



# City of Tualatin Review of Council Rules

City Council Work Session  
February 13, 2023



# Background

**Adopted by Resolution No. 5355-18, February 12, 2018**

**As Amended by Resolution No. 5486-20, March 23, 2020**

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# RULE 1: General Governance

## A. Rules of Procedure.

1. Chapter IV of the Charter authorizes the Council to adopt rules of procedure for Council meetings.<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise provided by the Charter, an ordinance, or these rules, the procedure for all Council meetings, and any subcommittee of the Council, will be guided by Robert's Rules of Order, 11th Edition.
2. To maintain orderly procedures, members of Council should be recognized by the chair before commenting and should maintain decorum with courteous interactions during debate. Members of Council are encouraged to avoid invoking the finer points of parliamentary procedure found in Robert's Rules of Order when such points could obscure the issues before Council and confuse the public.
3. Whenever these rules and Robert's Rules of Order conflict, these rules govern.



# RULE 1: General Governance

## C. Quorum.

1. A quorum is required to conduct official City business. A quorum consists of three (3) Councilors plus the Mayor or Mayor pro tem.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Charter Section 13 (Meetings) (“[the Council] shall adopt rules for the government of its members and proceedings”).

<sup>2</sup> Charter Sections 7 (Council); 8 (Councilors); 8a (Assignment of Council Positions); 9 (Mayor) (describing Council, Mayor, and powers).

<sup>3</sup> Charter Section 8a (Assignment of Council positions).

<sup>4</sup> Charter Section 14, (“Three Councilors and the Mayor or Mayor pro tem shall constitute a quorum for its business, but a small number may meet and compel the attendance of absent members in a manner provided by ordinance.”).



# RULE 1: General Governance

## F. Agendas.<sup>9</sup>

1. The City Manager must prepare an agenda for every meeting, including regular, special, and executive session meetings.
2. Agendas and informational material for meetings will generally be distributed to the Council at least seven (7) days preceding the meeting. However, in certain circumstances less time may be provided.
3. The agenda for a meeting does not require Council approval.
4. The City Manager may place routine items and items referred by staff on the agenda without Council approval or action.
5. The City Manager may remove any items on the consent agenda, any item of old business, any resolution, or any ordinance placed for first reading from the agenda at any time prior to the time the meeting is convened. The Presiding Officer must announce such removal under announcements.
6. A member of Council who wishes to have an item placed on the agenda must bring the matter before the Council for consideration of adding the matter to the agenda and to determine the meeting date on which the agenda item is to be placed, if at all. Adding a matter to the agenda requires a majority vote of the member of Council present at the meeting.
7. As a guiding matter, the Council will not add an item to the agenda on the same night as the item was first submitted by a member of Council for consideration by the full Council. The exception to this general rule is for emergency purposes and only with the unanimous consent of all members of Council present.



# RULE 1: General Governance

## I. Public Comment.

4. Speakers are limited to three (3) minutes. At the discretion of the Presiding Officer, spokespersons for a group of people may be given additional time beyond three (3) minutes to speak on the matter.
5. Before providing any public comment, speakers must announce the person's name and place of residence to the Council.
6. Members of Council may, after obtaining the floor, ask questions of speakers during public comment. In general, members of Council should not respond to comments made during the public comment agenda time, except to ask clarifying questions. Any public requests for Council action will be referred to staff for review before placing it on a future agenda. Any member of Council may intervene if the Mayor or a Councilor is violating the spirit of this guideline.
7. Speakers may play electronic audio or visual material during the time permitted for comment and may use available City-provided audio or visual equipment located in the Council chambers.



# RULE 1: General Governance

## J. Consent Agenda.

1. In order to expedite the Council's business, the approval of minutes and other routine agenda items will be placed on the consent agenda.
2. All items on the consent agenda must be approved by a single motion, unless an item is removed for separate consideration.
3. Any item on the consent agenda may be removed for separate consideration by any member of Council by stating which item is to be removed.
4. Appointments to committees must not be placed on the consent agenda.



