

**4.1 REGISTERING TO SPEAK.** All persons wishing to ~~speak~~ **address Council at a public hearing** shall register with the Council secretary **their intention to do so online, by phone, or in person at the City Council central office. Sign-up closes when Council reconvenes from recess.**

**4.2 TIME LIMITS; EXCEPTIONS.** Before the hearing begins, the President shall announce a time limitation of three minutes for individual speakers, and all registered speakers shall strictly adhere to such limitation. Exceptions: 1) A speaker may answer questions from Council members outside the three-minute time limit. 2) A speaker may not yield his or her time to another speaker ~~unless necessary to accommodate translation or a disability.~~

**3) Additional time may be given to speakers to accommodate disability or language translation.** 3 4) A time limit longer or shorter than three minutes per speaker may be established upon the affirmative vote of a majority of members present.

**5.6 COMMITTEE ACTION ON BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS.** Upon receipt of any request for Council approval of any ordinance or resolution, or upon referral of any bill or resolution by the President as provided in Rule 5.5, the matter shall be assigned to the appropriate Standing Committee established pursuant to Rule 10.

- (a) *Action by consent.* At the discretion of the committee chair, any matter assigned to a committee for action may be approved on consent without convening a meeting of the committee to discuss and act on the matter. Any matter proposed by the chair for approval on consent shall be placed on a publicly available Committee consent agenda and circulated to all members of the committee regularly. If no member of council has requested that the matter be removed from the consent agenda and scheduled for action in a committee meeting, according to current Council protocol, the matter shall be deemed to be approved by unanimous consent of the committee for forwarding to the full Council.
  
- (b) *Action by committee vote.* Any matter not approved by consent as provided in subsection (a) of this rule shall be scheduled for action in a committee meeting. After due consideration of the matter by the committee, any member of the committee may move either: to forward the matter for consideration by the full Council; or to postpone the matter for further consideration by the committee until a date certain; whereupon the committee chair shall put the motion to either a voice vote or if requested by the chair or a committee member a roll call vote of the committee members who are present. If a motion to forward the matter to the full Council is approved by the committee, then the Council Secretary shall accept for filing a bill or resolution approving the matter. If a motion to forward the matter to the full Council is not approved by the Committee, then the Council Secretary shall not accept for filing a bill or resolution approving that matter unless: Council votes to take the matter from the committee as provided in Rule 5.7; or any member of Council files the bill or resolution approving the matter as provided in Rule 5.4213.
  
- (c) *Participation in committee meetings by non-members.* Council members who are not duly appointed members of a particular committee are entitled to attend any committee meeting, and shall be recognized by the chair and allowed to speak on any matter pending before any committee. However, non-members shall not be included for purposes of determining a quorum of the committee, and shall not be permitted to vote on any motion made pursuant to subsection (b) of this Rule.

~~(d) — *Re-referral to committee.* Any matter referred by a committee to council for action may be re-referred to committee for further discussion or reconsideration by a vote of a majority of the members present and voting. To the extent Council has provided by law for the approval by resolution of any matter submitted to the Council under Sec. 3.2.6 of the Charter, any Council member may individually request that the resolution be re-referred to committee without the need for a formal motion or vote of the Council in order to effect the re-referral. After allowing for Council discussion of the resolution, the President shall grant the request unless to do so would cause action on the resolution to be delayed beyond the 30-day deadline for action on the resolution as set forth in subsection 3.2.6 (F) of the Charter. No resolution may be re-referred more than once under this Rule 3.7. Nothing herein shall affect the authority of any Council member to move for re-referral to committee of a resolution under this subsection (d), and any such motion shall take precedence over an individual request for re-referral made under this subsection.~~

~~(e)~~(d) *Committee Quorum.* A quorum of the appointed members of a committee shall be established before any action can be taken by the appointed members of that committee. Quorum is not needed to start a committee meeting or to conduct a committee meeting when no action by the appointed members is required. A simple majority of the appointed members of any committee shall constitute a quorum for purposes of taking action on any matter pending before a committee. If less than a majority of the appointed members of the committee are present at a meeting of a committee but the President is present at the meeting, the President shall be counted for purposes of establishing a quorum.

**5.7 TAKING MATTER FROM COMMITTEE.** The committees shall take action on all matters referred to them without unnecessary delay. If a committee refuses or neglects to take action on any matter referred to it, the Council, by a vote of a majority of the members present and voting, may take the matter from the committee.

**5.8 FIRST CONSIDERATION OF BILLS.** After the reading of titles of all bills for introduction, the presiding officer may order first publication if no member objects; provided, however, that, if a member objects, the presiding officer shall order a vote on the question of first publication.

**5.9 RE-REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE.** Any matter referred by a committee to council for action may be re-referred to committee for further discussion or reconsideration by a vote of a majority of the members present and voting.

