



City of Seattle
Legislative Department

General Rules and Procedures
of the
Seattle City Council

(As adopted by Resolution **31659**_____, **April 2018**)

**GENERAL RULES AND PROCEDURES
OF THE SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL**

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GENERAL RULES AND PROCEDURES OF THE SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

I. COUNCIL COMPOSITION, POWERS, AND DUTIES

A. Council – General Authority; Annual Report; Legislation Retirement.

1. The City Council shall establish rules for its proceedings.*
2. As the Legislative branch of City government, the City Council shall establish policy for the City.
3. The City Council has the authority to create and use committees of its members to facilitate its legislative functions; provided that no committee of the Council and no individual member of the Council shall have or exercise executive or administrative power, except as provided in the Charter.†
4. The City Council has authority to punish its members and others for disorderly or otherwise contemptuous behavior in its presence, and to expel for such behavior in its presence any members by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of its members, specifying in the order of expulsion the cause thereof.‡
5. The Council ~~will~~ shall produce an Annual Legislative Report, as designated by the President. The report ~~will~~ shall identify accomplishments of the Council in the preceding year and objectives of the Council for the coming calendar year, in a report format determined by the President.
6. ~~_Council Bills, Resolutions, Clerk Files, and Appointments in committee or before the City Council for at least one year prior to In-March 1st of each year; the Full Council shall be considered for retirement. any Clerk File, Resolution or Bill that has been in a standing committee or before the Council for at least one year prior to that date.~~
7. Throughout these Rules, “City Council” is used when referring only to the body that meets at regular meetings as described in Rule II.A and actions taken by that body, regardless of meeting type. “Council” is used when referring to the City Council or any subdivision of it, as the context requires.

* Charter, Art. IV, § 4.

† Charter, Art. IV, § 4.

‡ Charter, Art. IV, § 4.

B. Members – Abbreviated as CMs; General Duties; Protest of Actions.

1. Members of the City Council, or Councilmembers, are abbreviated as CMs throughout these Rules.

2. CMs shall:

- a. Uphold the public trust and demonstrate integrity, honesty, and fairness;
- b. Exercise budget and fiduciary responsibility;
- c. Be responsive to citizens; and
- d. Disqualify themselves from acting on City business when disqualification is required by the City’s Code of Ethics*, by common law, or by the Appearance of Fairness Doctrine.

(See “Council Rules for Quasi-Judicial Proceedings Before the City Council” as adopted by Resolution 31602.)

(See ~~also~~ Rule V.A.1 Voting Required.)

3. Any CM may protest against the action of the City Council upon any question and have the oral objection entered upon the Journal of the Proceedings. If the protesting CM wishes the Journal of the Proceedings to contain a written objection, the objection shall be filed with the Office of the City Clerk ~~within~~ 48 business hours following the action being objected.

C. President – Appointment; Duties.

1. Biennially, and also whenever the position of President becomes vacant, the City Council shall elect from its members a President,[†] who shall perform the usual functions of a presiding officer.[†]

2. The President may be removed by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of all CMs.[‡]

3. The President shall:

a. ~~a.~~ Preside over City Council meetings.

i. Call the City Council to order at the hour appointed for City Council meetings, or at the hour to which the City Council shall have adjourned at the preceding session.

ii. ~~, and, if a quorum is in attendance, P~~ proceed with the order of business ~~if a quorum is in attendance and adjourn the Council when business is~~

* SMC 4.16.

† Charter, Art. IV, § 4.

‡ Charter, Art. IV, § 4.

~~deemed finished.~~

~~b. b.~~ Sign all Bills in authentication of their passage in open session* and sign all Resolutions in authentication of their adoption.

c. Promote efficient operation of the Council, including setting the ~~Full-City~~ Council agenda and expediting parliamentary debate, or if there is no objection from any other ~~CM~~member, expediting the passage of routine motions.

d. Preserve order and decorum within the Council Chamber when acting as a presiding officer.

e. Assign legislation to committees.

f. Monitor ~~standing~~ committee agendas to ensure issues are appropriate to respective committees, and within the scope or work program of said committee, or as otherwise assigned.

g. Act as Mayor in the Mayor's absence from the City or incapacitation.†

i. The President may simultaneously serve as President and act as Mayor; however, when the President, acting as Mayor, is confronted on a particular matter with a conflict of duties and responsibilities so fundamental that the public interest requires it, the President shall act as Mayor ~~only~~.

ii. If, under Charter Art. XIX, § 6.B, the President declines to become Mayor upon a Mayoral vacancy, the Council's duty to select one of its members to become Mayor shall be performed within five days of the President's declination.

h. Head the Legislative Department‡, including providing for the orientation of new CMs.

4. The President may speak to points of order, inquiry, or information in preference to other CM and shall decide all questions of order subject to an appeal to the City Council by any CM.

(See ~~also~~ Rule IV.G Point of Order.)

5. While speaking upon any question before the City Council, the President shall have the right to turn the Cchair over to the President Pro Tem.

* Charter, Art. IV, § 11.

† Charter, Art. V, § 9.

‡ Charter, Art. III, § 3.

6. The President may create select or other non-standing committees and shall appoint the membership of a select or other non-standing committee as required, or as deemed necessary to efficiently conduct the business of the Council, and designate the number of committee members necessary for a quorum.

7. As provided by Section Rule VI.B ~~of these rules~~, the President shall not serve as the Chair of the Finance Committee.

D. President Pro Tem – Designation; Duties.

1. Biennially, the City Council ~~will~~shall designate by Resolution a list of Presidents Pro Tem. ~~The list~~ ~~will~~shall start with the most senior CM other than the President and continue in descending order of seniority, with alphabetical order of last name used to break ties, and the position ~~will~~shall rotate monthly. In the case of a City Council vacancy and subsequent appointment, the appointee ~~will~~shall fill the position of the departed CM in the rotation.

2. In the absence of the President Pro Tem, the CM designated for the next month shall act as President Pro Tem.

3. The President Pro Tem shall:*

a. Act as President in the case of incapacitation or absence of the President.

b. Act as President when the President, acting as Mayor, is confronted with a conflict of duties and responsibilities so fundamental that the public interest requires it.

(See Rule I.C.3.~~g~~h President.)

* Charter, Art. V, § 9.

II. ~~FULL-CITY~~ COUNCIL MEETINGS

A. Regular Meetings – Time; Location; Quorum; Preliminary Agenda.*

1. The ~~Full-City~~ Council ~~shall~~ meets each Monday except as listed below. -Regular meetings shall convene at 2 p.m., and the ~~City Clerk shall enter the~~ time of adjournment ~~shall be entered~~ in the Journal of the Proceedings.

a. If ~~a~~ Monday is a legal holiday, then the regular ~~Full Council~~-meeting shall be held on the next day that is not a legal holiday.

b. Regular meetings are not held on the last two Mondays in August nor on the last two Mondays in December.

c. Any regular meeting ~~of the Full Council~~ may be canceled by the President or a majority vote of CMs.

