



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

March 10, 2015

Ordinance 17995

Proposed No. 2015-0118.1

Sponsors Phillips

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to council rules and order of
2 business; amending Ordinance 11683, Section 4, as
3 amended, and K.C.C. 1.24.035, and Ordinance 11683,
4 Section 15, as amended, and K.C.C. 1.24.145, and
5 declaring an emergency.

6 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY

7 SECTION 1. Findings:

8 A. Section 220.40 of the King County Charter requires the council to adopt by
9 ordinance rules of procedure governing the time, place and conduct of its meetings.

10 B. Consistent with the county charter, the council adopted by ordinance rules of
11 procedure, which are codified in K.C.C. chapter 1.24, and passed motions related to the
12 organization and administration of the council.

13 C. The rules ordinance and the organizational motion have been amended from
14 time to time to reflect desired changes in the council's rules of procedure and
15 organization.

16 D. Because the council is reorganizing the council and its committees by motion
17 effective today, including modifying council vice-chair positions, committee chair and
18 vice-chair positions, duties and committee meeting times, this ordinance must be enacted
19 as an emergency ordinance in order to be effective immediately to ensure that the regular

20 meeting times of the council's committees are enacted and effective contemporaneously
21 with the reorganization of the council.

22 SECTION 2. Ordinance 11683, Section 4, as amended, and K.C.C. 1.24.035 are
23 each hereby amended to read as follows:

24 **1.24.035 Rule 4: Meetings.**

25 A.1.a. The time of regular meetings of the council is 1:30 p.m. on Monday of
26 each week, or Tuesday if Monday is a state or county holiday or is a legislative branch
27 furlough day due to a county emergency budget crisis, unless otherwise ordered by the
28 chair or a majority of the council. However, the regular meetings of the council shall not
29 take place on the first and second Mondays in August and the third and fourth Mondays
30 in December. All regular or special meetings of council committees shall be regular or
31 special council meetings, pursuant to council rule 4.F.

32 b. Each Wednesday from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. shall be reserved for special
33 standing committee meetings and each fourth and fifth Wednesday of each month from
34 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. shall be reserved for special regional committee meetings as
35 needed. In order to allow each member sufficient time to review legislation and to meet
36 with constituents, staff and officials of other jurisdictions, no special committee meeting
37 may be called for any other time without the prior written consent of the council chair or
38 the consent of a majority of the members of the committee. If a special meeting for more
39 than one committee is called for the same time and location, the meeting for which the
40 agenda was first filed with the council clerk shall have precedence for use of the meeting
41 location. This subsection A.1.b. does not apply to special meetings of the budget and
42 fiscal management committee for purposes of considering the county executive's annual

43 budget proposal, which shall be called by the chair of the budget and fiscal management
44 committee.

45 2.a. All regular meetings of the King County council and the council's
46 committees, except for the employment and administration committee, shall be held in
47 the council chambers on the tenth floor of the King County Courthouse in Seattle,
48 Washington. All regular meetings of the employment and administration committee shall
49 be held in the southwest conference room on the twelfth floor of the King County
50 Courthouse in Seattle, Washington.

51 b. Whenever, due to an emergency, as defined in K.C.C. 12.52.010, it is
52 imprudent, inexpedient or impossible to conduct the affairs of the council at the regular
53 or usual place or places, the council may meet at any place within or without the
54 territorial limits of the county on the call of the chair or any two members of the council.
55 After an emergency relocation, the affairs of the council shall be lawfully conducted at
56 the emergency location for the duration of the emergency.

57 B.1. Except as provided in subsection B.2. of this rule, the times for regular
58 committee meetings are as follows, unless the council is meeting at that time because the
59 preceding Monday was a state or county holiday:

60 a. Committee of the whole: (~~(the)~~) the first and third Wednesdays of each
61 month at 9:30 a.m. from January 1 through September 25; Monday of each week at 9:30
62 a.m. from September 28 through November 13; and the first and third Wednesday of
63 each month at 9:30 a.m. (~~(thereafter)~~) from November 14 through December 31;

64 b. Budget and fiscal management committee: (~~(the first and third Tuesday of~~
65 ~~each month at 1:30 p.m.)~~) the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 9:30 a.m.;

66 c. Employment and administration committee: the second and fourth Mondays
67 of each month at 9:30 a.m. from January 1 through September 14; thereafter, through
68 December 31 on the first and third Mondays of each month at 3:00 p.m.;

69 d. Government accountability(~~(;)~~) and oversight (~~((and financial performance))~~)
70 committee(~~(*)~~): the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 9:30 a.m.;

71 e. Health, housing and human services committee: the first and third Tuesday
72 of each month at 1:30 p.m.;

73 f. Law, justice(~~(; health and human services)) and emergency management~~
74 committee: the second and fourth, and fifth if one occurs, Tuesdays of each month at
75 1:30 p.m.;

76 ~~((f.))~~ g. Transportation, economy and environment committee: the first and
77 third, and fifth if one occurs, Tuesdays of each month at 9:30 a.m.;

78 ~~((g.))~~ h. Regional policy committee: the second Wednesday of each month at
79 3:00 p.m.;

80 ~~((h.))~~ i. Regional transit committee: the third Wednesday of each month at 3:00
81 p.m.; and

82 ~~((i.))~~ j. Regional water quality committee: the first Wednesday of each month
83 at 3:00 p.m.

84 2. The regular meetings of the committees shall not take place during the first
85 and second weeks in August and the third and fourth weeks in December.

86 C. Council and committee meetings must be held in accordance with the Open
87 Public Meetings Act of 1971, chapter 42.30 RCW.

