

ORDINANCE NO. 000011

KING COUNTY ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING TEMPORARY
RULES AND ORDER OF BUSINESS

The County Council, pursuant to Charter Section 220.40, does hereby ordain and establish the Temporary Rules and Order of Business attached hereto and made a part hereof as the Rules of the County Council of King County, Washington.

The County Council finds as a fact that an emergency exists and that this ordinance is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety and for the support of county government and its existing public institutions.

PASSED this 1ST day of May, 1969.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL

John T. O'Brien
Chairman

ATTESTED:

Ralph A. Stender
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED: 5-5-69

John D. Spellman
JOHN D. SPELLMAN
King County Executive

THE RULES OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

Rule 1.

The Chairman, or in his absence, the Vice Chairman, elected by the Council, for a term of one year, shall take the chair at the regular hour for meeting, or at the hour to which the Council shall have adjourned at the preceding session and, a quorum being present, shall cause the minutes of the preceding meeting to be read, unless otherwise ordered. The initial Chairman's term shall be effective from the institution date of the Council until the second Monday of January, 1970, at which date the Council will reconstitute itself.

Rule 2.

Five members shall constitute a quorum of the County Council. Unless otherwise specified by the Charter a vote of the majority of those present will be necessary for the conduct of Council business. Five members shall be authorized to call the Council, may compel the attendance of absent members, or may adjourn from day to day, or until the time for the next regular meeting.

Rule 3.

A Vice Chairman shall be chosen for a term coinciding with the term of the Chairman. In the event the Vice Chairman is incapacitated from acting as Chairman, a second Vice Chairman shall be chosen to act during such absence or incapacity only.

Rule 4.

The Chairman shall preserve order and decorum, may speak to points of order in preference to other members, and shall decide questions of order, subject to an appeal to the Council by any two members, on which appeal no member shall speak more than once, unless by leave of the Council.

Rule 5.

Questions shall be directly put in this form, to-wit: "all those in favor of (as the question may be,) say 'Aye,'" and after the affirmative is expressed, "those opposed say 'No.'" if the Chairman doubt, or a division is called for, the Council shall divide.

Rule 6.

The Chairman shall have the general direction and supervision of the Council Chamber, and the employes and property of the Council. While speaking upon any question before the Council, the Chairman shall have the right to designate any member to occupy the chair.

Rule 7.

The Chairman shall vote when the Ayes and Noes are called for, and in case of an equal division the question shall be lost.

Rule 8. (to be added)

Rule 9.

Special committees may be appointed, or elected, as the Council may from time to time direct.

Rule 10.

In case of disturbance or disorderly conduct in public areas adjacent to the Council Chambers, the presiding officer shall have the power to order the same to be cleared.

Rule 11.

No committee shall meet during the sittings of the Council without special leave, and all writs, warrants and subpoenas, issued by order of the Council, shall be under the hand of the Chairman and attested by the Clerk, except as otherwise provided by the County Charter.

Rule 12.

Business shall be disposed of in the following order:

- Roll Call
- Approval of Minutes
- Communications from County Officials
and Petitions
- Introduction of Bills and First Reading
- Report of Standing Committees and
Second Reading of Bills
- Resolutions for Referral
- Adoption of Resolutions
- Third Reading of Bills
- Unfinished Business
- Other Business

Rule 13.

The Chairman shall announce to the Council

the order of business agreeable to the preceding rule, and no business shall be taken up or considered until the class to which it belongs shall be declared in order without suspension of the rules, but communications from the Executive Officer or County officers or departments may be read at any time.

Rule 14.

When any member is about to speak in debate or deliver any matter to the Council, he shall raise his/her hand and respectfully address himself/herself to the Chairman, and shall confine himself/herself to the question under debate and avoid personalities; and no member shall impugn the motive of any other member's vote or argument.

Rule 15.

If any member, in speaking or otherwise transgresses the rules of the Council, the Chairman shall, or any member may call to order, in which case the member called to order shall immediately sit down, unless permitted to explain; and the Council shall, if appealed to, decide the case, but without debate. If there be no appeal, the decision of the Chair shall be permitted to stand. If the decision be in favor of the member called to order, he shall be at liberty to proceed; if otherwise, and the case requires it, he shall be liable to censure of the Council.

