

A scenic view of a lake with a building and trees in the background, and a dock on the right. The water is calm and reflects the surrounding greenery and the clear blue sky. A concrete dock extends into the water on the right side. In the background, there are several trees and a multi-story brick building with many windows. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

Council Rules Subcommittee

Proposed Council Rule Revisions

City of Tualatin/Legal Services Department

Background

- On February 26, 2024, the City Council appointed a Council Rules Subcommittee to review the Council Rules and report back with proposed changes, if any.
- Council Rule 11A permits the Council to amend its Rules, while Rule 11B permits Council to repeal and replace Rules.
- The Council Rules Subcommittee met 3 times and proposed several revisions to the Rules, focusing on the following subject areas:

Major Council Rules Revisions

- Decorum (strengthen Rules to ensure courteous interactions between Members of Council; guarantee Rules regulating public comment meet constitutional requirements);
- Travel policy (upgraded City-paid economy class airfare for longer trips or when personal circumstances require);
- Mandatory Oregon Government Ethics and Council Rules Training;
- Allow Members of Council to attend any Council Meeting virtually if personal circumstances require.

Decorum- Interactions among Members of Council

- Rule 8B(1): Objective of Decorum Rules.
- Rule 8B(2): Detail how Members of Council can appeal Presiding Officer decision- decorum/points of order.
- Rule 8B(3): No personal attacks/intimidation of fellow Members of Council or any speaker.
- Rule 8B(4): Detail how Members of Council can raise a point of personal privilege if offended by the actions/remarks of another member.

Decorum- Public Comment

Rules 8B(5)/8B(6)and 5D

Revisions ensure:

- Council Rules regarding public comment prohibit actual disruptions;
- Community members can engage in constitutionally permissible expressive conduct.
- Presiding Officer authorized to request disrupter be arrested for Disorderly Conduct if disruption threatens safety/security of the public.

Council Meeting Attendance

Rules 2H(3)/2H(4)

Preference for members to attend Council Meetings in-person, but allows a member to attend virtually if personal circumstances require.

Members of Council attending virtually should:

1. Provide reasonable notice to Presiding Officer/Manager/Deputy City Recorder.
2. Remain for the entire meeting.
3. If attending virtually with video capabilities- keep video turned on.

Travel Policy - Airfare

Rule 12E(3)(a)

Members of Council may choose to book a City-paid premium economy class seat for flights over 2 hours long or if personal circumstances require.

- Members are still required to look for least expensive applicable airfare.
- If a member books a business or first-class seat, they are still required to pay the difference between that rate and the City-paid airfare.

Ethics/Council Rules Training

Rule 8A(4): Members of Council are required to attend/view ethics training prepared by OGEC or the City Attorney at least once during member's term of office.

Rule 8A(5): Members of Council are required to attend/view training on the Council Rules prepared by the Manager or City Attorney within one year of assuming office.

Motions

Rule 5A: Clarify that the Presiding Officer should ensure the motions are clear and understood by Members of Council.

Options/Next Steps

- If there is general consensus to approve revisions as presented, resolution to amend Council Rules on agenda at future Council Meeting (Rule 11A).
- Council may reject all/some of the proposed revisions.
- Direct staff to draft additional revisions to the Council Rules.