

**CITY OF SAMMAMISH
WASHINGTON
RESOLUTION NO. R2016-668**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SAMMAMISH,
WASHINGTON, REVISING THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
FOR THE CITY COUNCIL**

WHEREAS, Chapter 35A.11 RCW gives the City Council of each code city the power to organize and regulate its internal affairs within the provisions of Title 35A RCW; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has adopted rules and procedures to assist in the conduct of City business; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to revise its current Council Rules;

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAMMAMISH,
WASHINGTON, DOES RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Framework. The following rules shall constitute the official rules of procedure for the Sammamish City Council and all prior rules are hereby superseded:

- A. All Council Meetings shall comply with the requirements of the Open Meetings Act (RCW Chapter 42.30). All Regular Business Meetings, Special Meetings and Regular Study Sessions of the Council shall be open to the public; and
- B. In all decisions arising from points of order, the Council shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order (most current edition), a copy of which is maintained in the office of the Sammamish City Clerk.

Section 2. Meetings.

- A. Regular Business Meetings Dates, Times. All regular meetings of the City Council shall be held at the times and locations specified by applicable ordinances and resolutions of the Council.
- B. Meetings.
 - 1. *Regular Business Meetings.* All regular meetings of the City Council shall be held on the First Tuesday and Third Tuesday of each month beginning at 6:30 pm.
 - 2. *Regular Study Sessions.* All regular study sessions of the City Council shall be held on the Second Tuesday of each month beginning at 6:30 pm. Departmental work program updates should be included on a Study

Session agenda on a quarterly basis.

3. Should any meeting date occur on a legal holiday, the meeting shall be held on a day, time and place established by a majority vote of the Council. Regular Study Sessions will normally be informal meetings for the purpose of reviewing: the upcoming Regular Business Meeting preliminary agenda; forthcoming programs and future Council agenda items; progress on current programs or projects; or other information the City Manager feels is appropriate. Under special circumstances, final action may be taken at a Regular Study Session.
 4. *Special Meetings.* Special Meetings may be held by the Council subject to notice requirements prescribed by State law. Special Meetings may be called by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, or any four members of the City Council by written notice delivered to each member of the Council at least twenty-four hours before the time specified for the proposed meeting. The notice of such Special Meetings shall state the subjects to be considered, and no subject other than those specified in the notice shall be considered.
 5. *Executive Sessions.* The Council may hold Executive Sessions from which the public may be excluded, for those purposes set forth in RCW 42.30.110. Before convening an Executive Session, the Presiding Officer shall announce the purpose of the Session and the anticipated time when the Session will be concluded. Should the Session require more time, a public announcement shall be made that the Session is being extended.
 6. *Meeting Place.* Council Meetings will be held at Sammamish City Hall, located at 801 228th Avenue SE, Sammamish, Washington, 98075, or as otherwise directed by the Council and properly noticed.
 7. *Public Notice.* The City shall comply with the provisions of RCW 35A.12.160.
 8. *Adjournment.* Council Meetings shall adjourn no later than 10:00 pm. The adjournment time established thereunder may be extended to a later time certain upon approval of a motion by a majority of the Council. Any Councilmember may call for a "Point of Order" at 9:30 p.m. to review agenda priorities.
- C. Attendance, Excused Absences. Members of the Council may be excused from attending a City Council meeting by contacting the Mayor prior to the meeting and stating the reason for his or her inability to attend. If the member is unable to contact the Mayor, the member shall contact the City Manager or City Clerk, who shall convey the message to the Mayor. Following roll call, the Presiding Officer

shall inform the Council of the member's absence, state the reason for such absence, and inquire if there is a motion to excuse the member. This motion shall be non-debatable. Upon passage of such motion by a majority of members present, the absent member shall be considered excused and the City Clerk will make an appropriate notation in the minutes. Councilmembers who do not follow the above process will be considered unexcused and it shall be so noted in the minutes. As set forth in RCW 35A.13.020 and RCW 35A.12.060, a council position shall become vacant if a Councilmember fails to attend three consecutive regular meetings of the City Council without being excused by the City Council.

D. General Decorum.

1. While the Council is in session, the members must preserve order and decorum, and a member shall neither, by conversation or otherwise, delay or interrupt the proceedings or the peace of the Council, nor disrupt any member while speaking, nor refuse to obey the orders of the Council or the Mayor, except as otherwise provided in these Rules.
2. Any person making disruptive, impertinent, or slanderous remarks or who becomes boisterous while addressing the Council shall be asked to leave by the Presiding Officer and barred from further audience participation before the Council for that meeting.