**5.10 POSTPONEMENT OF CERTAIN BILLS.** To the extent Council has provided by law for the approval by resolution of any matter submitted to the Council under Sec. 3.2.6 of the Charter, any Council member may individually request that the resolution be postponed to the next-scheduled regular meeting. After allowing for Council discussion of the resolution, the President shall grant the request unless to do so would cause action on the resolution to be delayed beyond the 30-day deadline as set forth in subsection 3.2.6 (F) of the Charter. No resolution may be re-referred more than once. Nothing herein shall affect the authority of any Council member to move for re-referral to committee of a resolution under Rule 5.9, and any such motion shall take precedence over an individual request for re-referral made under this Rule.

~~5.9~~ **5.11 SECOND AND FINAL CONSIDERATION OF BILLS.** All bills which have been previously ordered published shall, after publication and after at least five days have elapsed after the bills have been ordered published, be placed on the Council agenda for the regularly scheduled Monday night Council meeting under "Bills for Final Consideration," except bills referring to zoning amendments. Charter §3.3.5(F). Zoning amendments shall not be considered on final reading until the public hearing date is set as required by the Charter; provided, however, that a zoning amendment may be scheduled for final consideration and a public hearing after the soonest date allowed by the Charter. Charter §3.2.9(D).

~~5.10~~ **5.12 PUBLICATION.** All bills shall be published in accordance with §3.3.5 of the Charter and §13-14 of the Code.

~~5.14~~ **5.13 FILING OF BILLS OR RESOLUTIONS BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL.** Notwithstanding any provision of these rules, any member of Council may file a bill or resolution with the Council Secretary or may initiate a bill or a resolution from the floor of Council, and have the same considered by the Council as a whole or referred to the appropriate committee of the Council for its recommendation; except that a bill or resolution filed after the filing deadline or initiated from the floor of Council by a member shall constitute a late filing and shall be subject to the terms of Rule 7.6.

**6.2. WITHDRAWAL.** Any motion may be withdrawn or modified by the mover with the consent of the ~~second~~ **body**, at any time before amendment, decision, or vote.

**7.1 AMENDMENTS.** Bills may be amended with the following conditions:

(a) Any bill may be amended; provided, however, that no bill shall be so altered or amended as to change its original subject or purpose.

(b) A single motion to amend may include amendments to more than one section of the bill being amended.

(c) Whenever any bill on final consideration is amended, the Council may, after approving the motion to amend, proceed to adopt the bill as amended if the amendment does not change the previously published title or description of the bill. If the amendment changes the previously published title or description, or if in the opinion of a member the amendment should be brought to the attention of the public, the bill shall be published as amended.

Members should provide proposed amendments to central staff and legislative counsel by noon on the Thursday prior to the regular Council meeting where the amendment will be presented or as soon as practicable.

**7.2 ROLL CALL VOTES.** The following rules shall govern roll call votes:

(a) Voting shall be in the form of "Aye" ; or "Nay" ; ~~or "Abstain"~~ and the names of those voting for ; or against ; ~~and abstaining~~ shall be entered in the Minutes. ~~Charter §3.3.2.~~

(b) An abstention shall not be considered as an affirmative or negative vote nor shall it be considered a vote when the rules require a majority present and voting or require a specific percentage of those present and voting. Abstention is proper when a member has a potential or actual legal conflict of interest under city laws.

(c) Any member may explain his or her vote.

(d) Any member may pass his or her turn to vote, in which case the member will be called upon before the voting is complete, at which time the member must vote "Aye" ; or "Nay" ; ~~or "Abstain"~~.

**7.11. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION.** Before convening the regular meeting, the Council shall conduct a televised one-half hour general public comment session during which persons may address the Council on any matter of city concern, except for any matter that is scheduled for either a formal or a courtesy public hearing at that meeting or any future meeting of Council. Anyone wishing to comment on a matter scheduled for a public hearing shall be requested to reserve their comments until the hearing in question.

(a) Persons wishing to address Council at a general public comment session shall register their intention to do so ~~in person~~, online, ~~or~~ by phone, **or in person** at the City Council central office beginning at 12:00 p.m. on the Friday before the general public comment session. Registration period will end at 4:00 p.m. the day of the general public comment session. Speakers who have not addressed Council at the general public comment session in the previous week shall be given priority in registration on a first come first served basis. Speakers shall be recognized to speak in the order of registration.

(b) Speakers at a general public comment session shall be limited to a maximum of three minutes unless a shorter time is set by the President in consideration of the number of speakers who have registered for the session. A speaker may not yield his or her time to another speaker ~~unless necessary to accommodate translation or a disability.~~ **Additional time may be given to speakers to accommodate disability or language translation.**

(c) Speakers at a general public comment session shall direct their remarks to Council as a body and not to any individual Council member. Speakers shall be requested by the President to refrain from any profane or obscene speech; threats of violence or economic reprisal against any public official intended to influence the behavior of the official; or speech which impugns any person on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability.

**8.2. POWERS AND DUTIES OF PRESIDENT.** The President shall be the presiding officer and shall have the following powers and perform the following duties:

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(m) Within 3 months of the seating of a new City Council, the President of Council must convene a review of the Council Rules of Procedure and Council Commitments with all members.