1.24 COUNCIL RULES AND ORDER OF BUSINESS

UPDATED: May 22, 2020

Sections:
1.24.005 Rule 1: Definitions. The definitions in this rule apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.
   A. "Administrative committee" means a committee, other than a special or standing committee, established in the organization motion to act and make recommendations to the council on matters assigned to the committee.
B. "Committee" means a standing, special or administrative committee of the council as so designated by rule, motion or appointment by the chair of the council.

C. "Legislation" means a "motion" or "ordinance" as those terms are used in Section 230 and 240 of the King County Charter.

D. "Regional committee" means a regional committee established under Section 270 of the King County Charter.

E. "Special committee" means a committee that goes out of existence as soon as it has completed a specified task.

F. "Standing committee" means a committee, excluding regional committees, composed exclusively of councilmembers created by the council and given the task of reviewing legislation.

G. "Work session" means a committee of the whole assembly held for the purposes of engaging in deliberations, discussions, considerations, reviews and evaluations of issues of interest to the entire council. A final action, meaning the collective decision of the committee or an actual vote by the committee on a motion, proposal, order or ordinance, shall not take place in a work session. (Ord. 19048 § 2, 2020: Ord. 15340 § 1, 2005: Ord. 13982 § 1, 2000: Ord. 11683 § 1, 1995).

1.24.015 Rule 2: Powers and duties of the chair. The chair of the council has the following powers and duties:

A. The chair shall:
   1. Call the council to order at the hour appointed for meeting and, if a quorum is present, shall cause the minutes of the previous meeting to be approved;
   2. Proceed with the order of business; and
   3. Adjourn the council upon a motion to adjourn approved by a majority of members present;

B. The chair shall preserve order and decorum and in the interest of efficiency may impose time and subject matter limits for testimony and comment given by the public and members of the council;

C. The chair shall promote efficient operation of the council, which shall include setting the agenda and expediting parliamentary debate or, if there is no objection from any other member, expediting the passage of routine motions. The chair's act of adding to, removing from or taking out of order an item on a distributed and posted agenda may be appealed to the full body by any two members under Rule 5.D, K.C.C. 1.24.045.D. The chair shall discourage activities that are dilatory or disruptive. The chair shall endeavor to facilitate the will of the majority of members present at all times;

D. The chair may speak to points of order, inquiry or information in preference to other members. Upon a ruling of the chair on a point of order, the chair shall allow any two members to immediately request that the decision be placed before the body. If a majority of members present agree to the ruling of the chair, the business of the council must proceed without further debate. If a majority of the members present do not support the ruling of the chair, the chair shall immediately allow a procedural motion to dispense with the issue in question, proceeding until a decision of the council is secured and the business of the council is allowed to proceed;

E. The chair shall retain legislation related to collective bargaining, including appropriation ordinances limited solely to costs associated with implementation of the
collective bargaining, [in the control of the council and]* refer all other legislation to committees unless there is an objection to a referral. If there is an objection by a member, the chair's referral will stand unless a majority of the members present vote to support the objection. If the objection is sustained, the chair shall refer the legislation to another committee, unless there is an objection to the referral.

F. Any motion that proposes to censure a councilmember for violating the council's antiharassment policy shall be referred to the employment and administration committee;

G. The chair shall introduce all legislation relating to land use appeals, road vacations, plat applications, current use assessments and other similar land use decisions. The chair shall introduce all legislation relating to collective bargaining, including appropriation ordinances limited solely to costs associated with implementing the collective bargaining agreement. If recommended by action of the employment and administration committee, the chair shall introduce any motion that proposes to censure a councilmember for violating the council's antiharassment policy, unless the chair is the subject of the motion; and

H. The chair shall provide copies to all councilmembers of all official communications and requests for council action addressed to the chair from the executive, the sheriff, the assessor, the presiding judge of the district or superior court or the prosecuting attorney. (Ord. 19013 § 2, 2019: Ord. 16362 § 2, 2009: Ord. 15668 § 2, 2006: 15358 § 2, 2006: Ord. 15340 § 2, 2005: Ord. 14246 § 1, 2001: Ord. 13982 § 2, 2000: Ord. 13026 § 2, 1998: Ord. 12870 § 1, 1997: Ord. 11683 § 2, 1995).


1.24.017 Rule 2.2: Succession - council chair. In the event of the inability of the council chair to serve in that capacity, the following order of succession shall be observed:

A. Vice chair of policy development and review;
B. Vice chair of regional coordination;


A. The vice-chair shall exercise the duties, powers and prerogatives of the council chair in the event of the chair's absence.

B. If the chair and vice-chair are absent at a meeting of the council, the remaining councilmember present with the greatest seniority of service in county elective office shall preside as acting chair. In the event more than one member has equal greatest seniority based on service in county elective office, the member with the greatest cumulative seniority in county elective office and state legislative office shall preside as acting chair.

