

Esther Handy

**Date:** December 1, 2021

**Version:** 1

**Amendment 2**  
**to**  
**RES 32029 – General Rules and Procedures**  
**Author:** CM Pedersen  
**Sponsor:** CP González  
Abstentions on Non-Budget Resolutions

Beginning on p. 20 of Attachment 1 to Resolution 32029, make the following changes:

**V. CITY COUNCIL VOTING**

**A. Voting Required; Disqualification Process.**

1. Every CM in attendance shall vote on all actions before the City Council, except when CMs must disqualify themselves from voting as required by either the City’s Code of Ethics<sup>1</sup> or the Washington State Appearance of Fairness Doctrine. CMs may also disqualify themselves from voting to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest, unless a majority of those present vote that there is no conflict.  
(See Rule V.D.2 Announcing and Recording Votes.)

2. Abstentions are not allowed on actions, other than Resolutions not from the Select Budget Committee. CMs not having abstained or disqualified themselves pursuant to Rule V.A.1 shall vote “Aye” or “No.”

3. All votes shall be recorded by the City Clerk in the Journal of the Proceedings.<sup>2</sup>

**B. Roll Call Voting.**

A roll call vote shall be taken when voting on final passage of Bills and on other business when requested by a CM. A roll call vote is called in alphabetical order of last name, except for the President, whose name is always called last. At each regular Council meeting, the first name on the roll, in a systematic rotation, is moved to the name immediately preceding the President’s name.

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<sup>1</sup> SMC Chapter 4.16.

<sup>2</sup> Charter, Art. IV, § 4.

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### **C. Voice Vote.**

A voice vote may be taken on any matter of business before the City Council, unless a roll call vote has been requested as provided in Rule V.B.

### **D. Announcing and Recording Votes.**

1. After a roll call vote, the City Clerk shall announce the “ayes” and “nos” ~~and in~~ addition to “abstentions” and “disqualifications” for all votes and enter them into the Journal of the Proceedings. The announcement of the result of any vote shall not be postponed.

2. When a CM is in attendance and has been disqualified from voting under Rule I.B.2.d, the City Clerk shall record and announce “in attendance, but disqualified from voting.” (See Rule V.A.1 Voting Required.)

### **E. Proxy Votes.**

There are no proxy votes.

### **F. Tie Vote.**

In the event of a tie vote, a motion does not pass.

### **G. Motion to Reconsider.**

1. After the final vote on any motion, Bill, Resolution, Clerk File, or Appointment, and before the adjournment of that City Council meeting, any CM who voted with the prevailing side may move for reconsideration of the original motion. Seconds to motions for reconsideration may be from either side.

a. If the result of the final vote is to pass any motion, Bill, Resolution, Clerk File, or Appointment, any reconsideration vote must take place before adjournment of that meeting, or else there shall be no reconsideration vote.

b. If a Bill is moved for final passage and fails to pass, and a motion to reconsider is made, the motion to reconsider shall not be voted on before the next meeting of the City Council.<sup>3</sup>

2. A motion to reconsider takes precedence over every other motion, except a motion to adjourn.

3. Motions to reconsider a vote upon amendments to any pending question shall be made and decided immediately.

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<sup>3</sup> Charter, Art. IV, § 10.

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4. A motion to amend that does not pass in a committee meeting shall not be reconsidered, but the motion to amend may be offered to the City Council.

**Effect:** This amendment would allow Councilmembers to abstain from Council votes on all resolutions that were referred either to the Council directly or to most standing and select committees prior to a Council vote. However, Councilmembers would not be allowed to abstain from Council votes on resolutions that come to the Council with recommendations from the Select Budget Committee.