E. Quorum. At all Council Meetings, a majority of the Council (four members) shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a lesser number may adjourn from time to time and may compel the attendance of absent members in such manner and under such penalties as may be prescribed by ordinance.

F. Voting. The votes during all Council Meetings shall be conducted as follows:

1. Unless otherwise provided for by statute, ordinance, or resolution, all votes shall be taken by voice, except that at the request of any Councilmember, a random roll call vote shall be taken by the City Clerk or the Presiding Officer may call for a show of hands. In order to maintain an accurate record of all votes of the City Council, the City Clerk shall record by name in the meeting minutes any Councilmember who casts a vote against a motion or other matter.
2. The passage of any ordinance, grant or revocation of franchise or license, and any resolution for the payment of money shall require the affirmative vote of at least a majority of the whole membership of the council.
3. In case of a tie vote on any motion, the motion shall be considered lost.
4. Each Councilmember shall vote on all questions put to the Council, unless a conflict of interest or other disqualifying matter under State law is present. Unless a member of the Council states that he or she is abstaining for the

above reasons, his or her silence shall be recorded as an affirmative vote.

Section 3. Order of Business.

A. Agenda and Council Packet Preparation.

1. The City Clerk, under direction of the City Manager, will prepare a preliminary agenda for each Council Meeting specifying the time and place of the meeting and setting forth a brief general description of each item to be considered by the Council. The preliminary agenda is subject to review by the Presiding Officer.
2. An item for a Regular Business Council Meeting may be placed on the preliminary agenda by a majority vote or consensus of the Council, by the Mayor or Deputy Mayor in the absence of the Mayor, by the City Manager, or by any three Councilmembers who so advise the Mayor and City Manager no later than close of business on the Wednesday preceding such Regular Business Council Meeting.
3. An item may be placed on the preliminary agenda for a Regular Business Council Meeting after the preliminary agenda is finalized only if a Councilmember or the City Manager explains the necessity for placing the item on the agenda and receives a majority vote of the Council to do so.
4. Legally required advertised public hearings will have a higher priority over other agenda items scheduled for convenience rather than for statutory or other reasons.
5. Agenda items that are continued from one meeting to another will have preference on the agenda to the extent possible.
6. It is the intent of the City Council that council procedures be periodically reviewed as needed.

B. Consent Calendar.

1. The City Manager, in consultation with the Presiding Officer, shall place matters on the Consent Calendar which (a) have been previously discussed by the Council, or (b) based on the information delivered to members of the Council, by the administration, can be reviewed by a Councilmember without further explanation, or (c) are so routine or technical in nature that passage is likely.
2. The motion to adopt the Consent Calendar shall be non-debatable and have the effect of moving to adopt all items on the Consent Calendar. Since adoption of any item on the Consent Calendar implies unanimous consent, any member of the Council shall have the right to remove any item from the Consent Calendar.

If any matter is withdrawn, the Presiding Officer shall place the item at an appropriate place on the agenda for deliberation at the current or future Council Meeting.

C. Public Comment and Testimony.

The Council will take public comment or testimony at the Regular Business Meeting only during a Public Hearing or during the Public Comment period for no more than three minutes, or no more than five minutes when presenting the official position of a recognized organization. The Presiding Officer shall retain the discretion to implement measures designed to accommodate all who wish to address the City Council, while also ensuring that sufficient meeting time remains for the City Council to complete all of the public's other business included on the meeting agenda. Depending on the circumstances, such measures may include but are not necessarily limited to amending the amount of time available to speakers (e.g., not more than two minutes), recessing a Public Hearing or Public Comment period to later on that meeting's agenda, and similar measures designed to ensure an appropriate balance between the public's right to be heard on a particular matter and the Council's obligation to complete all of the public's other business included on a meeting agenda.

If a person appearing before the Council has more than one matter to bring up before the Council, that person, after speaking on one matter, will be given an opportunity to bring up other matters after other speakers have been given the opportunity to address the City Council. The Presiding Officer may ask the rest of the Councilmembers if they have any questions before being excused. After a citizen (or group of citizens) has made public comment, the Presiding Officer will respond to the citizen or group with one of the following actions:

1. The commentator will be thanked for his/her input if it is a comment only;
2. Staff will be directed to follow up if an administrative answer or problem resolution is required;
3. The commentator will be requested to provide more information in writing to the City Clerk if further information is needed to clarify or formalize a request. This information will be distributed to the Council before the next Regular Business Meeting or Regular Study Session;
4. The item will be referred by the Presiding Officer to the City Manager for scheduling on a future Regular Study Session Agenda or a Regular Business Meeting Agenda; or
5. The item will be placed on that night's agenda if it is an emergency or is driven by an imminent due date.