C. If, after recommendation by the employment and administration committee, the chair is the subject of a motion that proposes to censure a councilmember for violating the council's antiharassment policy, the vice-chair shall introduce the motion. (Ord. 19048 § 3, 2020: Ord. 16751 § 3, 2010: Ord. 16348 § 2, 2009: Ord. 16006 § 1, 2008: Ord. 15707 §
1.24.035 Rule 4: Meetings.

A.1.a. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the time of regular meetings of the council is 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday of each week. However, the regular meetings of the council shall not take place from August 1, 2020, through August 14, 2020; and from December 16, 2020, through January 3, 2021. Until either the executive terminates the March 1, 2020, proclamation of emergency in response to COVID-19 or this subsection is amended, the regular meeting time of the council is 1:00 p.m. on every-other Tuesday, starting with the regular council meeting on April 14, 2020. All regular or special meetings of council committees shall be regular or special council meetings, in accordance with subsection F. of this rule.

b. Each fifth Wednesday of each month from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. shall be reserved for special regional committee meetings as needed. Each first and third Wednesday from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. is reserved for meetings of the flood control district executive committee. Each Monday at 9:30 a.m. is reserved for special meetings of standing committees. Each fifth Monday of each month from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. is reserved for special regional and standing committee meetings. If a special meeting for more than one committee is called for the same time and location, the meeting for which the council clerk first receives written notice shall take precedence for use of the meeting location. In order to allow each member sufficient time to review legislation and to meet with constituents, staff and officials of other jurisdictions, no special committee meeting may be called for any other time than the days and times specified in this subsection for the respective committees without the prior written consent of the council chair or the consent of a majority of the members of the committee. This subsection A.1.b. does not apply to special meetings of the budget and fiscal management committee for purposes of considering the county executive's biennial budget proposal, which shall be called by the chair of the budget and fiscal management committee.

2.a. All regular meetings of the King County council and the council's committees, except for the committee of the whole work sessions, shall be held in the council chambers on the tenth floor of the King County Courthouse in Seattle, Washington. All regular meetings of the committee of the whole work sessions shall be held in the southwest conference room on the twelfth floor of the King County Courthouse in Seattle, Washington.

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

B.1. Except as provided in subsection B.2. and 3. of this rule, the times for regular and special committee meetings are as follows:

a. Budget and fiscal management committee: the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 9:30 a.m.;
b. Committee of the whole, except for work sessions, which are the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 12:30 p.m.: the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 1:30 p.m.;
   c. Community, health and housing services committee: the first and third
       Wednesdays of each month at 9:30 a.m.;
   d. Employment and administration committee: the third Tuesday of each month
       at 1:30 p.m.;
   e. Government accountability and oversight committee: the first and third
       Tuesdays of each month at 9:30 a.m.;
   f. Law and justice committee: the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at
       9:30 a.m.;
   g. Local services committee: the first and third Mondays of each month at 1:30
       p.m.;
   h. Mobility and environment committee: the second and fourth Wednesdays of
       each month at 1:00 p.m.;
   i. Regional policy committee: the second Wednesday of each month at 3:00
       p.m.;
   j. Regional transit committee: the third Wednesday of each month at 3:00 p.m.;
   and
   k. Regional water quality committee: the first Wednesday of each month at 3:00
       p.m.;

2. The regular meetings of the committees shall not take place during the times
   when the council meeting does not take place, as prescribed in subsection A. of this rule.

3. Until either the executive terminates the March 1, 2020, proclamation of
   emergency in response to COVID-19 or this subsection is amended, the regular meeting
   time of the committee of the whole is 1:00 p.m. on every-other Tuesday, starting with the
   regular committee meeting on April 7, 2020. In addition, a regular meeting of the committee
   of the whole shall occur on March 31, 2020.

C. Council and committee meetings must be held in accordance with the Open
   Public Meetings Act of 1971, chapter 42.30 RCW.
   D. A meeting may be continued, in accordance with chapter 42.30 RCW, to another
      date and does not conclude until adjourned in accordance with these rules.
   E.1. An executive session may be held during a council or committee meeting if one
         of the specific grounds under chapter 42.30 RCW for an executive session exists.
   2. Before convening in executive session, the chair of the council or committee
      shall publicly announce the purpose for excluding the public from the meeting place and
      the time when the executive session will be concluded. The executive session may be
      extended to a stated later time by announcement of the chair.
   3. Only members of the council or committee, special invitees and those
      employees or staff members the council or committee determines to be necessary are
      allowed to remain in the room. Persons attending an executive session shall maintain the
      confidentiality of the proceedings.
   F.1. A legal analysis of the Open Public Meetings Act by the office of the Attorney
         General, 2010 AGO No. 9, has advised that when a committee meeting is attended by a
         quorum of the governing body it must be noticed not only as a committee meeting but also
         as a meeting of the governing body. For this reason, all meetings, including work sessions,
of council committees shall be noticed both as committee meetings and as council meetings whose agenda is limited to the committee business.