2. ~~RFull Council~~ regular meetings are held at Seattle City Hall in the Council Chamber. The ~~City City~~-Council may meet at another location in the event of an emergency or disaster.[†]

3. A quorum consists of a majority of all nine CMs except as listed below.[‡]

~~a. a- During a declared emergency under Article V, Section 2 of the Charter, a quorum shall for all purposes consist of a majority of all CMs who are available to participate in City Council meetings and are capable of performing the duties of the office; and in such a declared emergency for all purposes, the City Council shall consist of a majority of such CMs available to participate in regular City Council meetings.~~

~~b. Except when Rule II.A.3.b-a applies, in order to select a person to fill a vacancy on the City Council, a quorum shall consist of a majority of those CMs currently holding office, at the time the Council makes the selection, and for such purpose a majority of such members holding office at the time the Council makes the selection shall constitute a majority of the Council.~~

~~b. During a declared emergency under Article V, Section 2 of the Charter, a quorum shall for all purposes consist of a majority of all those CMs who are available to participate in Council meetings and are capable of performing the duties of office, and a majority of such members available to participate in Council meetings and capable of performing the duties of office shall constitute a majority of the Council.~~

* Charter, Art. IV, § 6.

† Charter, Art. IV, § 6.

‡ Charter, Art. IV, § 3.

4. Less than a quorum of CMs may adjourn from day to day, or until the next regular meeting, and may compel the attendance of absent members in such a manner and under such penalties as the City Council prescribes.*
(See ~~also~~ Rule II.D.2 Attendance.)

5. Preliminary agendas of upcoming regular ~~Full Council~~ meetings ~~will~~ shall list items on which action is expected to be taken and ~~will~~ shall be made available to the public. All reasonable effort ~~will~~ shall be made to ~~provide~~ publish the preliminary agenda online and provide it in hard copy at least two business days prior to the meeting.

B. Special Meetings – Calling; Notice; Limitations; Location.

A special meeting is a meeting held at a time, date, or location that differs from a regular meeting.

1. The Mayor, the President of the City ~~City~~ Council, or any three CMs may call a special meeting ~~of the Council consistent with Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 42.30.080.~~[†]

2. Notices of special meetings shall be in accordance with RCW 42.30.080.

a. The only items of business for which final action may be taken at a special meeting are those items listed on the written notice.

b. Special meetings are held in the Council Chamber in Seattle City Hall; ~~unless~~ a specific alternate location is established by the party calling the meeting, ~~be~~ that whether the Mayor, the President, or three CMs; ~~;~~ and notice as required under RCW 42.30.080 is given.

3. If a CM is not able to be present at a special City Council meeting, and if approved by a majority of CMs present at the meeting, the CM may participate and vote by any electronic means (e.g., multi-party telephone or video conferencing) utilized by the Council for such purpose.

C. Emergency Meetings – Calling; CMs' Electronic Attendance.

1. Emergency City Council meetings ~~of the Council~~ may be called by the Mayor, President, or any two CMs, consistent with the provisions of ~~RCW~~ chapter 42.30 RCW and RCW 42.14.075.[‡]

2. Meeting time, location, and notice requirements do not apply to emergency meetings called for emergency matters as permitted by RCW 42.30.070, RCW 42.30.080, and RCW 42.14.075.

* Charter, Art. IV, § 3.

† Charter, Art. IV, § 6.

‡ Charter, Art. IV, § 6.

3. Emergency meetings are open to the public unless exempt under [RCW 42.30](#) ~~chapter~~ [42.30 RCW](#).

4. If a natural disaster, fire, flood, earthquake, enemy attack, imminent enemy attack, or other catastrophic emergency that renders a CM's physical attendance at a meeting impracticable, or if approved by a majority of CMs present at an emergency meeting, the CM may ~~participate~~ attend and vote by any electronic means (e.g., multi-party telephone or video conferencing) utilized by the Council for such purpose.

D. Attendance – Requirements; Excuses.

1. CMs ~~must~~ shall attend all regular ~~Full-City~~ Council meetings, unless excused by the ~~Full-City~~ Council.[§]
2. Three CMs, including the President or President Pro Tem acting in the capacity of the President, or four CMs otherwise, ~~may be authorized to~~ compel the attendance of absent unexcused CMs at the ~~Full-City~~ Council meeting, ~~and but~~ may adjourn from day to day if necessary until a quorum can be convened.[†]
3. A CM may obtain a leave of absence or be excused from a particular meeting by vote of the ~~Full-City~~ Council before or during the meeting to which the leave of absence or excuse would apply.
4. No more than four CMs may be excused from any one ~~Full-City~~ Council meeting, except during ~~the month of~~ November ~~B~~budget deliberations, when no more than two CMs may be excused from any one ~~Full-City~~ Council meeting.
5. If the maximum number of CMs has been excused for any one particular meeting, the last CM ~~having requested and so~~ excused ~~absence for that meeting will shall~~ be considered “on-call.” An “on-call” CM may make arrangements with any other excused CM to switch on-call status trade places in the order of excused absences for a particular meeting. And they such switch must be communicated with the President and the City Clerk.
6. The City Clerk shall record the attendance and requests for excused absence(s) from ~~Full-City~~ Council meetings in the Journal of the Proceedings.

[§] ~~Charter, Art. IV, § 3.~~

[†] Charter, Art. IV, § 3.

III. ~~FULL-CITY~~ COUNCIL BUSINESS

A. Legislation – Introduction; Referral; Requirements.

1. Introduction of Legislation.

a. All submitted legislation ~~shall be~~ reviewed by the City Clerk ~~before it is~~ and sent to the Council President.

b. The ~~Council~~ President ~~shall~~ assigns the appropriate committee or Full-City Council to receive the legislation and determines when to send the legislation to the committee chair.

c. The committee chair determines whether and when to place the legislation onto the Council's Introduction and Referral Calendar. Prior to introduction and before final passage by the Council, additional sponsors of the legislation may be added with consent of the primary sponsor.

d. When adoption of the Introduction and Referral Calendar is being considered during each ~~regular Full-City~~ Council meeting, it ~~can~~ may be modified by a majority vote of CMs present. Modifications include amendment to titles, committee referral, sponsorship, and ~~removing or~~ adding ~~new pieces of~~ legislation.

e. After the Introduction and Referral Calendar is adopted, legislation is in the control of the referred committee or City Council. ~~to which it has been referred.~~

2. Relieving a Committee of Legislation.

The City Council may relieve a committee of legislation ~~that is referred to a specific committee.~~ in one of two ways:

a. With consent from the current committee chair, the proposed committee chair, and the ~~Council~~ President, legislation may be re-referred to the proposed committee on the Introduction and Referral Calendar; or:

b. ~~If there is not consent on the proposal as described in Rule III.2.a, a~~ A motion to ~~consider the re-referral~~ relieve the committee may be considered at the Full-City Council meeting during consideration of the adoption of the Introduction and Referral Calendar and requires a majority vote of ~~the Full-Council~~ CMs present.

3. A Resolution shall ~~cannot~~ not be adopted at the same meeting at which it is introduced except by passage of at least two-thirds vote of the CMs present, except that: resolutions pursuant to Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) Chapter 10.02 to terminate civil emergencies

~~require at least two-thirds vote of all CMs. Resolutions may not be presented for final passage at a Full-City Council meeting unless reviewed by the Law Department and circulated via email to all CMs, the Central Staff Director, and the City Clerk, at least two hours before the meeting.~~

4. A Bill ~~shall not~~ ~~cannot~~ be introduced and passed at the same meeting, except for the weekly Bill for payment of bills, salaries, and claims.*

5. No Bill shall become an Ordinance unless on its final passage at least a majority of all nine CMs vote in its favor.† In some cases, passage requires more than a majority vote.

