including issuing warnings, directing compliance, or removing individuals whose conduct constitutes disruption as defined in these Procedures. Removal shall occur only after a warning and an opportunity to comply, unless immediate action is reasonably necessary to address disruption or safety concerns. The City shall maintain records of enforcement actions when practicable.

Section 6. Procedural Decisions Subject to Modification by Council.

Decisions by the presiding officer regarding procedures and procedural issues, including but not limited to time limits for public comment, may be overridden by a majority vote of the Council.

Section 7. Council Questions and Debate.

Council questions and debate regarding an agenda item during a regular or special Council meeting will occur immediately following public input and prior to entertaining any main motion related to the item. Except when raising a point of order at a regular or special Council meeting, Councilmembers seeking to ask questions or participate in debate or discussion will do so only when recognized by the presiding officer. The presiding officer may limit or curtail questions or debate as the presiding officer deems necessary for the orderly conduct of business. The presiding officer may participate in questions and debate.

Section 8. Basic Rules of Order for Regular and Special Council Meetings.

The following commonly used rules of order will govern the conduct of City Council business at regular and special Council meetings. *Except as specifically noted, all motions require a second.* These rules of order are in concept based upon Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised and reflect the existing practices of the Council and the requirements of the City Charter and City Code. For example, while a two-thirds vote is necessary for the passage of some of the motions listed below under Robert's Rules of Order, all motions of the Council, except a motion to go into executive session or a motion to adopt an emergency ordinance, may be adopted upon approval of a majority vote of the members present at a Council meeting, pursuant to Art. II, Sec. 11 of the City Charter.

If there is a question of procedure not addressed by these rules, reference may be made to Robert's Rules of Order for clarification or direction, however, adherence to Robert's Rules of Order is not mandatory, and, in the event of any conflict between these rules of order and Robert's Rules of Order, these rules of order shall prevail. In the event of any conflict between these rules of order or Robert's Rules of Order and a City Charter or City Code provisions, the City Charter or City Code provision shall prevail. Any Councilmember and the presiding officer may make or second any motion, except as specifically limited by these rules.

MAIN MOTIONS

- Main motions are used to bring business before the Council for consideration and action.
- A main motion can be introduced only if no other business is pending.
- All main motions require a second and may be adopted by majority vote of those Councilmembers present and voting, except that: (1) a motion to go into executive session requires a two-thirds vote of those present and voting and (2) a motion to adopt an emergency ordinance requires the affirmative vote of at least five (5) Councilmembers for approval.
- A main motion may be made or seconded by any Councilmember, including the presiding officer.
- A main motion is debatable and may be amended.

SUBSIDIARY MOTIONS

These are motions that may be applied to another motion for the purpose of modifying it, delaying action on it, or disposing of it. All subsidiary motions require a second to proceed.

1. Motion to Amend. The point of a motion to amend is to modify the wording - and, within certain limits, the meaning - of a pending motion before the pending motion itself is acted upon.

- A motion to amend, once seconded, is debatable and may itself be amended once.
- A "secondary amendment," which is a change to a pending "primary amendment," cannot be amended.

- Once a motion to amend has been seconded and debated, it is decided before the main motion is decided.
- Certain motions to amend are improper.
 - For example, an amendment must be “germane” to be an order. To be germane, an amendment must in some way involve the same question that is raised by the motion to which it is applied.
 - Also, some motions to amend are improper, for example, a motion that would merely make the adoption of the amended question equivalent to a rejection of the original motion, or one that would make the question as amended identical with, or contrary to, one previously decided by the Council during the same session.
- “Friendly” amendments acceptable to the maker and the seconder of the main motion do not require a second and are permissible at any time before formal motions to amend the main motion have been made, and after one or more formal motions to amend the main motion have been made unless one or more members of Council objects to amending by “friendly” amendment (in which case a formal motion to amend the main motion must be used for that purpose).

2. Withdrawal of a Motion. After a motion has been seconded and stated by the presiding officer it belongs to the Council as a whole and the maker may withdraw their motion unless one or more members of the Council objects, in which case the majority of the Council must consent to withdrawal of the motion.