## RULE 2: Meeting Time, Location, and Frequency

**A. Regular Meetings.** The Council will generally hold regular meetings at 7:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Monday of each and every month, excluding the fourth Monday in December. If a second or fourth Monday falls on a City-recognized holiday, the meeting will be held on the following business day.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Charter Section 13 (Meetings) (“The Council shall hold a regular meeting at least once a month in the City at a time and a place which is designated.”); Tualatin Municipal Code 1-04 (setting forth specific times of meetings); see also ORS 192.610 to 192.690 (Oregon Public Meetings Law).





# RULE 2: Meeting Time, Location, and Frequency

**B. Special Meetings.** Special meetings may be called by the Mayor, three members of Council, or by the City Manager. <sup>12</sup>

1. The City Manager will provide notice of the special meeting to each member of Council, each local newspaper, radio, and television station, and any other person or entity which has on file a written request for notice of special meetings.
2. The notice of the special meeting must be given to each Councilor via personal notice, telephone, email, or other electronic means sufficient to provide actual notice.
3. Special meetings must be noticed in accordance with Oregon's public meetings law, and, at a minimum, must be noticed at least 24 hours prior to the meeting taking place.

**C. Emergency Meetings.** Emergency meetings may be called by the Mayor, three members of Council, or by the City Manager. <sup>13</sup>

1. The City Manager will provide notice of the emergency meeting to each member of Council, each local newspaper, radio, and television station, and any other person or entity which has on file a written request for notice of emergency meetings.
2. The notice of the emergency meeting must be given to each Councilor via personal notice, telephone, email, or other electronic means sufficient to provide actual notice.
3. Emergency meetings are those meetings called with less than 24 hours' notice and the Council must identify why the meeting could not be delayed 24 hours immediately after calling the meeting to order.



## RULE 2: Meeting Time, Location, and Frequency

**E. Work Sessions.** Work sessions are permitted to present information to the Council so that the Council is prepared for regular or special meetings.<sup>15</sup>

1. Work sessions are generally scheduled, as needed, between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m., immediately preceding each regular meeting.
2. All work sessions are subject to Oregon's public meetings law and must be noticed accordingly.
3. Work sessions are intended to allow for preliminary discussions, and the Council is not permitted to take formal or final action on any matter at a work session.
4. Work sessions are to be scheduled by the City Manager.
5. The City Manager may invite any relevant staff to work sessions so that the sessions are productive as possible.
6. At any work session or regular meeting, a member of Council may request an item be placed on a work session agenda. A majority vote of the Council members present is required to place the item on a future work session agenda.



# RULE 2: Meeting Time, Location, and Frequency

## F. Location of Meetings.<sup>16</sup>

1. Council meetings must be held at City Hall.
2. In the event City hall is not available for a meeting, the Council must meet at a venue open to the public and which is located within the jurisdictional limits of the City.
3. Training sessions may be held outside of the City's jurisdictional limits, provided no deliberations toward a decision are made.
4. Interjurisdictional meetings may be held outside of the City's jurisdictional limits, but should be held as close as practical to the City, and such meetings must be located within the jurisdictional boundaries of the other government entity.
5. No Council meeting must be held at any place where discrimination on the basis of an individuals' race, religion, color, sex, national origin, ethnicity, marital status, familial status, age, gender, sexual orientation, source of income, or disability is practiced.



# RULE 2: Meeting Time, Location, and Frequency

## H. Attendance at Meetings.

1. Under the charter, a Council position becomes vacant if the member of Council is absent from the City for more than 30 days without Council permission or absent from all meetings of the Council within a 60-day period.<sup>18</sup>
2. It is the responsibility of each members of Council to advise the City Manager if the member of Council will be unable to attend any regular, special, emergency, or work session meetings, or any assigned committees. The member of Council should communicate the absence to the City Manager as soon as reasonably practicable under the circumstances.
3. Attendance at meetings must be in person, by telephone, or other electronic means where the person's voice may be heard.<sup>19</sup> The preference of the Council is for all members of Council to attend in person.
4. A member of Council should not attend by telephone, or other electronic means where the person's voice may be heard, more than two consecutive meetings. A member of Council appearing by telephone, or other electronic means where the person's voice may be heard, should remain present for the entire meeting, unless it is the result of a malfunction or technical issue out of the control of the Councilor.