Rule 16.

If any member be called to order for words spoken in debate, the person calling him to order shall repeat the words excepted to, and they shall be taken down in writing at the Clerk's table, and no member shall be held to answer or be subject to the censure of the Council for words spoken in debate if any other member has spoken or other business has intervened after the words are spoken or before exception to them shall have been taken.

Rule 17.

When two or more members rise at once, the Chairman shall name who is the first to speak.

Rule 18.

No member shall speak more than once to the same question, and then not to exceed three minutes, without leave of two-thirds of the Council, except the Chairman of the committee or author of the bill or other measure, who may close debate by speaking not to exceed three minutes.

Rule 19.

While the Chairman is putting the question, no member shall walk across the Council Chamber, or out of the bar of the Council, nor when a member is speaking shall any member engage in private discourse or pass between the speaker and the Chair.

Rule 20.

Upon a division and a count of the Council on any question, no member without the bar shall be counted.

Rule 21.

Every member who shall be within the bar of the Council when the question was put shall give his vote, unless the Council for special reasons shall excuse him. All motions to excuse a member from voting shall be made before the Council divides, or before the call of Yeas and Noes is commenced; and any member requesting to be excused from voting may make a brief and verbal statement of the reasons for making such request, and the question shall then be taken without further debate.

Rule 22.

When a motion is made and seconded, it shall be stated by the Chairman, or being in writing, it shall be handed to the Chair and read aloud before debate.

Rule 23.

Every motion shall be reduced to writing, if the Chairman or a member desires it.

Rule 24.

After a motion is stated by the Chairman and read, it shall be deemed to be in possession of the Council, but may be withdrawn at any time by consent of the Council, before amendment or decision.

Rule 25.

When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received by to adjourn, to lay on the table, for the previous question, to postpone indefinitely, to postpone to a day certain, to recommit or amend; which several motions shall have precedence in the order in which they stand arranged, and a motion to postpone indefinitely being carried, the same shall not be acted upon again.

Rule 26.

The previous question shall be put in this form: "Shall the main question be now put? It shall only be admitted when demanded by two-thirds of the members present, and until it is decided, shall preclude all amendment and further debate on the main question. On a motion for the previous question, and prior to the seconding of the same, a call of the Council shall be in order, but after a two-thirds vote shall have seconded such motion, no call shall be in order prior to the decision of the main question.

Rule 27.

On the previous question there shall be no debate; all incidental questions of order arising after a motion is made for the previous question, and pending such motion, shall be decided, whether on appeal or otherwise, without debate.

Rule 28.

Motions and reports may be committed at the pleasure of the Council.

Rule 29.

Any member may call for the division of any question which shall be divided if it comprehends proposition in substance so distinct that, on being taken away, a substantive proposition shall remain for the decision of the Council. A motion to strike out being lost, shall preclude neither amendments nor a motion to strike out and insert.

Rule 30.

No motion or proposition on a subject different from that under consideration shall be admitted under the color of amendment. No bill or resolution shall at any time be amended by annexing thereto or incorporation therewith any other bill or resolution pending before the Council.

Rule 31.

When a motion has been made and carried affirmatively, it shall be in order for any member voting with the majority to move a reconsideration thereof at the same meeting; but when a motion to reconsider shall not be acted upon before the next meeting of the Council.

Rule 32.

When a reading of a paper is called for, if any objection is made, it shall be decided by a vote of the Council.

Rule 33.

The unfinished business at which the Council was engaged preceding adjournment shall have the preference in the order of the day, and no motion or any other business shall be received without special leave of the Council until the former is disposed of.

Rule 34.

If a question pending be lost by adjournment of the Council and revived on the succeeding day, no member who shall have spoken twice on the preceding day shall be permitted again to speak without leave.

Rule 35.