~~6. At a regular City Council meeting, No Resolution shall be presented for passage adoption and no Bill introduced unless reviewed by the Law Department and circulated via email to all CMs, the Central Staff Director, and the City Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on the Friday preceding business day preceding a City Council meeting or by 5:00 p.m. on the business day preceding other City Council meetings, unless a public disturbance, natural disaster or other exigent circumstance requires more immediate Council action.~~

~~76.~~ Amendments to Bills and Resolutions ~~shall~~ ~~may~~ not be presented at a ~~Full-City~~ Council meeting unless previously reviewed by the Law Department and circulated via email to all CMs, the Central Staff Director, and the City Clerk at least two hours before the meeting. In cases, including but not limited to, amendments to development regulations subject to the Growth Management Act, a statute may require additional public notice and opportunity for public comment before ~~and~~ amended Bill may be passed.

B. Order of Business.

1. The President shall announce the business of the ~~City~~ Council at ~~its~~ regular ~~Full~~ ~~Council~~ meetings, which shall ordinarily be disposed of in the following order:

- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Approval of the Introduction and Referral Calendar
- d. Approval of the Agenda
- e. Presentations
- f. Approval of the Journal
- g. Public Comment
- h. Payment of Bills, Claims, and Salaries
- i. Committee Reports (discussion and vote on Bills, Resolutions, ~~and~~ Clerk Files, ~~and~~ Appointments)
- j. Adoption of Other Resolutions
- k. Other Business

* Charter, Art. IV, § 8.

† Charter, Art. IV, § 8.

1. Adjournment

2. Upon the passage of each Bill, the President shall announce that the President is signing the Bill, and if so requested by any CM, that Bill shall be read at length so as to ensure its correctness before it shall become enrolled.*

* Charter, Art. IV, § 11.

C. Reconsideration of Vetoed Bills.*

1. The City Council shall reconsider and vote again on the passage of any Bill that is vetoed by the Mayor, in accordance with the Charter.
2. Reconsideration shall occur not less than five days after the Mayor's written objection of the Bill is published, and not more than 30 days after the return of the Bill by the Mayor.
3. Passage of a Bill during reconsideration shall be by two-thirds vote of all the CMs.
4. Any Bill presented to the City Council for reconsideration that does not pass during the first vote of reconsideration shall be deemed finally lost.

D. Journal of the Proceedings ~~of the Seattle City Council.~~

1. The City Clerk shall record into the Journal of the Proceedings of the Seattle City Council the proceedings of the ~~Full-City~~ Council at its regular and special meetings, and reports to the ~~Full-City~~ Council by committees.
2. The Journal of the Proceedings shall be presented to the City Council for approval at a regular ~~Full-City~~ Council meeting.
3. The Journal of the Proceedings is a public document.

* Charter, Art. IV, § 12.

IV. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

If the ~~se~~ General Rules and Procedures ~~of the City Council~~ are silent on a matter of parliamentary procedure, the 11th Edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised ~~will~~ shall govern the Council in all cases to which ~~they are~~ it is applicable.

A. Rules of Debate.

When any CM wishes to speak, the CM shall address the Chair.

1. When recognized, the CM shall, in a courteous manner, confine comments to the question under debate.
2. The CM who sponsors a Bill, Resolution, Clerk File, Appointment, or motion has the privilege of speaking first and last upon it.
3. No CM shall impugn the motives of any other CM, or speak more than twice except for explanation during the consideration of any one question.

B. Consideration of Motions.

1. No motion shall be entertained or debated until duly seconded and announced by the Chair.
2. The motion shall be recorded and, if requested by any CM, it shall be read by the City Clerk before it is debated.
3. Until the Chair states the question, the maker of the motion has the right to modify or withdraw it. ~~If the motion is modified by the maker before the Chair states the question,~~ the CM who seconded the motion may withdraw the second.
4. Motions shall be entertained in the order of precedence outlined in the 11th Edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised.

MOTION TO:	Debatable?	Amendable?	Vote?	May be reconsidered?
Adjourn	No	No	Maj	No
Recess	No	Yes	Maj	No
Reconsideration (Rule V.G)	Yes	No	Maj	No
Lay on the Table (Rule IV.J)	No	No	Maj	Yes
Take from the Table (Rule IV.K)	No	No	Maj	No
Call the Question (Rule IV.H)	No	No	2/3	Yes
Hold to a Certain Time (Rule IV.I)	Yes	Yes	Maj	Yes
Commit to a Committee	Yes	Yes	Maj	Yes
Amend or Substitute	Yes	Yes	Maj	Yes
Hold Indefinitely (Rule IV.L)	Yes	No	Maj	Affirmative vote may be reconsidered
All motions must be seconded to be entertained or debated. See Rule IV.B.1.				

C. Amendment Form.

1. CMs may offer for consideration amendments to proposed legislation to the body considering that legislation, whether ~~the~~ at a Full-City Council, or a select, or standing committee meeting. An amendment is a pending motion until it is voted on. Amendments to legislation must be seconded, are debatable, and are adopted by a majority vote.

Proposed amendments should take the form of either:

- a. To insert, or to add language;
 - b. To delete language;
 - c. A combination of *a* and *b* having the following forms:
 - i. To delete and insert (which applies to words);
 - ii. To substitute; that is, to delete a paragraph or the parts or the entire text of a legislation or main motion, and insert another in its place.
2. Added language shall be underlined and deleted language shall be shown with strikethrough format.
3. To promote efficiency, the Chair may accept consideration of an oral amendment that can be clearly stated in a suitable form. The Chair may also request the oral amendment be reread or presented in writing before the question is stated.

D. Parliamentary Inquiry.

A CM may direct a Parliamentary Inquiry to the presiding officer to obtain information on a matter of parliamentary law or the rules of the organization bearing on the business at hand. Inquiries may relate ~~assist a CM to~~, e.g., make an appropriate motion, raise a proper point of order, or clarify ~~understand~~ the parliamentary situation or the effect of a motion.

E. Recognition by the Chair.

If two or more CMs rise at the same time, the Chair shall designate the one who shall speak first.

F. Division of a Question.

Any CM may call for a division of a question, which shall be divided if it embraces subjects so distinct that, if one is taken away, a substantive proposition shall remain for the decision of the Council.

G. Point of Order.

1. The Chair shall decide all points of order.
2. If dissatisfied with the decision of the Chair, any CM may appeal the decision.
3. In all cases of appeal, the question shall be: "Shall the decision of the Chair be sustained?"

4. No CM may speak more than once on an appeal without the consent of a majority of ~~the~~ CMs in attendance.

5. The decision in response to the appeal shall be by majority vote of the CMs in attendance. In case of a tie vote, the decision of the Chair shall stand.

H. Call the Question.

A CM may make a motion to Call the Question (also known as Previous Question) to end debate on an immediate pending motion. ~~This~~ motion requires a two-thirds vote in favor.

I. Hold to a Certain Time.

To postpone a question to a certain time, and within limits, the motion shall state a definite date, meeting, or hour, or until after a certain event.

J. Lay on the Table.

A majority of CMs present may decide to temporarily halt consideration of a question immediately and without debate during a meeting. The maker of a motion to Lay on the Table must state the reason for the motion. A motion that has been laid on the table may be brought back by a motion to Take from the Table until the end of the next meeting.

K. Take from the Table.

Once a question has been laid on the table, it ~~can~~ may be taken from the table by a majority vote of CMs present, as soon as the interrupting business has been disposed of or whenever no other question is pending.