# RULE 3: Ordinances and Resolutions

## 2. Readings and Final Action.

- a. Every ordinance of the Council must, before final passage, be read fully and distinctly in an open Council meeting on two different days.<sup>21</sup>
- b. However, an ordinance may be enacted at a single meeting, if the Council approves the ordinance by the unanimous vote of all Council members present. In such cases, the ordinance must be read first in full and then by title.<sup>22</sup>
- c. Any of the readings may be by title only, instead of a full reading, if:<sup>23</sup>
  1. No Council member present at the meeting requests to have the ordinance read in full; or
- e. The City Recorder, or designee, must take a "roll call" vote of each Councilor upon the final vote on an ordinance and the ayes and nays and abstentions of the members of Council must be recorded in the meeting minutes.<sup>25</sup>



# RULE 3: Ordinances and Resolutions

## 2. Readings and Final Action.

- a. Resolutions do not need to be read in full or by title at a Council meeting prior to adoption.
- b. An affirmative vote of a majority of the Council members present is necessary to pass a resolution.<sup>26</sup>
- c. Resolutions may be placed on the Consent Agenda and may be considered as a group under the Consent Agenda.
- d. Resolutions may also be placed on the agenda as a General Business item.
- e. For resolutions placed on General Business, the City Recorder, or designee, must take a "roll call" vote of each Councilor upon the final vote on the resolution and the ayes and nays and abstentions of the members must be recorded in the meeting minutes.<sup>27</sup>



# RULE 4: Land Use Hearings

Training by Chad Jacobs on February 27



# RULE 5: Motions, Debate, Public Comment, and Voting

## A. Motions. The following rules apply to motions:

1. All motions must be distinctly worded.
2. The Presiding Officer must repeat the motion prior to a vote.
3. The Council will discuss a motion only after the motion has been moved and seconded. Nothing in this section prevents general discussion or expression of opinions before a motion is made.
4. If a motion does not receive a second, it dies.
5. A motion that receives a tie vote fails.<sup>29</sup>
6. A motion to amend can be made to a motion that is on the floor and has been seconded.
7. Amendments are voted on first, then the main motion is voted on, as amended.
8. A member of Council may have a motion which contains several elements divided, but the mover has the right to designate which element will be voted on first.
9. A motion may be withdrawn by the mover at any time without the consent of the Council.
11. A call for the question is intended to close the debate on the main motion; does not require a second and is not debatable.
12. A call for the question fails without a majority vote.





# RULE 5: Motions, Debate, Public Comment, and Voting

**C. Debate.** The following rules govern the debate of any item being discussed by the Council:

1. Every member of Council wishing to speak on the matter must address the Presiding Officer, and, upon recognition by the Presiding Officer, confine remarks to the question under debate, at all times acting and speaking in a respectful manner.
2. Once the member of Council is recognized by the Presiding Officer, the other members of Council must not interrupt, unless it is a call to order.
3. The member of Council moving the adoption of any ordinance or resolution will have the privilege of closing the debate.



# RULE 5: Motions, Debate, Public Comment, and Voting

## D. Public Comment.

1. The public is entitled to comment on all matters before the Council that require a vote.
2. Public comment will occur after the matter up for vote has been presented by City staff and before the Council takes any formal action on the matter.
3. Each member of the public is entitled to comment on the matter before the Council for three (3) minutes.
4. Public comment is a time for comment; it is not a time for debate. Any questions from members of the public to Council or City staff will be referred to City staff for a response to be provided a later time.
5. Prior to giving comment, each person must state the person's name and their place of residence. This information will be used to insure the minutes of the meeting properly reflect those persons who provided public comment.
6. All remarks must be addressed to the Council as a whole. Any person making personal, impertinent, or slanderous remarks, or who becomes boisterous, threatening, or personally abusive while addressing the Council, may be requested to leave the meeting. Applause, boos or other public demonstrations by those attending the Council meeting are considered inappropriate behavior.