3. Motion to Postpone to a Certain Time (or Definitely). This is the motion by which action on an agenda item or a pending motion can be put off to a definite day, meeting or hour, or until after a certain event has occurred.

- A motion to postpone definitely must be seconded to proceed.
- A motion to postpone definitely can be debated only to the extent necessary to enable the Council to determine whether the main motion should be postponed and, if so, to what date or time.
- Similarly, it is amendable only as to the date or time to which the main motion should be postponed.

4. Motion to Lay on the Table. A motion to table is intended to enable the Council to lay the pending question aside temporarily, but only when something else of immediate urgency has arisen.

- A motion to lay on the table must be seconded to proceed.
- Adoption of a motion to lay on the table immediately halts the consideration of the affected motion, since a motion to table is neither debatable nor amendable.

5. Motion to Postpone Indefinitely. A motion to postpone indefinitely is, in effect, a motion that the Council decline to take a position on an agenda item or main motion.

- Adoption of a motion to postpone indefinitely kills the agenda item or main motion and avoids a direct vote on the item or motion. It is useful in disposing of an item or motion that cannot either be adopted or expressly rejected without undesirable consequences.
- A motion to postpone indefinitely must be seconded to proceed.
- A motion to postpone indefinitely is debatable but not amendable.

6. "Calling the Question". "Calling the question" may sometimes motivate unanimous consent to end debate. If it does not, however, then debate does not automatically end.

- If any member objects to ending the debate, the presiding officer should ask if there is a second to the motion and, if so, the presiding officer must immediately take a vote on whether to end debate.
- A motion to call the question is not debatable or amendable.

INCIDENTAL MOTIONS.

These are motions that usually apply to the method of conducting business rather to the business itself.

1. Point of Order. If a Councilmember thinks that the rules of order are being violated, the Councilmember can make a point of order, thereby calling upon the presiding officer for a ruling and an enforcement of the regular rules.

- A "point of order" takes precedence over any pending question out of which it may arise *and does not require a second*.
- A "point of order" is not amendable.
- Technically, a "point of order" is not debatable; however:
 - With the presiding officer's consent, the member raising the point of order may be permitted to explain their point.
 - In response to a point of order, the presiding officer can either immediately rule, subject to appeal to the Council, or the presiding officer can refer the point of order to the judgment of the Council, in which case the point becomes debatable.
 - In ruling, the presiding officer may consult with the City Attorney or request the advice of experienced members of the Council.
 - No member has the right to express an opinion unless requested to do so by the presiding officer.

- When the presiding officer has made a ruling, any two Councilmembers can appeal the ruling (one making the appeal and the other seconding it).
 - When an appeal is taken, the matter is decided by majority vote of the Council.
 - A tie vote sustains the decision of the presiding officer.
- If a point of order is to be raised, it must be raised promptly at the time the perceived violation of the rules occurs.

2. Point of Information. Robert's Rules of Order provides for a "point of information" or a "request for information" that is appropriate in the formal setting of a large legislative body. Because Council consideration of an item is generally an opportunity to request information and ask questions, the formal "point of information" procedure provided in Robert's Rules is not needed or appropriate for City Council meetings.

3. Motion to Divide a Question. If a motion relating to a single subject contains several parts, each of which is capable of standing as a complete proposition by itself, the parts of the motion can be separated for consideration and voted on as if they were distinct questions by the adoption of a motion for division of the question.

- A motion to divide a question, if seconded, takes precedence over the main motion and is not debatable.
- The motion to divide must clearly state the manner in which the question is to be divided, and while the motion to divide is pending, another member can propose a different division by moving an amendment to the motion to divide, in which case the amended form of the motion, if seconded, would be decided first.
- Often, little formality is involved in dividing a question, and it is arranged by unanimous consent.

4. Motion to Suspend the Rules. When the Council wishes to do something that it cannot do without violating one or more of its regular rules, it can adopt a motion to suspend the rules that interfere with the proposed action.

- A motion to suspend the rules can be made at any time that no question is pending and can be applied to any rule except those that are fundamental principles of the City Charter, City Code or other applicable laws.
- A motion to suspend the rules must be seconded to proceed.
- This motion is neither debatable nor amendable.