L. Hold Indefinitely.

A majority of CMs present may decide not to take a direct vote or position on a main question by disposing of it with a motion to Hold Indefinitely. The question may ~~shall~~ not be brought back again for at least 60 days.

V. ~~FULL~~CITY COUNCIL VOTING

A. Voting Required; Disqualification Process.

1. Every CM in attendance shall vote on all actions before the ~~Full~~City Council, except ~~when that~~ CMs must disqualify themselves from voting ~~if disqualification~~ is required by either the City's Code of Ethics* or the Washington State Appearance of Fairness Doctrine, ~~and~~ 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 ~~also~~ Rule V.D.2 Announcing and Recording Votes.)

2. Abstentions are not allowed. CMs not having 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.†

B. Roll Call Voting.

A roll call vote will ~~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.

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 "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 ~~also~~ Rule V.A.1 Voting Required.)

* SMC 4.16.

† Charter, Art. IV, § 4.

E. Proxy Votes.

There are no proxy votes. A CM may cast a vote only if in attendance at the time the vote is taken, except as provided for in Rule II.C.4.

F. Tie Vote.

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

G. ~~Reconsideration~~ Motion to Reconsider.

1. After the final vote on any motion, Bill, Resolution, ~~or~~ Clerk File, or Appointment, and before the adjournment of that 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, ~~or~~ 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 Full-City Council.*

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.

4. A motion to amend that does not pass in a ~~standing or select~~ committee meeting ~~cannot~~ shall not be reconsidered, but the motion to amend may be offered to the Full-City Council.

* Charter, Art. IV, § 10.

VI. STANDING COMMITTEES*

A. Formation.

1. Standing committees are formed after the biennial election of a President.
2. Formation of standing committees, i.e., the identification of committees' scopes of work, regular meeting schedules, and Chair and membership assignments, shall be adopted by Resolution.

B. Membership.

1. Membership of a standing committee generally consists of a Chair, two other CMs, and an alternate.
2. If the vacancy of a City Council position requires the appointment and/or election of a replacement CM, the replacement CM shall assume the replaced CM's committee duties and responsibilities, unless stated otherwise by resolutions shall be proposed by the President, and shall be established by Council Resolution to be adopted within 45 days of the date the replacement CM takes office.
3. Any CM may attend a standing committee meeting.
4. There is no quorum requirement for standing committee meetings.
5. The President shall not serve as the Chair of the Finance Committee.

C. Meetings.

1. Meetings are held in the Council Chamber in Seattle City Hall unless a specific alternate location is established by the Chair with the concurrence of a majority of the regular members of the committee, and appropriate public notice and access are provided.
2. The Council sets regular meeting dates and times by Resolution. -Regular meetings are generally held twice a month. The committee Chair may cancel a meeting at any time.
3. Meetings shall be noticed both as committee meetings and as Full-City Council meetings, with the agenda limited to committee business and only rules and procedures applicable to committees in effect.
4. Preliminary agendas for upcoming regular meetings will-shall list items for which discussion and/or recommendation is expected, and items where a final recommendation is expected, shall be listed as possible vote for proper notification, will-shall be made available to the public. All reasonable effort will-shall be made to provide-publish the preliminary agenda online and provide it in hard copy at least two business days prior to

* Charter, Art. IV, § 4.

the meeting.

5. All reasonable effort ~~will~~shall be made to make materials that are to be presented in a regular meeting available online at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting, and copies will be made available to those attending the meeting.

D. Special Meetings.

A special meeting is a meeting held at a time, date, or location that differs from a regular meeting

1. Special meetings may be scheduled by the committee Chair.

2. Notices of special meetings shall be in accordance with RCW 42.30.080. All reasonable effort ~~will~~shall be made to ~~publish~~make the preliminary agenda ~~available~~ online and provide it in hard copy at least two business days prior to the meeting.

3. The only items of business for which final action may be taken at a special meeting are those items listed on the written notice.

E. Attendance – Requirements; Excuses.

1. It is the duty of each member of a committee to attend its meetings.

2. If a CM is unable to attend a meeting, ~~it is the responsibility of~~ the CM's office ~~to~~shall inform the committee Chair and the committee alternate as soon as practical. ~~When an alternate is notified of the absence, the alternate is expected to~~shall attend the meeting unless the alternate is also unavailable. ~~If the alternate is unable to attend, it is the responsibility of~~ the alternate's office ~~to~~shall notify the Chair.

3. A committee member may be excused with the consent of the Chair.

F. Duties of the Chair.

~~It is the duty of t~~The committee Chair ~~shall~~to:

1. Provide at each meeting a public comment period pursuant to Rule XI.C.3.a.

2. Act as presiding officer and call the meetings to order at the appointed times.

3. State the amount of time allowed for speakers and announce instructions to the speakers at the start of each meeting. The Chair may allow additional time for the submission of written comment from the public.

4. Announce CMs in attendance at the call to order and as they join the meeting.

5. Recognize CMs and, in accordance with these General Rules and Procedures, others who wish to speak.
6. Set the committee's agenda consistent with the committee's assigned scope of work and the [City Council Work Program](#).
7. Run meetings expeditiously.
8. Preserve order and decorum.

G. Duties and Responsibilities of Members.

Committee members shall acquaint themselves with the interests of the City specifically represented by that committee, and shall make recommendations to the ~~Full-City~~ Council on Council Bills, Resolutions, ~~and~~ Clerk Files, and Appointments, and such other reports as in their judgment(s) ~~will~~shall advance the interests and promote the welfare of the people of the City.

H. Voting, Referral, and Reporting.

1. Any CM attending a standing committee meeting may vote, or abstain from voting, on issues before the committee.
2. Committee action on any Council Bill, Resolution, ~~or~~ Clerk File, or Appointment is shall be limited to recommendations for the ~~Full-City~~ Council to consider when voting on final action for that item.
3. Committees shall not vote on a final recommendation on any Bill, Resolution, ~~or~~ Clerk File, or Appointment on the same day that a public hearing was held on that item, except upon passage of a motion by the Chair to suspend this Rule.
4. Starting at noon on the Thursday immediately preceding a regular ~~Full-City~~ Council meeting, committees shall not refer legislation to that meeting for final action except upon passage of a motion by the Chair to suspend this Rule and the concurrence of the President.
5. Committee Reports.

~~a. Standing e~~Committees shall report their actions and have a written record of final recommendations on ~~any~~ legislation ~~reported out~~ to the ~~Full-City~~ Council. ~~The record~~Reports shall include the committee recommendation, the names of CMs members in attendance and their decision of each CM on -votes on each the final recommendation whether voting in favor, voting opposed, ~~and/or~~ abstaining from voting. Reports of standing committees shall be entered in the Journal of the Proceedings.

a. If a committee recommendation is not unanimous:

1. Unless otherwise authorized by the President and the committee Chair, the committee report shall be reported to the second regular City Council meeting after the date of the recommendation; and

2. Immediately after the meeting at which the recommendation is voted on, the Clerk of the committee shall provide the committee report on such legislation to all CMs.

b. A CM abstaining from voting does not make the vote non-unanimous.