# RULE 6: Minutes

## A. Generally.<sup>40</sup>

1. All minutes must be in written form, with an electronic copy of the meeting maintained by the City Recorder, or designee, in accordance with the appropriate record retention schedule.
2. The minutes must contain the following information:
  - a. The date, time and place of the meeting;
  - b. The members of the Council present;
  - c. The motions, proposals, resolutions, orders, ordinances, and measures proposed and their disposition;
  - d. The results of all votes and the vote of each member by name;
  - e. The substance of any discussion on any matter; and
  - f. A reference to any document discussed at the meeting.

## B. Approval. The Council must approve all minutes of any meeting.

1. All minutes must be approved within ninety days of the meeting having occurred.
2. The draft minutes must be submitted to the Council as part of the Council's packet prior to the meeting where they will be discussed.
3. Any member of Council may request an amendment or correction of the minutes prior to a final vote being taken on the minutes.



# RULE 7: Appointments

## E. Appointments of Citizen Members to Boards, Commissions and/or Committees.

1. **Council Committee on Advisory Appointments.** The Council Committee on Advisory Appointments (CCAA) is a standing subcommittee of the Council. The purpose of the CCAA is to screen and recommend citizens to be appointed City Boards, Commissions, and Committees through the following general process:
  - a. The CCAA will conduct interviews of all candidates for appointment, including candidates wishing to renew their appointments.
  - b. After reviewing the candidates, the CCAA will vote on all recommendations and forward those recommendations to the full Council for consideration.
  - c. Upon receiving the recommendation from the CCAA, the Council will place the names for consideration on the regular meeting agenda as a General Business item.
  - d. The Council may consider the candidates submitted as a group or may consider each candidate individually.
  - e. The Council may accept, reject, or appoint any candidate, including those not considered by the CCAA.
  - f. All appointments must be by majority vote of the members of Council present.



# RULE 8: Ethics, Decorum, Outside Statement, and Social Media

## A. Ethics. <sup>49</sup>

1. All members of Council must review and observe the requirements of state ethics laws.
2. In addition to complying with state ethics law, all members of Council must refrain from:
  - a. Disclosing confidential information.
  - b. Taking action which benefits special interest groups or persons at the expense of the City as a whole.
  - c. Expressing an opinion contrary to the official position of the Council without so saying.
  - d. Conducting themselves in a manner so as to bring discredit upon the government of the City.
  - e. Not profiting from their position on Council in violation of state law.
3. All ethics complaints received about a Councilor will be forwarded to the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC).



# RULE 8: Ethics, Decorum, Outside Statement, and Social Media

## B. Decorum.

1. The Presiding Officer will preserve decorum during meetings and decide all points of order, subject to appeal of the Council.
2. Members of the Council will preserve decorum during meetings, and must not, by conversation or action, delay or interrupt the proceedings or refuse to obey the orders of the Presiding Officer or these rules.
3. City staff and all other persons attending meetings must observe the Council's rules of proceedings and adhere to the same standards of decorum as members of Council.
4. All audience members must abide by the rules of decorum contained in these Rules. No audience member may disrupt the conduct of the meeting, clap, cheer, hoot, holler, gesture, whistle, guffaw, jeer, boo, hiss, make remarks out of turn, use profanity, or the like. Any audience member who does so will be deemed out of order and the Presiding Officer may have the person removed from the Council chambers immediately, and the person will not be permitted to attend the remainder of that Council meeting.



# RULE 8: Ethics, Decorum, Outside Statement, and Social Media

## C. Statements to the Media and Other Organizations

1. **Representing City.** If a member of Council, to include the Mayor, appears as a representative of the City before another governmental agency, the media or an organization to give a statement on an issue, the member of Council may only state the official position of the City, as approved by a majority of the Council.
2. **Personal Opinions.** If a member of Council, to include the Mayor, appears in their personal capacity before another governmental agency, the media or an organization to give a statement on an issue, the member of Council must state they are expressing their own opinion and not that of the City or of any other Councilor, unless they receive the express permission of that Councilor, before giving their statement.