2. In all committee meetings, which are council meetings in accordance with subsection F.1. of this rule, only the rules and procedures applicable to committees apply, and not those rules and procedures applicable to full council meetings. This includes, but is not limited to:
   a. only those members who serve on the committee have the right to exercise parliamentary rights in the meeting, including, but not limited to, raising points of order, making motions and voting;
   b. attendance shall be recorded only for members serving on the committee, and the quorum for the meeting shall be the committee quorum; and

1.24.045 Rule 5: Agenda.
A. Council business must be disposed of in the following order, or in an order the chair deems appropriate, subject to appeal as provided in Rule 5.D, K.C.C. 1.24.045.D:
   1. Roll call;
   2. Flag salute and Pledge of Allegiance, the leading of which must be offered by a member of the council and which must rotate among all members of the council;
   3. Approval of minutes;
   4. Additions to the council agenda;
   5. Special items;
   6. General public comment when scheduled in accordance with Rule 10, K.C.C. 1.24.095;
   7. Plat tracings;
   8. Hearing and second reading of ordinances from standing committees and regional committees, and of ordinances related to collective bargaining;
   9. First reading of and action on emergency ordinances without referral to committee;
   10. Consent agenda on hearing examiner recommendations;
   11. Motions, from standing committees and regional committees and motions related to collective bargaining, for council action;
   12. First reading of and action on motions without referral to committee;
   13. Consent agenda on reappointments to boards and commissions;
   14. Consent agenda on reports and recommended actions from the employment and administration committee;
   15. Other reports and recommended actions from the employment and administration committee;
   16. First reading and referral of ordinances;
17. First reading and referral of motions;
18. Reports from members serving on special and outside committees;
19. Extra items;
20. Messages from the county executive and other county officials, the judiciary, the regional committees and other agencies;
21. Other business; and
22. Adjournment.

B. Legislation or other items for placement on the council meeting agenda must be submitted to the clerk of the council by 10:00 a.m. Thursday of the week before the next scheduled meeting, except that:
   1. If directed by the chair, the clerk may place an item on the council agenda with a note that the item is contingent on being voted out of committee before the council meeting; and
   2. Legislation or other items needing action by the full council may be added at the discretion of the chair of the council at a regularly scheduled council meeting. The chair shall apply the following criteria for the additions:
      a. the legislation is particularly time-sensitive and delay in action either:
          (1) might impair the effectiveness of the county’s responses to emergencies such as natural or human-made disasters, or other circumstances seriously affecting the public health, safety or welfare or the support of county government and its existing public institutions; or
          (2) might impair timely performance under deadlines of a statute, ordinance, contract, interlocal agreement, real property instrument or other provision requiring immediate action;
      b. legislation should be delivered to the clerk before the beginning of the council meeting. The original should be provided to the clerk, together with an introduction slip from the sponsor; and
      c. the sponsor should provide a brief written description to the chair of the reason for the need to expedite the legislation without regular committee review.


1.24.055 Rule 6: Standing committees. The standing committees shall operate as follows:
   A. A majority of a committee constitutes a quorum. A committee is considered to have a quorum present unless the question is raised by a member of the committee. If a member objects to proceeding because of the lack of a quorum, the committee may not conduct official business, except to conduct a hearing. The appointment or use of alternate members is not allowed for a standing committee. Any member of the council may attend and participate in any committee meeting by asking questions and offering comments on any matter before the committee. Only members of the committee may exercise
parliamentary rights in the committee, including, but not limited to, raising points of order, making motions and voting.

B. During its consideration of a vote on legislation, the deliberations of a committee must be open to the public.

C. A vote to report legislation out of committee must be taken by the "ayes" and "nos," with the committee clerk recording the names of the members voting for and against, as well as the names of the members absent. On any matter, including but not limited to an amendment, a vote must be taken by oral roll call if requested by a member of the committee. A standing committee may not vote by secret ballot on an issue. Except as otherwise provided in subsection E. of this section and also except for a regional committee, legislation may be reported out of committee by less than a quorum of the committee, subject to signature by a majority of the members of the committee, unless a member present requests a vote on the recommendation by a quorum of the committee. If a member so requests, the legislation may not be reported out of the committee at that meeting without an affirmative vote by a majority of the quorum of the committee. The committee's recommendation on legislation reported out of committee subject to signature by a majority of the members of the committee is not effective unless signed by a majority of the committee and delivered to the clerk by the close of the second business day after the committee action. A vote in a committee must be recorded and the vote must be preserved as prescribed by the clerk of the council.

D. Except as otherwise provided in subsection E. of this section, legislation reported to the council from a standing committee must have a majority recommendation report, which must be prepared upon a printed standing committee report form and must be signed by a majority of the committee with one of the following recommendations:

1. Do pass;
2. Do pass -- consent;
3. Do pass substitute;
4. Do pass substitute -- consent;
5. Do not pass;
6. Postpone indefinitely;
7. Pass out of committee with no recommendation; or
8. Refer to another committee.