6. Divided Reports:

A divided report may accompany any non-unanimous committee recommendation. Divided reports include an indication of how each CM voted. Divided reports shall also include a statement describing the rationale for each voting CM's position.

a. Divided reports shall only be presented to the City Council if a CM who voted against the committee recommendation submits a request for a divided report to the President, the Central Staff Director, and the City Clerk at least four calendar days before presentation of the recommendation to the City Council. Divided reports shall be distributed to all CMs by noon the day presentation of the recommendation is scheduled to be made to the City Council.

b. When reporting a non-unanimous recommendation with a divided report to the City Council:

1. The majority position shall be considered first;

2. If there is no majority position, the position of the Chair shall be considered first.

~~b. If a committee recommendation is not unanimous, the Clerk of the committee shall provide a report on such legislation to all CMs immediately following the conclusion of the meeting.~~

~~c. Unless otherwise authorized by the President and the committee Chair, a committee recommendation that is not unanimous shall be sent to the second regular Full Council meeting after the date of the recommendation.~~

~~d. Reports of standing committees shall be entered in the Journal of the Proceedings of the City Council.~~

VII. SELECT COMMITTEES

A. Establishment of Select Committees Formation.

The President may create, amend, or abolish select committees and shall appoint the Chair and membership to select or other non-standing committees as required, or as deemed necessary to efficiently conduct the business of the Council. ~~When creating the committee, the President shall specify the quorum for convening meetings, making recommendations, or taking committee action. Any committee created under this Rule may be of limited duration or focus.~~

B. Meetings.

1. Meetings are held in the Council Chamber in Seattle City Hall unless a specific alternate location is established by the Chair with the concurrence of a majority of the regular members of the committee, and appropriate public notice and access are provided.

2. Regular meeting dates, times, and locations may be determined in advance and filed in a Clerk File by the President upon creation of the select committee. The committee Chair may cancel a meeting at any time.

3. Meetings shall be noticed both as committee meetings and as City Full Council meetings, with the agenda limited to committee business and only rules and procedures applicable to committees in effect.

4. Preliminary agendas for upcoming regular meetings will-shall list items for which discussion and/or recommendation is expected and items where a final recommendation is expected; shall be listed as possible vote for public notification will be made available to the public, with the exception of the Budget Committee pursuant to Rule VII.H.3. All reasonable effort will-shall be made to provide the preliminary agenda online and in hard copy at least two business days prior to the meeting, with the exception of the Budget Committee, which shall publish agendas pursuant to Rule VII.H.4.

5. All reasonable effort will-shall be made to make materials that are to be presented in the meeting available online at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting, and copies will shall be made available to those attending the meeting.

C. Special Meetings.

A special meeting is a meeting held at a time, date, or location that differs from a regular meeting.

1. Special meetings may be scheduled by the committee Chair.

2. Notices of special meetings shall be in accordance with RCW 42.30.080. All reasonable effort will-shall be made to makepublish the preliminary agenda available online and provide it in hard copy at least two business days prior to the meeting.

3. The only items of business for which final action may be taken at a special meeting are those items listed on the written notice.

D. Attendance – Requirements; Excuses.

1. ~~It is the duty of each member of a committee to~~ Each committee member shall attend its meetings.

2. If a CM is unable to attend a meeting, ~~it is the responsibility of~~ the CM's office ~~to~~ shall inform the Chair and committee alternate as soon as practical. ~~When an alternate is notified of the absence, the alternate is expected to attend the meeting unless the alternate is also unavailable. If the alternate is unable to attend, it is the responsibility of the alternate's office~~ ~~to~~ shall notify the Chair.

3. A committee member may be excused with the consent of the Chair.

E. Duties of the Chair.

~~It is the duty of t~~ The committee Chair to ~~shall~~:

1. Provide at each meeting a public comment period pursuant to Rule XI.C.3.a.
2. Act as presiding officer and call the meetings to order at the appointed times.
3. State the amount of time allowed for speakers and announce instructions to the speakers at the start of each meeting. The Chair may allow additional time for the submission of written comment from the public.
4. Announce CMs in attendance at the call to order and as they join the meeting.
5. Recognize CMs and, in accordance with these General Rules and Procedures, others who wish to speak.
6. Set the committee's agenda consistent with the committee's assigned scope of work.
7. Run meetings expeditiously.
8. Preserve order and decorum.

F. Duties and Responsibilities of Members.

Committee members shall acquaint themselves with the interests of the City specifically represented by that committee, and shall make recommendations to the Full City Council on Council Bills, Resolutions, and Clerk Files, and such other reports as in their judgment(s) ~~will~~ shall advance the interests and promote the welfare of the people of the

City.

G. Voting, Referral, and Reporting.

1. Any CM attending a select committee meeting may vote, or abstain from voting, on issues before the committee.
2. Committee action on any Council Bill, Resolution, ~~or~~ Clerk File, or Appointment, is limited to recommendations for the Full-City Council to consider when voting on final action for that item.
3. Committees shall not vote on a final recommendation on any Bill, Resolution, ~~or~~ Clerk File, or Appointment on the same day that a public hearing was held on that item, except upon passage of a motion by the Chair to suspend this Rule.
4. Starting at noon on the Thursday immediately preceding a regular Full-City Council meeting, committees shall not refer legislation to that meeting for final action except upon passage of a motion by the Chair to suspend this Rule and the concurrence of the President.

5. Committee Reports:

~~a. Select e~~Committees shall report their actions and have a written record of final recommendations on ~~any~~ legislation reported ~~out~~ to the Full-City Council. ~~The record~~Reports shall include committee recommendation, the names of ~~CMs~~members in attendance and their decision of each CMs on votes on each the final recommendation whether voting in favor, voting opposed, ~~and or~~ abstaining from voting. Reports of select committees shall be entered in the Journal of the Proceedings.

a. If a committee recommendation is not unanimous:

1. Unless otherwise authorized by the President and the committee Chair, the committee report shall be reported to the second regular City Council meeting after the date of the recommendation; and

2. Immediately after the meeting at which the recommendation is voted on, the Clerk of the committee shall provide the committee report on such legislation to all CMs.

b. A CM abstaining from voting does not make the vote non-unanimous.

6.- Divided Reports:

A divided report may accompany any non-unanimous committee recommendation. Divided reports include an indication of how each CM voted. Divided reports shall also include a statement describing the rationale for each voting CM's position.

a. Divided reports shall only be presented to the City Council if a CM who voted against the committee recommendation submits a request for a divided report to the President, the Central Staff Director, and the City Clerk at least four calendar days before presentation of the recommendation to the City Council. Divided reports shall be distributed to all CMs by noon the day presentation of the recommendation is scheduled to be made to the City Council.

b. When reporting a non-unanimous recommendation with a divided report to the City Council:

1. The majority position shall be considered first;

2. If there is no majority position, the position of the Chair shall be considered first.

~~b. If a committee recommendation is not unanimous, the Clerk of the committee shall provide a report on such legislation to all CMs immediately following the conclusion of the meeting.~~

~~c. Unless authorized by the President and the committee Chair, a committee recommendation that is not unanimous shall be sent to the second regular Full Council meeting after the date of the recommendation.~~

~~d. Reports of select committees shall be entered in the Journal of the Proceedings of the City Council.~~

H. Budget Committee.

1. The Budget Committee is a select committee comprised of all CMs and chaired by the Chair of the Finance Committee.

2. The primary purpose of the Budget Committee is to review the Mayor's proposed budget and proposed capital improvement program (CIP), ~~make changes~~ amend as appropriate, and adopt a budget and CIP. The Budget Committee shall review and take action on other budget issues during the year as may be assigned.