# RULE 8: Ethics, Decorum, Outside Statement, and Social Media

## D. Use of Social Media.

1. Members of Council are encouraged to exercise caution when commenting on municipal affairs on social media platforms. While using social media, members of Council are subject to applicable Oregon Laws as they pertain to public meetings and public records retention schedules.
  
4. The digital decorum of elected and appointed officials will be governed by Council Rules. Consistent with these Rules, members of Council must conduct themselves so as to bring credit upon the City government. Councilors must abide by Rule 8 (C)(Statements to the Media and Other Organizations) above in all social medial activities.
  
5. City Council members will refrain from posting comments that:
  - a. Express a Council or Committee position prior to a Council or Committee determination of a position or on a matter that would otherwise require Council or Committee authorization prior to the conveyance of a position; or
  - b. Express an opinion in a manner contrary to Rule 8 (C) (Statements to the Media and Other Organizations) above.





# RULE 9: Interactions with City Staff

**A. City Staff.** All members of Council must respect the separation between the Council's role and the City's Manager's responsibility by:

1. Not interfering with the day-to-day administration of City business, which is the responsibility of the City Manager.<sup>52</sup>
2. Refraining from actions that would undermine the authority of the City Manager or a Department Head.
3. Limiting individual inquiries and requests for information from staff to those questions that may be answered readily as part of staff's day-to-day responsibilities. Questions of a more complex nature must be directed to the City Manager. Questions sent to staff must be copied to the City Manager. Councilors may not directly interfere with staff or the City Manager's management of staff.

**B. City Attorney.** Members of the Council may contact the City Attorney directly without contacting the City Manager in the following circumstances:

1. When the issue involves allegations of misconduct by the City Manager; or
2. To discuss parliamentary procedures of these Rules.



# RULE 10: Enforcement and Consequences

**A. Enforcement.** The Council may ensure compliance with City ordinances, charter, and state laws applicable to governing bodies.<sup>53</sup> If a member of Council violates these rules, City ordinances, the City charter, or state laws applicable to governing bodies, the Council may take action to protect the integrity of the Council and discipline the member with a public reprimand or removal as provided for in the City charter.<sup>54</sup> A majority of the entire Council is required to issue a reprimand.

## **B. Investigations and Hearings.**

1. A majority of the Council may investigate the actions of any member of Council and meet in executive session under ORS 192.660(2)(b) to discuss any finding that reasonable grounds exist that a violation of these rules, local ordinance, the City charter, or state laws applicable to governing bodies has occurred.<sup>55</sup>
2. Before the Council may publicly reprimand or remove a member of Council, the Council must provide the member of Council notice of the alleged violations and an opportunity to be heard on, and rebut, the allegations. Sufficient notice must be given to the affected member of Council to afford them the opportunity to request an open hearing under ORS 192.660(2)(b).<sup>56</sup>



# RULE 11: Amendment and Repeal of Council Rules

**A. Amendment.** These Rules are subject to amendment by the Council.<sup>58</sup>

1. Any proposed amendment to these rules must be listed on an agenda for a regular meeting and the agenda posted prior to the meeting, wherein the same will be discussed, and open for comment by the public, except in cases of an emergency.
2. All amendments to these rules require approval by a majority of a quorum of Council.
3. Amended rules do not go into effect until the meeting after the rule was approved.

**B. Repeal.** These Rules are subject to repeal and replacement by the Council. <sup>59</sup>

1. Any proposed repeal of these rules must be accompanied by a proposed replacement rule.
2. Any proposed repeal and replacement of these rules must be noted on an agenda for a regular meeting and the agenda posted prior to the meeting, wherein the same will be discussed, and open for comment by the public.
3. Any repeal and replacement of these rules requires approval by a majority of a quorum of Council.
4. Any repeal and replacement of these rules does not go into effect until 30 days after the replacement rule was approved.