88 D. A meeting may be continued, in accordance with chapter 42.30 RCW, to
89 another date and does not conclude until adjourned in accordance with these rules.

90 E.1. An executive session may be held during a council or committee meeting if
91 one of the specific grounds under chapter 42.30 RCW for an executive session exists.

92 2. Before convening in executive session, the chair of the council or committee
93 shall publicly announce the purpose for excluding the public from the meeting place and
94 the time when the executive session will be concluded. The executive session may be
95 extended to a stated later time by announcement of the chair.

96 3. Only members of the council or committee, special invitees and those
97 employees or staff members the council or committee determines to be necessary are
98 allowed to remain in the room. Persons attending an executive session shall maintain the
99 confidentiality of the proceedings.

100 F.1. A legal analysis of the Open Public Meetings Act by the office of the
101 Attorney General, 2010 AGO No. 9, has advised that when a committee meeting is
102 attended by a quorum of the governing body it must be noticed not only as a committee
103 meeting but also as a meeting of the governing body. For this reason, all meetings of
104 council committees shall be noticed both as committee meetings and as council meetings
105 whose agenda is limited to the committee business.

106 2. In all committee meetings, which are council meetings in accordance with
107 subsection F.1. of this rule, only the rules and procedures applicable to committees apply,
108 and not those rules and procedures applicable to full council meetings. This includes, but
109 is not limited to:

110 a. only those members who serve on the committee have the right to exercise
111 parliamentary rights in the meeting, including, but not limited to, raising points of order,
112 making motions and voting;

113 b. attendance shall be recorded only for members serving on the committee,
114 and the quorum for the meeting shall be the committee quorum; and

115 c. committee meetings shall be chaired by the committee chair.

116 SECTION 3. Ordinance 11683, Section 15, as amended, and K.C.C. 1.24.145 are
117 each hereby amended to read as follows:

118 A. The requirements for a quorum of a standing committee are prescribed in Rule
119 6A, K.C.C. 1.24.055.A. The requirements for a quorum of a regional committee are
120 prescribed in Rule 7, K.C.C. 1.24.065. (~~Three~~) Two members constitute a quorum of
121 the employment and administration committee.

122 B.1. Five members constitute a quorum of the county council, except as provided
123 in subsection B.2. of this section. If there is a lack of a quorum, the chair shall request
124 the clerk of the council to call members so as to constitute a quorum. Unless otherwise
125 required by the King County Charter, a vote of the majority of those present is necessary
126 for the conduct of council business.

127 2. In the event that an emergency, as defined in K.C.C. 12.52.010, reduces the
128 number of councilmembers, then those councilmembers available and present for duty
129 have full authority to act in all matters as the county council. Quorum requirements for
130 the council shall be suspended for the period of the emergency, and where the affirmative
131 vote of a specified proportion of the council is required for approval of an ordinance or
132 other action, the same proportion of those councilmembers available shall be sufficient.

133 As soon as practicable thereafter, the available councilmembers shall act in accordance
134 with the charter and state law to fill existing vacancies on the council.

135 3. Members participating by telephone or other electronic means as allowed
136 under subsection B.4. of this section are present for quorum purposes. The clerk of the
137 council, in consultation with the chair, shall establish authentication and operating
138 procedures, which must comply with all state and county laws regarding open public
139 meetings. It shall be noted in the minutes when members participate by telephone or
140 other electronic means.

141 4. Members may participate and vote in council meetings by telephone or other
142 electronic means under the following circumstances:

- 143 a. in the event of an emergency, as defined in K.C.C. 12.52.010;
- 144 b. special meetings convened during the council's summer or winter recess; or
- 145 c. if a member declares orally or in writing to the chair of the council before or
146 during a meeting that he or she is unable to attend in person because of urgent
147 circumstances as defined in this subsection. A declaration of urgent circumstances may
148 not be made more than three times within a calendar year. For the purpose of this
149 subsection B.4.c., "urgent circumstances" means when a councilmember experiences one
150 or more of the following:

- 151 (1) inclement weather that poses an immediate life, health or safety risk to
152 the member if the member were to travel to the meeting, such as a flood alert in the
153 member's district or snow in the member's district or in an area through which the
154 member must travel to get to the meeting; and

155 (2) the member or an immediate family member, including spouse or
156 domestic partner, child, child of spouse or domestic partner, parent, parent of spouse or
157 domestic partner, grandparent or grandparent of spouse or domestic partner, has a
158 medically related emergency or urgent need for assistance that makes the member unable
159 to attend the meeting.

160 C. There may not be voting by proxy on a question before the council. A member
161 who is in the council chambers or present via telephone or other electronic means when
162 the question is put shall vote unless excused by the council for special reasons. A motion
163 to excuse a member must be made before the call for "ayes" and "nos" is commenced.

164 D. A vote before the council must be recorded as to the "ayes" and "nos." Upon
165 the final passage of legislation before the council, the vote must be taken by oral roll call.
166 On any other matter, the vote must be taken by oral roll call if requested by at least one
167 member. When once begun, the roll call may not be interrupted. The order of names on
168 the roll call must be alphabetical by last name except for the chair, who votes last when
169 the "ayes" and "nos" are called

170 SECTION 4. The county council finds as a fact and declares that an emergency
171 exists and that this ordinance is necessary for the immediate preservation of public peace,

172 health or safety or for the support of county government and its existing public
173 institutions.
174

Ordinance 17995 was introduced on 3/9/2015 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 3/9/2015, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague,
Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski and Mr.
Upthegrove
No: 0
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Phillips, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None