3. From the time the Budget Committee receives the Mayor's proposed budget (typically the end of September) to the time the Council adopts a budget (typically the third week of November), regular standing and select committee meetings shall be suspended. ~~Special standing and select committee meetings may be suspended.~~ Special standing and select committee meetings may be called:

a. If ~~review of a~~ legislative action is required within a set time (e.g., quasi-judicial actions with 90-day deadlines for Council review); or

b. Upon the approval of the President and the Chair of the Budget Committee, after consultation with the Central Staff Director.

4. Preliminary agendas of Budget Committee meetings are required to list only general topics for discussion and/or recommendation. All reasonable effort ~~will~~ shall be made to ~~publish provide~~ preliminary agendas online and provide it in hard copy at least two business days before the meeting. Final agendas of Budget Committee meetings shall be issued no later than the morning of the scheduled meeting and ~~will~~ shall include all items to be discussed.

5. The quorum for convening a Budget Committee meeting is one CM; the quorum for Committee action and recommendations on agenda adoption, legislation, or budget changes is five CMs.

6. Adoption of a Balanced Budget Package:

a. The Chair shall prepare a group of budget ~~actions-revisions~~ (Chair's Initial Proposed Balancing Package) that if adopted would amend the Mayor's proposed budget ~~and pas~~ to produce a budget in which expenditures do not exceed revenues.

~~b. The Chair will endeavor to meet individually with each CM to discuss the Budget Chair's Proposed Balancing Package at least four calendar days before the Budget Committee is scheduled.~~

be. Following Committee discussion of the Chair's Initial Balancing Package, the Chair may prepare a Revised Balancing Package, subject to the same requirements under Rule VII.H.6.a above. The Chair ~~wi~~ shall endeavor to ~~vote on the Chair's Proposed Balancing Package. It is the role of the Chair to follow up and~~ inform CMs of any changes made to the Chair's Proposed-Initial Balancing Package prior to the scheduled vote on the Revised Balancing Package meeting of the ~~in the~~ Budget Committee. ~~If the Proposed Balancing Package contains budget actions substantively different from any actions discussed in previous Budget Committee meetings, it is the role of the Chair to give explicit notice of these proposed actions to CMs prior to the scheduled meeting of the Budget Committee.~~

c. If a CM wants to propose one or more amendments or substitute actions to the ~~Chair's~~ Proposed Balancing Package, the CM must make an appropriate motion at the Budget Committee, requiring a second and a majority of CMs present.

7. Other rules and procedures for the Budget Committee, and the meeting dates and times for regular meetings, shall be established by the President in consultation with the Budget Committee Chair.

I. Labor Committee.

1. The Labor Committee is a select committee comprised of the President, the Chair of the Council Budget Committee, and three CMs selected by the President.

2. The primary purpose of the Labor Committee is to serve on the Labor Relations Policy Committee and perform the functions established by Seattle Municipal Code Section 4.04.120.

VIII. EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

A. Attendance.

CMs serving on an external committee (a governing or advisory body to which CMs are appointed by City Council Resolution~~resolution~~) ~~are expected~~shall ~~to~~ attend its meetings unless the CM is unavailable.

B. Notification If Unable to Attend.

If a CM is unable to attend an external committee meeting, ~~it is the responsibility of~~ the CM's office ~~to~~shall inform the committee alternate(s) as soon as practical. ~~When an alternate is notified of the absence, the alternate is expected to~~shall attend the meeting unless the alternate is also unavailable. ~~If the alternate is unable to attend, it is the responsibility of~~ the alternate's office ~~to~~shall notify other members or alternates (if there are any).

IX. COUNCIL BRIEFING MEETINGS

A. Purpose, Procedure, and Scope.

The Council ~~will~~ shall hold Council Briefing meetings, chaired by the President, to discuss and receive briefings on issues of general interest. ~~The President shall be Chair of the meetings. No quorum is required at any Council Briefing meeting. The Council shall take no vote or other final action at any Council Briefing meeting.~~

B. Location and Frequency.

1. Council Briefing meetings ~~are~~ shall be held in the Council Chamber in Seattle City Hall, unless a specific alternate location is established by the President, and appropriate public notice and access are provided.
2. Regular Council Briefing meetings ~~are~~ shall be held at 9:30 a.m. each Monday, or, if Monday is a holiday, ~~then~~ on the next day that is not a legal holiday. Regular meetings ~~are~~ shall not be held on the last two Mondays in August nor on the last two Mondays in December. Council Briefing meetings may be canceled by the President at any time.
3. A special meeting is a meeting held at a time, date, or location that differs from a regular meeting. Special meetings may be scheduled by the committee Chair. ~~Notices of special meetings shall be in accordance with RCW 42.30.080.~~

C. Preliminary Agendas.

1. Preliminary agendas of upcoming regular Council Briefing meetings ~~will~~ shall list items for which discussion is expected and ~~will~~ shall be made available to the public. ~~All reasonable effort will~~ shall be made to ~~provide~~ publish the preliminary agenda online and provide it in hard copy at least two business days prior to the meeting.
2. For special Council Briefing meetings, all reasonable effort ~~will~~ shall be made to publish ~~make~~ the preliminary agenda ~~available~~ online and provide it in hard copy at least two business days prior to the meeting.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

A. When Sessions May Be Held.

Executive sessions may be held during Full-City Council meetings, Council Briefing meetings, standing or select committee meetings, whether regular or special meetings, and at other times as allowed by RCW 42.30.110 and 42.30.140, ~~as it now exists or as amended~~, and SMC 5.24.020 and 5.24.030.

B. How Sessions May Be Convened.

The presiding officer or a majority of those CMs in attendance may decide to convene an executive session during a particular meeting. An executive session may be ended by the presiding officer or by a majority vote of those CMs in attendance.

C. Purpose of Session.

Before convening an executive session, the presiding officer shall announce the purpose of the executive session, and the time when the executive session is expected to conclude.

D. Attorney to be Present.

1. An attorney from the Law Department, or outside counsel if appropriate, ~~will~~ shall be present during all executive sessions to advise CMs on compliance with RCW 42.30.
2. The Council may choose to waive the attorney-client privilege regarding legal matters discussed with counsel at an executive session only if all nine CMs are in attendance and unanimously agree to waive the privilege. ~~Council-Legislative Department~~ staff ~~may~~ shall not waive the privilege. Executive session is the only forum in which the Council may waive attorney-client privilege for any attorney-client privileged documents presented to the Council in or out of executive session.

E. Attendees.

Attendance at an executive session is limited to:

1. CMs;
2. Assistants to CMs representing their CM in absentia (and this attendance is limited to presence, not participation);
3. The City Clerk or designee;
4. Legal counsel assigned to the matter at issue;
5. The City Council's Central Staff ~~Director~~ and/or designee; and

6. Designated cCity staff members and others representing the City (e.g., consultants) who are directly involved in the issue and who have been invited by the presiding officer to attend.;

~~5. Legal counsel assigned to the matter at issue; and~~

~~6. The City Clerk or designee for clerking purposes.~~

F. Confidentiality.

Executive session attendees shall not disclose the contents of discussions held within the session.