Petitions, memorials and other papers addressed to the Council may be presented by the Chairman or any member, and shall not be debated or decided on the day of their being first read, unless when the Council shall direct otherwise, but shall lie on the table, to be taken up in the order they may be read, or be referred to the proper committees.

Rule 36.

A motion to adjourn shall always be in order; that and the motion to lie on the table to be taken up in the order named.

Rule 37. (to be added)

Rule 38.

Bills introduced by members shall be referred to a committee, unless otherwise ordered. Bills introduced by committees shall lie on the table until next meeting, unless otherwise ordered. The Chairman may refer all bills, resolutions, petitions or other matters to a committee or committees without motion.

Rule 39.

any
A bill on/reading shall be read in full when demanded by three members.

Rule 40.

After commitment and report thereon to the Council, or at any time before its passage, a bill may be recommitted.

Rule 41.

All bills amended on second reading shall be engrossed by the Clerk.

Rule 42.

No amendment shall be received to a bill on its third reading, but it may be referred or recommitted for the purpose of amendment.

Rule 43.

When an ordinance shall pass, the Clerk shall note the day of its passage at the foot thereof, and hand it to the Chairman of the Council for signature, or in his absence to the Chairman Pro Tem after which it shall be attested to by the Clerk.

Rule 44.

The Council may go into Committee of the Whole at any time for the consideration of such matters as may be referred to the Committee of the Whole by the Council. The Committee of the Whole shall select its chairman.

Rule 45.

When a bill is committed to the Committee of the Whole, it shall be read and debated by sections, leaving the preamble and title to be last considered. The body of the bill shall not be defaced or interlined, but all amendments (noting the page and line) shall be duly entered by the Clerk on a separate paper as the same shall be agreed to by the Committee, and shall be so reported to the Council. After a report the bill shall be again subject to debate and amendment by clauses before a question to engross it be taken.

Rule 46.

All questions, whether in the Committee of the Whole or in the Council, shall be propounded in the order in which they are moved, except that in filling blanks the largest sum and longest time shall be put first, and the order of precedence of motions shall be as follows:

UNDEBATABLE -- (Cannot be Amended.)

To adjourn (when unqualified.)

For the special order of the day.

To lay on the table.

The previous question (two-thirds vote.)

DEBATABLE -- (Can be Amended.)

To fix time to adjourn.
To postpone to a certain time.
To commit or refer.
To amend.
To postpone indefinitely.

Rule 47.

Upon the passage of any question, the vote shall be taken by Yeas and Nays, and entered on the Minutes of the Council, when demanded, before any vote has been taken.

Rule 48.

The Rules of Proceeding in the Council shall be observed in the Committee of the Whole Council, so far as they may be applicable, but no member shall speak twice on any question until every member choosing to speak shall have spoken.

Rule 49.

No standing rule or order of the Council shall be rescinded or changed without one week's notice being given of the motion therefor, nor shall any rule be suspended except by a vote of at least two-thirds of the members present; nor shall the Order of Business established by the Council be postponed or changed, except by a vote of at least two-thirds of the members present.

Rule 50.

No member shall absent himself from the service of the Council unless he shall have leave or be sick and unable to attend.

Rule 51.

The time of meeting of the Council shall be at 9:30 a.m. on Monday of each week, unless otherwise ordered by the Council.

Rule 52.

On the final passage of every bill the Yeas and Nays shall be taken and entered in the Minutes.

Rule 53.

Any member of the Council present at a meeting of any standing committee, though not a member thereof, shall be entitled to participate in the deliberations of such committee, but shall not be entitled to a vote therein.

Page-9-

Rule 54.

The rules of Parliamentary Practice comprised in Roberts Rules of Order, Revised, in all cases in which they are not inconsistent with the standing rules and orders of the Council.

Rule 55.

If, after a committee has been constituted, another councilman shall be elected to it to fill a vacancy, or pro tempore, such person so elected shall rank thereon in order of election, unless otherwise ordered by the Council or the committee.

Rule 56.

All nominations and appointments requiring confirmation or approval of the Council shall be referred to the proper committees, unless otherwise ordered by the Council.

Rule 57.

All sessions of the County Council shall be held at the County seat.