The decision as to which alternative to use will be at the discretion of the Presiding Officer. The Presiding Officer will verbalize a reason for his/her choice. After the Presiding Officer's decision, any Councilmember may make a motion to select one of the other alternatives. If the motion is seconded, it will be discussed and voted upon. Should the motion fail, the Presiding Officer may use the previously chosen alternative or may select a different one, again providing a verbal reason.

6. Identification of Speakers. Persons testifying shall identify themselves for the record as to name, address and organization.
7. Instructions for Speakers. An instruction notice for speakers will be available at the meeting. Speakers will be advised by the Presiding Officer that their testimony is being recorded.

D. Rules for Public Testimony during Public Hearings.

The following rules shall be observed during any Public Hearing:

1. Individuals will be allowed three minutes to speak, or five minutes when presenting the official position of a recognized organization, and each organization shall have only one five-minute presentation. If a speaker purports to speak for an organization, club or other so as to lead the Council to believe that a number of persons support a position, then such person shall state how that position was developed by the group.
2. The City Clerk shall be the timekeeper.

Section 4. Duties and Responsibilities for Councilmembers.

A. Councilmember Job Description.

The principal job of a City Councilmember is to make policy. Policy making often takes the form of passing ordinances or resolutions. Councilmembers should base their policy making decisions on many factors after considering input from many sources, including the city staff, citizen's groups, advisory commissions and others. It is the councilmember's responsibility to consider the merits of each idea and then approve, modify, or reject it. Councilmembers should also consider community needs and available resources when making their decisions. It is the job of the City Manager and staff to implement the policies set by the City Council.

B. Public Statements.

Any member of the Council has a right to express personal views and opinions. However, statements representing the views or decisions of the Council must be authorized by a majority or consensus of the Council. Minority views or positions may be conveyed as well.

C. Ethics Laws.

State law provides a specific code of ethics for city officials. RCW 42.23.070 prohibits a municipal official from:

1. Using his position to secure special privileges or exemptions for himself or others.
2. Directly or indirectly, giving or receiving any compensation, gift, gratuity, or reward from any sources, except the employing city, for a matter related to the official's services.
3. Accepting employment or engaging in business that the officer might reasonably expect would require him to disclose confidential information acquired by reason of his position.
4. Disclosing confidential information gained by reason of the officer's position, or use of such information for personal gain.

D. Information Sharing.

It is in the public interest that, to the greatest extent possible, all members of the City Council have an opportunity to be aware of and act upon the information that is available to other members.

The City Council places a high value on conducting the public's business in an open and transparent manner. While Councilmembers are not expected to place on the record all contacts with City residents and other stakeholders on every matter, Councilmembers should place on the record all contacts with City residents and other stakeholders on matters about which a Councilmember reasonably believes the other Councilmembers should be apprised. Examples of such matters would include but not be limited to contacts with opposing parties in litigation involving the City, vendors seeking contracts with the City, and matters of similar sensitivity.

E. Confidentiality and Executive Sessions.

Councilmembers must keep confidential all written materials and verbal information provided to them during Executive Sessions to ensure that the City's position is not compromised. Confidentiality also includes information provided to Councilmembers outside of Executive Sessions when the information is considered to be exempt from disclosure under the Revised Code of Washington.

F. Election of Mayor/Mayor Pro Tem.

1. Swearing in of New Councilmembers. New Councilmembers shall be sworn in by a member of the judiciary or by the City Clerk.
2. Pursuant to RCW 35A.13.030, biennially, at the first meeting of the new council, the council shall choose a chair from among their number. The chair of the council shall have the title of mayor and shall preside at meetings of the council. In addition to the powers conferred upon him or her as mayor, he or she shall continue to have all the rights, privileges, and immunities of a member of the council. The mayor shall be recognized as the head of the city for ceremonial purposes. He or she shall have no regular administrative duties.
3. The motion to elect the Mayor will be placed on the agenda of the first regular meeting and the election will occur at said meeting.
4. No one Councilmember may nominate more than one person for a given office until every member wishing to nominate a candidate has an opportunity to do so. Nominations do not require a second vote. The Chair will repeat each nomination until all nominations have been made. When it appears that no one else wishes to make any further nominations, the Chair will ask again for further nominations and if there are none, the Chair will declare the nominations closed. A motion to close the nominations is not necessary. After nominations have been closed, voting for Mayor shall take place in the order nominations were made. Councilmembers will be asked for a voice vote and a raise of hands. As soon as one of the nominees receives a majority vote (four votes), then the Chair will declare him/her elected. No votes will be taken on the remaining nominees. If none of the nominees receives a majority vote, the Chair will call for nominations again and repeat the process until a single candidate receives a majority vote before the Office of Deputy Mayor is opened for nominations. A tie vote results in a failed nomination.
5. In the temporary absence of the mayor, the deputy mayor shall perform the duties and responsibilities of the mayor with regard to the conduct of meetings and emergency business. In the event that the mayor is unable to serve the remainder of his or her term, a new mayor shall be elected at the first regular meeting following the conclusion of the mayor's term. In the event the deputy mayor is unable to serve the remainder of his or her term, a new deputy mayor shall be elected at the first regular meeting following the conclusion of the deputy mayor's term.
6. A super majority vote (5 councilmembers) shall be required to approve a motion to remove the Mayor or Deputy Mayor from office for serious cause.