G. Issues.

Issues that may be considered in executive session include, but are not limited to:

1.- Consideration of the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of increased price;

2.- Consideration of the minimum price at which real estate will be offered for sale or lease when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of decreased price;~~ertain real estate transactions and/or prices;~~

23. Evaluation of complaints against a public officer or employee;

34. Evaluation of qualifications of candidate for appointment to elective office;

45. Evaluation of qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee;

56. Discussion with legal counsel regarding litigation or potential litigation to which the City or a CM acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence; and

67. Planning or adopting the strategy or position to be taken during the course of collective bargaining or reviewing the proposals made in labor negotiations while in progress.

XI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND ACCESS

A. Public Sessions – Open to Public; Location.

1. All meetings of the Council, and all meetings of standing and select committees (except executive sessions or as otherwise permitted by law), ~~are~~ shall be open to the public, and shall be conducted in a manner that provides the opportunity for attendees to hear and see the proceedings of those Members physically present and to hear any CMs attending by electronic means.

(See Rule XI.H Inclusive/Equal Access and Participation – Requests for Reasonable Accommodation.)

2. The Council shall not adjourn its regular Full-City Council meetings to any place other than its regular meeting place, which is the Council Chamber in Seattle City Hall, except as provided by law.*

(See Rule II.A.2 Full-City Council Meetings; and Rule XI.D.3 Disruptions of Council Meetings and Committee Meetings.)

3. Meetings of standing committees shall not convene in or adjourn to any place other than that committee's regular meeting place, which is the Council Chamber in Seattle City Hall, unless a specific alternate location is established by the Chair with the concurrence of a majority of the committee's regular CMs and appropriate public notice and access are provided.

4. Meetings of select committees may be held in the Council Chamber in Seattle City Hall, or an alternate location as established by the committee Chair so long as appropriate public notice and access are provided.

B. Public Hearings – Purpose; Duties of Chair.

Public Hearings are opportunities for members of the public to speak on a particular proposed Ordinance, Resolution, Clerk File, Appointment, or other legislative action. If a Public Hearing is scheduled for a particular meeting, the agenda for the meeting ~~shall~~ will specify the proposed Ordinance, Resolution, Clerk File, other legislative action, or other subject to be discussed at the public hearing.

(See Rule VI.F. Duties of the Chair.)

1. Public hearings may be held as part of a scheduled Full-City Council, select, or standing committee meeting, but the public hearing shall be conducted as a separate agenda item.

2. The Chair of the body conducting the public hearing shall:

* Charter, Art. IV, § 6.

- a. Announce at the beginning of the public hearing the rules, guidelines, and time limits for individual speakers; and
- b. Require all speakers to sign in on registers provided by Legislative Department staff.

3. Members of the public who wish to speak at public hearings shall comply with Rule XI.D.

C. Public Comment at Full-City Council Meetings and Committee Meetings.

Public comment periods are opportunities for members of the public to comment on items on the meeting's agenda or, in the case of a committee meeting, on matters within the purview of the committee. The agenda for a particular Council meeting may specify the total time allotted for the public comment period and for time limits for individual comments.

(See ~~also~~ Rule XI.B Public Hearings.)

1. The Council ~~does~~ shall not accept public comment at special Full-City Council meetings.
2. The Council ~~does~~ shall accept public comment at regular Full-City Council meetings:
 - a. Public comment at Full-City Council meetings ~~is~~ shall be limited to matters on the Introduction and Referral Calendar ~~and~~ Committee Reports on that day's regular Full-City Council meeting agenda, and other matters directly related to the City Council Work Program; and
 - b. The President shall ensure that all public comment is in accordance with Rule XI.C.2.a.
3. Council committees shall accept public comment at standing and select committee meetings.
 - a. Public comment at a committee meeting ~~is~~ shall be limited to matters within the purview of the specific committee or an item listed on that day's agenda.
 - b. The presiding officer at a committee meeting shall ensure that all public comment is in accordance with Rule XI.C.3.a.
4. Total public comment periods shall not exceed 20 minutes unless extended at the discretion of the presiding officer.
5. Individual speakers ~~will~~ shall be provided up to two minutes total speaking time. Individuals who wish to speak shall sign up for public comment on registers provided by Legislative Department staff.

(See Rule XI.H Inclusive Access and Participation – Requests for Reasonable Accommodation.)

6. When recognized by the presiding officer, the individual shall approach the podium, state the individual's name for the record, and identify the item to which the individual ~~will~~shall speak. At the presiding officer's discretion, this Rule may be waived in the interest of personal safety of the person speaking.

7. Council and committee proceedings are electronically recorded; therefore, speakers wishing to address the Council or committee during the established public comment period shall speak only from the microphones provided for public speakers.

8. If no speakers sign up to address the Council or the committee, or if the public comments conclude before the 20-minute time period has elapsed, the comment period ~~will~~shall be closed, and the Council or committee shall resume its business, with no further opportunity for public comment at that meeting.

9. The Council is not required to allow public comment at Council Briefing meetings.

10. No public comments addressing the merits of a quasi-judicial action ~~are~~shall be permitted at any Council meeting.

D. Disruptions of ~~Full-City~~ Council Meetings and Committee Meetings.

1. Disruptions of ~~Full-City~~ Council and ~~Committee~~committee meetings are prohibited. Disruptions include but are not limited to the following:

- a. Failure of a speaker to comply with the allotted time established for the individual speaker's public comment;
- b. Outbursts from members of the public who have not been recognized by the presiding officer for public comment;
- c. Comments that are not in compliance with XI.C.2.a or XI.C.3.a, or that are unrelated to the particular proposed Ordinance, Resolution, or other legislative action on which a public hearing is being held;
- d. Delaying the orderly conduct or progress of the public comment period, including a failure to respect the process of accommodating individuals who wish to provide public comment;
- e. Use of an allotted individual comment period for purposeful delay, including remaining silent or engaging in other activity without conveying a discernible message;
- f. Standing in the center aisle or front row of the audience unless speaking as recognized by the presiding officer, waiting to speak during the public comment period, or gathering meeting materials distributed by Legislative Department

staff;

g. Holding or placement of a banner or sign in the Council Chamber in a way that endangers others or obstructs the free flow of pedestrians or the view of others attending a Council or Committee meeting; ~~or~~

h. Failure to follow the direction of a Presiding Officer or security official; or

ih. Behavior that intentionally disrupts, disturbs, or otherwise impedes attendance or participation at a Council or Committee meeting.

2. Signs may be displayed during Council and ~~Committee~~ committee meetings in a manner consistent with these Rules. Any written communication intended for a CM may be submitted to the City Clerk for distribution to the intended recipient.

3. The presiding officer shall preserve the order and decorum of a Council or committee meeting at all times. If an individual fails to comply with Rule XI.D.1, any CM may issue an oral or written warning to the individual that the individual's behavior is out of order. An oral or written warning may be issued based on an individual's prior conduct at a Council or Committee meeting. If the individual continues to engage in activity that violates Rule XI.D.1, any CM may ~~take the following actions:~~

a. Terminate the individual's comment period ~~and proceed to the next speaker, if any;~~

b. Direct security staff to assist an individual to the individual's seat; or

c. Direct security staff to remove the individual from the meeting room.

4. Any individual ordered to be removed from a meeting pursuant to Rule XI.D.3.c shall be excluded from returning to that same meeting from which the individual was removed.