The presiding officer may suspend the rules by stating the desire to do so, unless a Councilmember states an objection. In the event of an objection, a motion, second and approval by a majority vote, as described above, is required.

RESTORATIVE MOTIONS

These are motions that bring a question again before the Council for its consideration.

1. Motion to Take from the Table. The object of this motion is to take from the table and make pending again before the Council a motion or series of adhering motions that previously had been laid on the table.

- A motion to take an item from the table must be seconded to proceed.
- A motion to take an item from the table is neither debatable nor amendable.
- When a question is taken from the table, it is before the Council with everything adhering to it, exactly as it was when laid on the table.

2. Motion to Reconsider. This motion enables a majority of the Council to bring back for further consideration a motion that has already been voted on.

- A motion to reconsider is in order only if made on the same date that the vote to be reconsidered was taken and can be made only by a member who voted with the prevailing side of the vote to be reconsidered.
- A motion to reconsider must be seconded by a member who voted with the prevailing side of the vote to be reconsidered to proceed.
- The purpose of reconsidering a vote is to permit the correction of hasty, ill-advised, or erroneous action, or to take into account added information or a changed situation that has developed since the taking of a vote.
- When a member who cannot make a motion for reconsideration believes that there are valid reasons for one, the member can try, if there is time or opportunity, to persuade someone who voted with the prevailing side to make such a motion.
- A motion to reconsider is debatable whenever the motion proposed to be reconsidered was debatable. And, when debatable, opens to debate the merits of the question to be reconsidered.
- A motion to reconsider is not amendable.
- The effect of the adoption of a motion to reconsider is that the question on which the vote was reconsidered is immediately placed before the Council in the exact position it occupied the moment before it was voted on originally.

3. Motion to Rescind or Amend Something Previously Adopted. By means of the motions to rescind or to amend something previously adopted, the Council can change an action previously taken or ordered.

- A motion to rescind or amend something previously adopted must be seconded to proceed.

- A motion to rescind or amend something previously adopted is debatable and amendable.
- In contrast to a motion to reconsider, there is no time limit on making a motion to rescind or a motion to amend something previously adopted (provided that no action has been taken by anyone in the interim that cannot be undone), and these motions can be moved by any member of the Council, regardless of how that member voted on the original question.
- The effect of passage of this motion is not to place the matter back before the assembly as it was just prior to a vote being taken.
 - Instead, it either entirely nullifies the previous action or modifies it, depending upon which motion is used.
 - For that reason, adoption of a motion to rescind or amend something previously adopted should be carefully considered if third parties may have relied to their detriment on the previous action.
- In order to modify an adopted resolution or ordinance, Council must adopt a new resolution or ordinance making the desired modification, in compliance with all formalities applicable to adoption of a resolution or ordinance (as applicable).

PRIVILEGED MOTIONS

These motions are of such urgency or importance that they are entitled to immediate consideration, even when another motion is pending. This is because these motions do not relate to the pending business but have to do with special matters of immediate and overriding importance that should be allowed to interrupt the consideration of anything else, without debate.

1. Motion to Adjourn. Generally, the presiding officer adjourns the meeting at their discretion at the completion of the agenda. However, any Councilmember may move to adjourn the meeting at any time.

- A motion to adjourn requires a second.
- A motion to adjourn is always a privileged motion except when the motion is conditioned in some way, as in the case of a motion to adjourn at, or to, a future time.
 - Such a conditional motion is not privileged and is treated just as any other main motion.
 - A conditional motion to adjourn at or to a future time is always out of order while business is pending.
- An unconditional, privileged motion to adjourn takes precedence over most other motions.

- The privileged motion to adjourn is neither debatable nor amendable, while a conditioned motion to adjourn is debatable and may be amended.

2. Motion to Recess. A motion to recess is essentially a motion to take a break during the course of a Council meeting.

- A motion to recess must be seconded.
 - A motion to recess that is made when no question is pending is a main motion and should be treated as any other main motion.
 - A motion to recess is said to be privileged if it is made when another question is pending, in which case it takes precedence over all subsidiary and incidental motions and most other privileged motions. It is not debatable and is amendable only as to the length of the recess.
- After a recess, the meeting resumes when the presiding officer has called the meeting back to order.