E. During a period of an emergency proclaimed by the executive and as directed by the chair of the council in writing:

1. Legislation may not be reported out of committee by less than a quorum of the committee present;
2. For each piece of legislation voted on in committee, the committee clerk shall prepare a vote roll call form that shall record the recommendation of the committee, and shall include the type and number of the legislation, the version of the legislation, number of the "ayes" and "nos," and the names of the members voting for and against, as well as the names of the members absent;
3. If a member is absent from a vote on a piece of legislation and as a result of the roll call vote at the meeting, the piece of legislation received a majority recommendation, the member shall have until the end of the day of the meeting to email the committee clerk with the member's vote in support of the majority recommendation and the committee clerk
shall record that member’s affirmative vote on the vote roll call form for that piece of
legislation and attach a copy of the email to the vote roll call form; and

4. The vote roll call form shall act as the majority recommendation report by which
legislation shall be reported to the council no earlier than the next day after the committee
meeting.

F. The rules and procedures contained in this chapter must be observed, when
applicable, in all proceedings of a standing or special committee of the council.

G. The chair of the committee shall set the agenda for the committee, including
whether and when to include on a specific agenda for action proposed legislation referred
to the committee by the council chair. A change to the last distributed and posted agenda
made at a meeting must be announced by the chair and is subject to appeal to the full
committee present by any two members of the committee. A majority of the members
present shall decide an appeal under this subsection.

H. Notice of a special meeting must be made in compliance with the Open Public
Meetings Act of 1971, chapter 42.30 RCW. The committee chair may call up to six special
meetings per calendar year. An additional special meeting may be called only upon the
request of the chair and the written consent of either the vice-chair of the committee or the
chair of the council before the meeting. A special meeting may be called only when:

1. There is time-sensitive legislation or information that cannot be presented and
considered in the ordinary committee meeting schedule;

2. A joint meeting of two or more committees is necessary to consider a matter; or

3. An unusual and extreme workload of a committee does not allow its full
consideration during the ordinary committee meeting schedule.

I. A committee may not recess a meeting for longer than eight hours unless consent
is given consistent with Rule 6.G., K.C.C. 1.24.055.G. Such a recess constitutes a special
meeting solely for the purpose of counting the six discretionary special meetings provided
for in this rule. If recess is until the next day but less than twenty-four hours, then the
maximum possible notice must be given. If recess is for greater than twenty-four hours,
then at least twenty-four hours’ notice must be given. (Ord. 19088 § 2, 2020: Ord. 19048
15340 § 5, 2005: Ord. 14284 § 2, 2002: Ord. 13982 § 6, 2000: Ord. 13411 § 1, 1999:

1.24.065 Rule 7: Regional committees.
A. Establishment. Three regional, standing committees are established as provided
under the King County Charter to develop, recommend and review regional policies and
plans for consideration by the council: the regional transit committee, the regional water
quality committee and the regional policies committee.

B. Membership.

1. Composition of committees.

a. The regional policies committee and regional transit committee are to each
have nine voting members. Three members of each committee, including the chair of each,
must be county councilmembers appointed by the chair of the council and must include
councilmembers from districts with unincorporated residents. Each county councilmember
vote shall be weighted as two votes. The chair of the county council shall also appoint the
chair of each committee. The remaining members of each committee must be local elected
city officials appointed from and in proportion to the relative populations of the city of Seattle and the other cities and towns in the county. Cities and towns other than the city of Seattle may appoint two persons for each of their allocated memberships in each committee, each person with one-half vote. A vice-chair of each committee shall be elected by majority vote of the committee members who are not county councilmembers.

b. The regional water quality committee is to have nine voting members. Three members of the committee, including the chair, must be county councilmembers appointed by the chair of the council, and must include councilmembers from districts with unincorporated residents. The chair of the county council shall also appoint the chair of the committee. Each county councilmember vote shall be weighted as two votes. The remaining members of the committee must be local elected city officials appointed from and in proportion to the relative populations of the city of Seattle and the other cities and towns in the county, and two members from special purpose districts providing sewer service in King County. Cities and towns other than the city of Seattle may appoint two persons for each of their allocated memberships, each person with one-half vote. Special purpose districts located outside of the county that receive sewerage treatment services from the county may jointly designate one nonvoting representative to serve on the committee. A vice-chair of the committee shall be elected by majority vote of the committee members who are not county councilmembers.

2. Alternating memberships. Each appointing authority may alternate members in accordance with the procedures established by the authority. The appointments must be announced at the beginning of each regional committee meeting to the committee chair or vice-chair and committee secretary by a person authorized by the appointing authority. Each appointing authority shall identify those members to receive mailings and notices of meetings.

3. Powers and duties of the chair. The chair of the committee has the following powers and duties:

a. The chair shall:
   (1) call the committee to order at the hour appointed for meeting and, if a quorum is present, shall cause the minutes of the previous meeting to be approved;
   (2) proceed with the order of business; and
   (3) adjourn the committee upon a motion to adjourn approved by a majority of members present;

b. The chair shall preserve order and decorum and in the interest of efficiency may impose time and subject matter limits for testimony and comment given by the public and members of the committee;

c. The chair shall promote efficient operation of the committee. The chair's act of adding to, removing from or taking out of order an item on a distributed and posted agenda may be appealed to the full body by members whose cumulative voting power is at least two votes. The chair shall discourage activities that are dilatory or disruptive. The chair shall endeavor to facilitate the will of the majority of members present at all times;

d. The chair may speak to points of order, inquiry or information in preference to other members. Upon a ruling of the chair on a point of order, the chair shall allow any members whose cumulative voting power is at least two votes to immediately request that the decision be placed before the body. If a majority of votes present agrees to the ruling of the chair, the business of the committee must proceed without further debate. If a
majority of the votes present does not support the ruling of the chair, the chair shall immediately allow a procedural motion to dispense with the issue in question, proceeding until a decision of the committee is secured and the business of the committee is allowed to proceed; and

   e. The chair shall provide copies to all committee members of all official communications and requests for committee action addressed to the chair.