# RULE 12: Finances and Travel Policy

**A. Financial Statements.** Pursuant to ORS 244.050, members of Council are required to file annual Statements of Economic Interest (SEI) by April 15 of each year. For more information, see the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC) website on how to file.<sup>60</sup>

**B. Health Insurance.** Pursuant to Resolution No. 3837-01, members of Council are entitled to receive the following health insurance benefits:

1. The Mayor may receive City health insurance benefits at the family level.
2. Councilors may each receive City health insurance benefits at the single employee level, not to exceed the level offered to City department managers. In lieu of health insurance benefits, Councilors may receive a stipend in an amount determined by the City's health insurance provider (currently CIS), consistent with all plans and requirements of the health insurance provider. Councilors may obtain family level coverage by paying the difference in the cost of the family policy and the single employee policy.
3. The health insurance benefits provided are subject to the rules for enrollment and contractual conditions of the health insurance provider.

**C. Technology Stipend.** Pursuant to Resolution No. 5128-13, each member of Council is entitled to a technology stipend of \$750.00 to be received at the beginning of their terms of office.

**D. Water Bill.** Pursuant to Resolution No. 3216-96, each member of Council receives a \$20.00 monthly credit on their water bill.



# RULE 12: Finances and Travel Policy

## E. Travel Policy.

1. **Adoption of Reimbursement Rates.** Members of Council may be reimbursed, or may seek an advancement of funds, for normal expenses incurred while carrying out their official duties at the usual and customary rates. Councilors are required to submit receipts and appropriate documentation to the City Manager. Councilors should use prudence in the expenditure of City funds.
2. **Registration Fees for Conferences and Trainings.** Members of Council are encouraged to take advantage of early registration to obtain discounted rates.
3. **Transportation.**
  - a. **Airfare.** The City will pay for roundtrip, coach airfare. Members of Council are expected to look for the least expensive fare available within the appropriate arrival/ departure times. If the member of Council makes first-class or business- class travel reservations, the member of Council must pay the difference between those rates and the coach rate.
  - b. **Vehicle Rental.** Vehicle rental is a reimbursable expense at the midsize rate.
  - c. **Ground Transportation.** Ground transportation (e.g., taxis, buses, mass transit, and shuttles) is a reimbursable expense.
  - d. **Individual Vehicles.** Members of Council will be reimbursed for City-related travel in their individual vehicles for the actual miles traveled at the GSA rate.



# RULE 12: Finances and Travel Policy

## 4. Parking.

- a. Parking fees are reimbursable for business purposes or attending training.
- b. Long-term economy parking at airports is expected to be used for airport travel of more than one day in duration.

## 5. Lodging.

- a. Reimbursement for lodging is authorized when the member of Council's travel requires an overnight accommodation.
- b. Reimbursement will be at the reasonable and customary cost of a single standard room, or at the conference/training rate.
- c. The final itemized lodging bill is required when submitting for reimbursement of the expenditure.
- d. Any additional room charges room service, movies, personal phone calls, laundry service, etc. are the responsibility of the member of Council. If cell phone coverage is unavailable, business calls and reasonable personal calls will be reimbursed. In-room internet is reimbursable.



# RULE 12: Finances and Travel Policy

## 6. Meals.

- a. The City will pay reasonable and customary meal expenses.
- b. Members of Council have the choice of an advance or a reimbursement for the total authorized per diem amount.
- c. When meals are provided as part of the conference or training, reimbursement will generally not be given for that meal without proper cause. Conference “continental” is not considered a meal.
- d. A member of Council may meet with and purchase a meal for others, including persons of other government jurisdictions and professional institutions from which an exchange of information is obtained that may aid the City in improving its efficiency, service, or governance.

**F. Council Report for Certain Expenses.** Any member of Council requesting reimbursement or advancement for a conference or event is required to give an oral or written report about the conference or event to the Council.