G. Duties of Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

1. Presiding Officers. The Mayor, or in his or her absence, the Deputy Mayor, shall be the Presiding Officer of the Council. In the absence of both the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor, the Council shall appoint one of the members of the Council to act as a temporary Presiding Officer.
2. Presiding Officer's Duties. It shall be the duty of the Presiding Officer to:
 - A. Call the meeting to order;
 - B. Keep the meeting to its order of business;
 - C. Control discussion in an orderly manner;
 - D. Give every Councilmember who wishes an opportunity to speak when recognized by the chair;
 - E. Permit audience participation at the appropriate times;
 - F. Require all speakers to speak to the question and to observe the rules of order;
 - G. State each motion before it is discussed and before it is voted upon; and
 - H. Put motions to a vote and announce the outcome.
3. Presiding Officer, Questions of Order. The Presiding Officer shall decide all questions of order, subject to the right of appeal to the Council by any member.
4. Presiding Officer, Participation. The Presiding Officer may at his or her discretion call the Deputy Mayor or any member to take the chair.
5. Request for Written Motions. Motions shall be reduced to writing when requested by the Presiding Officer of the Council or any member of the Council. All resolutions and ordinances shall be in writing.

Section 5. Advisory Committees and Staff.

A. Appointment to Advisory Bodies.

1. Vacancies may be advertised so that any interested citizen may submit an application. Applicants are urged to be citizens of the City of Sammamish, but applications from residents living outside of the corporate boundaries may be considered if authorized by the resolution or ordinance establishing the advisory body.

2. Appointments to advisory bodies will be made by the City Council during a regularly scheduled meeting.
3. Newly appointed advisory body members will receive a briefing by the commission, committee, or task force chairperson and/or City staff regarding duties and responsibilities of members of the advisory body.
4. Appointees to advisory bodies may be removed prior to the expiration of their term of office by a majority vote of the City Council.

B. Key Staff Duties.

Any City employee shall attend a City Council meeting when requested by the City Manager for clarification or explanation of agenda items.

Section 6. Council Committees/Appointments.

- A. Council committees are policy review and discussion arms of the City Council. Committees may study issues and develop recommendations for consideration by the City Council. Committees may not take binding action on behalf of the City.
- B. Council committee structure shall be as determined by the city council and may include:
 1. Council Committees – Standing Committees established for special purposes, tasks or time frames (three or fewer Councilmembers);
 2. Subcommittees of the City Council – Ad hoc and informal working or study group (three or fewer Councilmembers); and
 3. Councilmember Appointments – To task teams or City Advisory Boards, commissions and committees (three or fewer Councilmembers).
- D. The Chair of any Council Committee or Subcommittee, and the City's representative to any external Board or Commission (e.g., Eastside Transportation Partnership), shall provide a written report to the City Council within a reasonable time after each meeting of a Committee, Subcommittee, or other External Body.

Section 7. Effect/Waiver of Rules. These rules of procedure are adopted for the sole benefit of the members of the City Council to assist in the orderly conduct of Council business. These rules of procedure do not grant rights or privileges to members of the public or third parties. Failure of the City Council to adhere to these rules shall not result in any liability to the City, its officers, agents, and employees, nor shall failure to adhere to these rules result in invalidation of any Council act. The City Council may, by a majority vote, determine to temporarily waive any of the provisions herein.

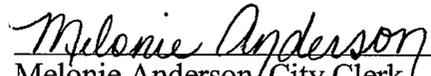
**PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAMMAMISH,
WASHINGTON, AT A REGULAR MEETING THEREOF THIS 16th DAY OF
FEBRUARY, 2016.**

CITY OF SAMMAMISH



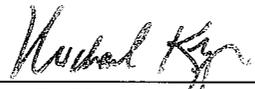
Mayor Donald J. Gerend

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:



Melonie Anderson, City Clerk

Approved as to form:



Michael R. Kenyon, City Attorney

Filed with the City Clerk: January 27, 2016
Passed by the City Council: February 16, 2016
Resolution No.: R2016-668