4. Powers and duties of the vice-chair.
   a. There shall be one vice-chair of each committee.
   b. At committee meetings, the vice-chair shall exercise the duties, powers and prerogatives of the committee chair in the chair's absence.

5. Chair actions, vice-chair consultation.
   a. The chair shall consult with the vice-chair in:
      (1) developing a draft work program for consideration by the full committee;
      (2) setting a schedule for carrying out the committee's work program; and
      (3) cancelling or changing the date, time or place of committee meeting.
   b. If the vice-chair disagrees with a chair's proposed decision regarding the matters under subsection B.5.a. of this rule, the chair shall not take unilateral action and shall refer the matters to the full committee.

C. Quorum, notice and voting. Members representing six and one-half votes constitute a quorum of a regional committee. In the absence of a quorum, the committee may perform all committee functions except for voting on legislation or a work program. Notice of all regular and special meetings must be provided as specified in the Open Public Meetings Act of 1971, chapter 42.30 RCW, and notice must be given to members of the committees, including members who at any time during the calendar year have served on the committee or have been designated by their appointing authority to receive notice. All recommendations of a regional committee on council-referred ordinances or motions must be approved by a majority of the members present and voting, with no fewer than three and one-half affirmative votes. All recommendations must be signed only by members who were present and voting on the matter and be made on a committee report form supplied by the council. There may not be voting by proxy.

D.1.a. Referral to the regional transit committee. The chair of the council shall refer to the regional transit committee countywide policies and plans related to the transit services formerly provided by the municipality of metropolitan Seattle. If a standing committee of the council is considering an issue that, upon the standing committee's subsequent review, the standing committee believes should be considered as a countywide policy or plan related to transit, then the standing committee shall so inform the chair of the council. The chair of the council may then determine whether the policy or plan is to be referred to a regional committee.

   b. Referral to the regional water quality committee. The chair of the council shall refer to the regional water quality committee countywide policies and plans related to the water quality services formerly provided by the municipality of metropolitan Seattle. If a standing committee of the council is considering an issue that, upon the standing committee's subsequent review, the standing committee believes should be considered as a countywide policy or plan related to water quality, then the standing committee shall so inform the chair of the council. The chair of the council may then determine whether the policy or plan is to be referred to a regional committee.
2. Regional policies committee work program. The regional policies committee shall establish its subject matter through a work program adopted by a majority of those committee members present and voting, with no fewer than three and one-half affirmative votes, though the work program shall be limited as provided by charter or ordinance, including but not limited to, subsection K. of this rule. Once the work program is adopted, all regional policies and plans related to the subject matter must be referred to the committee by the council.

3. Provisions applicable to referrals by council chair and rereferrals. Referrals by the council chair or rereferrals are subject to the procedures, rights and constraints of Rules 13, 17 and 26, K.C.C. 1.24.125, 1.24.165 and 1.24.255.

E. Time for review -- committees. A regional committee shall review legislation referred to it by the county council within one hundred twenty days of the legislation’s referral or such other time as is jointly established by the council and the committee, which shall be confirmed in the form of a motion adopted by the council. However, the committee may request, and the county council may grant by motion, additional time for review. If the committee fails to act upon the proposed policy or plan within the established time limit, the county council may adopt the proposed policy or plan upon six affirmative votes.

F. Time for review -- council. The council shall amend, adopt or defeat the legislation referred to a regional committee within ninety days after receipt of an initial regional committee recommendation. However, upon receipt of the council chair’s written request for an extension of the time limit, the committee may approve the request in writing by a majority vote at a special meeting or the next regular meeting of the committee.

G. Adoption.
   1. A proposed policy or plan recommended by a regional committee may be adopted, without amendment, by the county council by five affirmative votes.
   2. A proposed policy or plan that differs from the policy or plan recommended by a regional committee may be adopted by the county council by six affirmative votes after the regional committee has had the opportunity to review all county council amendments.

H. Amendments and rereferral.
   1. If the county council votes before the final passage to amend a proposed policy or plan that has been reviewed or recommended by a regional committee, the proposed policy or plan, as amended, must be referred to the appropriate regional committee for further review and recommendation.
   2. The timeline for the committee’s review after rereferral may not be greater than sixty days. However, the committee may request, and the county council may grant by motion, additional time for review. The committee may concur in, dissent from or recommend additional amendments to the policy or plan.
   3. The council shall amend, adopt or defeat the legislation within sixty days after receipt of a regional committee recommendation following rereferral by the council.