5. If an individual fails to comply with the requirements of Rule XI.D.1 over the course of two or more Council and/or committee meetings occurring within a ~~30-~~day time period, or over the course of two or more consecutive meetings of the same committee, any CM may exclude the individual from participation in future public comment periods before the Council and/or committee meetings, or exclude the individual from attendance at future Council and/or committee meetings.

a. The CM imposing the exclusion shall inform the individual of the specific reason for, and the specific terms of, the exclusion.

b. An initial and any subsequent exclusion of an individual from future participation in public comment periods or future attendance at Council and/or committee meetings may be issued for up to 28 calendar days.

c. If an individual is subject to an exclusion from future attendance at Council and/or committee meetings for a ~~period of 28 calendar days~~time period, and further engages in activity that violates Rule XI.D.1, other than subsection c, within 60 days after the termination of the exclusion period, an additional exclusion from future attendance at Council and/or committee meetings may be issued for up to 90 calendar days.

d. If an individual is subject to an exclusion from future attendance at Council and/or committee meetings for a ~~period of 90 or more calendar days~~time period, and further engages in activity that violates Rule XI.D.1, other than subsection c, within 60 days after the termination of the exclusion period, an additional exclusion from future attendance at Council and/or committee meetings may be issued for up to 180 calendar days.

e. The length of the period of any exclusion may depend upon the seriousness of the disruption, the number of disruptions, and the individual's prior record with conduct at Council or committee meetings.

f. When issuing an exclusion from future public comment periods, or from future attendance at Council or committee meetings, the CM shall include specific notification that the individual may submit written comments to the City Clerk for distribution to the Council at future public comment periods.

6. The decision of any CM to impose a sanction or exclusion for disruptive activity may be overruled by a majority vote of those CMs in attendance either at the meeting where the disruption took place or at the next regularly scheduled ~~Full-City~~ Council meeting.

7. Any individual excluded from participation in future public comment periods or from attendance at future Council or committee meetings for a period of more than two calendar days may appeal the exclusion by submitting a written appeal to the ~~Full-City~~ Council within five business days after receiving notice of the exclusion. Upon receipt of a written appeal, the ~~Full-City~~ Council shall consider the appeal at its next regularly scheduled open public meeting. The individual's exclusion from public comment periods or from attendance at Council or committee meetings shall remain in effect during the Council's consideration of the appeal.

8. The enforcement provisions of these rules are in addition to the authority of the Department of Finance and Administrative Services to enforce Rules of Conduct in City Hall pursuant to Rule 05-02, and Rules regarding City Buildings and Premises pursuant to Rule 06-03. Disruptions ~~prior to or after of~~ a Council or committee meeting, including interference with City officials or City staff's preparation for a meeting, may be addressed under ~~the rules cited in this section~~Rule 05-02 or Rule 06-03.

E. Interruption(s) to ~~Full~~ Council Meetings and Committee Meetings.

1. It is the responsibility of the presiding officer to maintain order and adjourn any meeting as the presiding officer deems necessary.
2. If a meeting is interrupted by any person or by a group or groups of persons so as to render the orderly conduct of the meeting not feasible, and order cannot be restored by the removal of individuals who are interrupting the meeting, the members of the Council or the committee conducting the meeting may order the meeting room cleared and continue in session, or may adjourn the meeting and re-convene at another location selected by majority vote of the CMs present. In such a session, final disposition may be taken only on matters appearing on the agenda. Representatives of the press or other news media, except those participating in the disturbance, shall be allowed to attend any session held pursuant to this Rule XI.E.
3. The Council or the committees may establish procedures for re-admitting an individual or individuals not responsible for disturbing the orderly conduct of the meeting.
4. If a meeting is adjourned due to an interruption, CMs and staff ~~may~~ shall leave the meeting room until the meeting is reconvened.

[\(See RCW 42.30.050 Interruptions – Procedures.\)](#)

F. Public Access to CMs and Offices.

1. No individual other than the Legislative Department staff may approach the CMs or the Clerks while the Council or a committee is in session, unless permitted to do so by the President or Chair.
2. During committee meetings and Council Briefing meetings, no persons other than Legislative Department staff shall join CMs at the committee table, unless specifically invited by the committee Chair to provide information necessary to committee business.
3. Physical access to CM office areas is limited and provided only in accordance with established policies and procedures of the Legislative Department.
4. ~~Persons-Individuals~~ desiring to electronically tape (audio, video, etc.) or photograph a CM or CM(s) within the CM office area(s) may only do so with the permission of the respective CM(s) or their respective staff members, when so delegated.
5. Access by media shall be in accordance with Legislative Department policy.
6. The presiding officer or designee may temporarily suspend or modify this Rule XI.F to protect the safe and responsible functioning of the Council.

G. Digital Recording of Meetings.

1. Public meetings of the ~~City-Council~~ will-shall be electronically recorded whenever feasible. The presiding officer or designee may temporarily suspend or modify this Rule XI.G.1 to protect the safe and responsible functioning of the Council.
2. Executive sessions and those meetings exempted from chapter 42.30 RCW ~~42.30~~ will shall not be recorded.
3. The City Clerk shall maintain custody of recordings made pursuant to Rule XI.G.1.

H. ~~Equal-Inclusive~~ Access and Participation – Requests for Reasonable Accommodation.

1. Assistive listening devices ~~will~~shall be available in the Council Chamber during all meetings of the Council and its committees, and in other rooms or places where the Council meets and where Council proceedings are broadcast, ~~to enable persons with disabilities to attend all public City Council meetings.~~
2. ~~In addition, u~~Upon request, reasonable efforts to ~~make additional~~provide accommodations ~~not addressed by the available assistive listening devices will~~shall be made to enable persons with disabilities to attend all public ~~City~~ Council meetings.
3. Because a request for ~~additional~~an accommodation may require sufficient lead time to respond, the request should be made at the earliest possible opportunity.
4. Any individual wishing to request assistive listening devices, printed materials, ~~or~~ services or other reasonable accommodation should do so prior to the meeting in question by directing the request to the Office of the City Clerk at 206-684-8888 or TYY Relay 7-1-1.
5. ~~The Office of the City Clerk Legislative Department staff~~ will~~shall~~ evaluate all requests and ~~make~~provide reasonable accommodations ~~that are reasonable under all the circumstances.~~

I. Use of the Council Chamber.

1. Council business ~~has~~shall have priority over other uses of the Council Chamber.
2. Other uses of the Council Chamber shall be in accordance with Legislative Department policy.

XII. ALTERATION OF GENERAL RULES AND PROCEDURES

A. Suspension.

1. A rule or procedure not listed in Rule XII.A.2 may be temporarily suspended:

- a. If a CM requests suspension and no objection is offered; or
- b. In open session upon a two-thirds vote.

Any rule or procedure so suspended shall be announced by the presiding officer, after which the ~~Full~~ Council or committee shall proceed accordingly.

2. The following rules or procedures established by this document ~~may~~ shall not be suspended:

- a. This Rule XII.A;
- b. Rule XII.B;
- c. Rule V.G.1.b;
- d. Rule X.F;
- e. Those required by Charter;
- f. Those required by the Seattle Municipal Code; and
- g. Those required by state law.

3. The City Clerk shall provide a guide for compliance with this Rule XI.A, which guide is attached as Appendix A to these Rules.

B. Biennial Review.

The President and ~~the~~ City Clerk shall conduct and coordinate biennial reviews of the General Rules and Procedures of the Seattle City Council.

C. Amendment.

Amendments of these General Rules and Procedures shall be by a majority vote of ~~the~~ CMs and, if applicable, pursuant to SMC 3.02.030.

Appendix A: List of Non-Suspendible Rules

| v. [1b](#)