I. Regional committee consideration of other regional issues. The chair of the council may request that one or more regional committees examine and comment upon other pending issues that are not countywide policies or plans but would benefit from interjurisdictional discussion. The issues may include, but are not limited to, operational, organizational or implementation measures for countywide plans and policies. This type of regional committee analysis and comment is not subject to the mandatory procedural
requirements of Section 270.30 of the King County Charter and the county council may need to act on such issues before comment from the regional committee.

J. The regional committee is governed by the King County Charter, the King County Code and, except to the extent expressly provided otherwise, the rules and procedures established for standing and special committees in this chapter.

K. Role of regional committees.

1. A regional committee shall focus on planning and policy setting in program areas where it has been determined that regional service or facility planning is required and in area where it is agreed the opportunity and need for the planning exist. A regional committee is not responsible for routine review and recommendation on operational and administrative matters such as contracts, budgets, appropriations, and fares and rates, formerly performed by the council of metropolitan Seattle. A regional committee may, however, deal with policies to develop fares and rates within the committee's subject matter area.

2. The regional transit committee shall develop, review and recommend countywide policies and plans related to the transportation services formerly provided by the municipality of metropolitan Seattle. Plans and policies that must be assigned to the committee include, but are not limited to, the long-range transit system and capital improvement plans, service design, development and allocation policies, financial policies, fare policies, facility siting policy and major facilities siting process, and review and comment upon Regional Transit Authority plans.

3. The regional water quality committee shall develop, review and recommend countywide policies and plans related to the water pollution control functions formerly provided by the municipality of metropolitan Seattle. Plans and policies that must be assigned to the committee include, but are not limited to, water quality comprehensive and long-range capital improvement plans, service area and extension policies, rate policies, and the facility siting policy and major facilities siting process.

4. The regional policies committee shall review and recommend regional policies and plans, other than transit and water quality plans, that are within the subject matter area for the committee. Also, the committee may develop proposed policies and plans on issues of countywide significance but, unless referred to the committee by the county council, the policies and plans are not subject to the procedural requirements of Section 270.30 of the King County Charter. Issues that may be referred to the committee or be the subject of the committee's policy development include, but are not limited to, public health, human services, open space, housing, solid waste management, regional services financial policies, criminal justice, jails and district court services, and regional facilities siting. In addition, the regional policies committee may consider major regional governance transition and consolidation issues, particularly those involving potential changes in organization and responsibilities with other county, city or regional organizations.

L. Policies or plans proposed by regional committees. A regional committee may develop and propose directly to the council, an ordinance or motion adopting, amending or repealing a countywide policy or plan regarding regional transit, water quality or other countywide policies and plans within the subject matter area of the committee. The proposals must be approved by a majority of the committee members present and voting, with no fewer than three and one-half affirmative votes. For purposes of this subsection, "the subject matter area" of the regional policies committee includes matters in the
committee’s adopted work program. Within one hundred twenty days of introduction by the
committee, the council or a standing committee shall consider the proposed legislation and
take such action on the proposed legislation as the council or standing committee deems
appropriate, including approval, rejection, amendment and rereferral, postponement or any
other action of record during a council or standing committee meeting. Within five calendar
days following council or standing committee action, the clerk of the council or the standing
committee shall notify the vice-chair of the committee of the action taken. If the council
amends the proposed legislation, the procedures described in subsection H. of this rule
shall be followed, except that the council’s duty to act on the legislation under subsection
H.3. of this rule shall be satisfied by approval, rejection, amendment and rereferral,
postponement or any other action of record taken during a council or standing committee
meeting within sixty days following receipt of the legislation from the regional committee.

M. To assist each regional committee in evaluating countywide policies and plans,
the committee may conduct public meetings and hearings and request briefings and other
information from citizens, county, state and local agencies, business entities and other
§ 7, 1995).

1.24.075 Rule 8: Indication of new and deleted matter in ordinances.
A.1. A section of an existing ordinance, except an appropriations ordinance, may
not be amended unless the new ordinance sets forth the amended section at full length.
Matter added to an existing ordinance must be indicated by underlining the matter. Matter
deleted from an existing ordinance must be indicated by lining out the matter with a solid
line and enclosing the lined-out matter within double parentheses.

2. An appropriations ordinance may be amended by showing the incremental
change to a section of the biennial appropriations ordinance. Any attachment to an
appropriations ordinance may be amended by showing only the new or changed object of
expense on the adopted attachment. Any amendment to an appropriations ordinance or
an attachment to an appropriations ordinance must be reported in the quarterly budget
management report filed in accordance with K.C.C. 4A.100.100.

3. An ordinance may not be presented to or acted upon by the council until this
rule is followed.

B. Entirely new sections of ordinances that are to be codified, or sections being
added to an existing uncodified ordinance, may not be underlined but must be designated
"NEW SECTION.". (Ord. 18268 § 1, 2016: Ord. 15340 § 7, 2005: Ord. 13982 § 8, 2000:
Ord. 11683 § 8, 1995).

1.24.085 Rule 9: Introduction and initial consideration of proposed
legislation.
A. All legislative proposals submitted to the King County council by the executive
shall be accompanied by a completed Legislative Review Form in the form of Attachment
A to Ordinance 17666*, dated July 25, 2013, or as amended from time to time. In addition,
all legislative proposals involving the collective bargaining or appropriations ordinances
limited solely to the costs associated with the implementation of collective bargaining shall
be accompanied by a summary of the legislation that includes the current costs and five-
year implementation costs as well as changes to working conditions and any other substantive changes compared to prior agreements.

B. Upon receipt of proposed legislation from the executive, the sheriff, the assessor, the presiding judge, the prosecuting attorney, the director of elections or a councilmember, the clerk of the council shall assign a proposed number to the legislation. The clerk may make formatting and nonsubstantive revisions in form and style to proposed legislation before first reading and shall indicate on the revised legislation that the legislation is revised by the clerk and the date of the revision.

C. Upon filing with the clerk of the council of either a signature of at least one member of the council or electronic sponsorship of legislation in a form prescribed by the clerk of the council, or upon receipt by the council of a proposed ordinance submitted as an institutional initiative under Section 230.50.10 of the King County Charter, the proposed legislation is introduced and must be placed on the agenda for first reading and referral. Legislation may be introduced with the title only, but the text of the legislation must be filed with the clerk by first reading. In accordance with Rule 2.E., K.C.C. 1.24.015.E., the chair of the council shall refer both the title and the subsequently filed text of the legislation to committee if the legislation was introduced with the title only. If the text of the legislation is not timely filed, the legislation is to be removed from the agenda and is not to be referred to committee.

D. A member may add the member’s own name to sponsorship of legislation at any time before passage of the legislation by informing the clerk of the council in writing. The first member listed on the first introduction slip filed for legislation may not remove that member’s own name from sponsorship of the legislation. However, any other sponsor of legislation may remove that sponsor’s own name from sponsorship of the legislation by informing the clerk of the council in writing.

E. First reading of legislation shall consist of either:

1. Printing the number and title of the proposed legislation on the published agenda; or
2. Adding the proposed legislation to the agenda under Rule 5, K.C.C. 1.24.045.B.2. or 3. and including this information in the council's minutes.

F. After the first reading, proposed legislation must be referred to an appropriate committee or committees by the chair of the council, except for motions confirming executive reappointments to boards or commissions, which may be referred directly to a council consent agenda, or legislation related to collective bargaining, including appropriation ordinances limited solely to the costs associated with implementation of a collective bargaining agreement. Proposed legislation referred to more than one committee must be considered consecutively by the committees in the order set forth on the marked published agenda or as specified by the chair during the meeting and reflected in the council's minutes.

G. Upon being reported out of committee with a recommendation signed by a majority of the committee, proposed legislation must be placed upon an agenda for appropriate action, after consideration of public hearing notice requirements, one week after the Wednesday after the committee meeting, unless the committee chair decides and states on the record at the committee meeting that the item be placed on the next council agenda. The clerk of the council may make formatting and nonsubstantive revisions in form to proposed legislation after the legislation is reported out of the committee and before
the legislation is placed on the agenda for second reading and shall indicate on the revised legislation that the legislation is revised by the clerk and the date of the revision.


*Available in the King County Archives.*

1.24.095 Rule 10: Public hearing and second reading.
A. The council encourages public participation in the legislative process. To preserve order and decorum and in the interest of efficiency, the council or committee chair may impose time and subject matter limits on public comment or testimony. The following rules shall apply at any meeting of the council and its standing committees, regional committees or special committees at which public comment or testimony is taken:

1. It shall be at the discretion of the committee chair whether to allow either public comment or testimony at a committee meeting;

2. At least seven days must elapse after introduction of a proposed ordinance, other than an emergency ordinance, before the council may conduct the required public hearing on the proposed ordinance. The council must conduct a public hearing before adopting an ordinance. Public testimony at the hearing must be germane to the proposed ordinance and must be made in such a manner as to comply with the requirements imposed by the chair under Rule 2.B, K.C.C. 1.24.015.B; and

3. The council shall allow general public comment on matters relating to county government at its meeting on the fourth Tuesday of each month. If the fourth Tuesday is a state or county holiday and the council does not meet, the general public comment shall occur at the next regular meeting of the council. General public comment is limited to fifteen minutes and each person making general public comment may speak for two minutes. General public comment may not be used for the purpose of assisting a campaign for election of any person to any office or for the promotion of or opposition to any ballot proposition. General public comment may not address any ordinance that is on that day’s council agenda for public hearing. General public comment must be made in such a manner as to comply with the requirements imposed by the chair under Rule 2.B, K.C.C. 1.24.015.B.

B. Disruptions of council and committee meetings are prohibited. Engaging in speech or conduct that interrupts, delays or otherwise disrupts the orderly conduct of any meeting is prohibited. Disruptions include, but are not limited to:

1. Speech by an individual after expiration of the time allotted for the speaker's public comment or testimony;

2. Speech by an individual who has not been recognized by the chair for public comment or testimony, who is speaking in a volume louder than a low, conversational level appropriate for communication between persons seated next to each other in the council chambers, or whose speech is audible by others;
3. Comments or testimony that does not comply with subsection A. of this section;
4. Standing, except when: entering or leaving the chambers, providing comment or public testimony after being called on by the chair, or as necessary to obtain a copy of meeting materials from staff;
5. Holding or placing a banner or sign during a meeting in a way that may endanger other individuals or that obstructs the free passage or view of others attending or viewing the meeting;
6. Whistling, handclapping, stamping of feet, making noise or waving arms; or
7. Activities by an individual that, in the reasonable determination of the chair, disrupt the meeting.

C. If an individual engages in disruption of the meeting, including but not limited to any of the actions described in subsection B. of this section, the chair may order the individual:
   1. To leave the chambers; or
   2. To cease the activity and impose other reasonable conditions for the individual's continued presence at the meeting.

D. If the individual does not immediately comply with the chair's order under subsection C.2. of this section, the chair may direct the removal of the individual from the meeting.

E. Unless otherwise ordered by the chair, any individual ordered to be removed from a meeting is excluded from returning to that meeting, unless the decision of the chair is overruled by a majority vote of those members in attendance. Any two members may place before the body the question of whether to permit the individual to return to the same meeting.

F.1. If, within a fifteen-day period, an individual is removed from two or more committee meetings, from two or more consecutive meetings of the council or from one committee meeting and a council meeting, the chair of the council may exclude the individual from participation in public comment or testimony periods at future council or committee meetings.
   2. The chair shall notify the individual in writing of the type of exclusion, the specific reasons for the exclusion and the specific terms and length of the exclusion.
   3. The notice of exclusion shall advise that the individual may submit written comments to the clerk for distribution to the councilmembers at future public comment or testimony periods.
   4. The notice of exclusion shall be filed with the clerk, who shall post it on the door to the council chambers and on the council's web page, provide a copy of the notice to members and mail the notice to the individual's last known address, if any. The notice is effective when posted. The exclusion order shall remain posted on the door to the chambers for the duration of the exclusion period.

G.1. In determining the scope and length of an individual's exclusion allowed under subsection F. of this section, the chair may consider the seriousness of the disruptions to the orderly conduct of the meeting, the number of disruptions in which the individual participated and other reasons deemed relevant by the chair.
   2. The chair may issue an exclusion from future participation at council and committee meetings, including public comment or testimony periods for up to sixty calendar days.
3. At the next regular meeting of the council, following the filing and posting of the exclusion notice, the exclusion order may be overruled or modified by a majority vote of those councilmembers in attendance. Any two members may place before the body the question of whether to overrule or modify the exclusion decision.

H. Any individual excluded from participation at council and committee meetings may appeal the exclusion by submitting a written appeal to the clerk of the council within five calendar days after the exclusion notice is posted. The clerk shall distribute copies of the appeal to all councilmembers. The council shall consider the appeal at the next regularly scheduled council meeting if any two members place it before the body. The individual’s exclusion from public comment or testimony periods shall remain in effect during the council’s consideration of the appeal. (Ord. 19048 § 6, 2020: Ord. 18865 § 6, 2019: Ord. 18008 § 2, 2015: Ord. 17335 § 3, 2012: Ord. 16751 § 7, 2010: Ord. 15340 § 9, 2005: Ord. 13982 § 10, 2000: Ord. 11907 § 1, 1995: Ord. 11683 § 10, 1995).

1.24.105 Rule 11: Notice – public hearing on proposed ordinance. Notice for a public hearing on a proposed ordinance must set forth the title of the proposed ordinance and the date, hour and place of hearing. Notice is accomplished by posting notice outside the council chambers, and by such other means required by law. Notice made under this rule constitutes due notice as required in Section 230.10 of the King County Charter. If required, the notice must also be provided in the manner and for the time prescribed in the King County Code and state law. (Ord. 15340 § 10, 2005: Ord. 13982 § 11, 2000: Ord. 11683 § 11, 1995).

A. Unless otherwise provided for by state law, an ordinance that establishes a police or sanitary regulation may not be passed unless a public hearing, of which at least ten days' notice has been given, has been held on the ordinance by the council. The notice must be published in the official county newspaper. The notice must also be posted in conformance with Rule 11, K.C.C. 1.24.105.

B. The notice must either:
   1. Set out a copy of the proposed ordinance;
   2. Summarize the content of each proposed ordinance, succinctly describing the main points of each section and stating that the full text of the proposed ordinance will be mailed upon request without charge. However, a penalty section of an ordinance or a section containing a provision regarding taxation or containing a legal description must be published in full; or

1.24.125 Rule 13: Relieving legislation from committees. A standing committee of the council may be relieved of further consideration of proposed legislation, regardless of prior action by the committee, by five members of the council. The council may then by the required majority vote make the orderly disposition of the proposed legislation including, if appropriate, final passage or setting a public hearing on the matter. (Ord. 15340 § 12, 2005: Ord. 13982 § 13, 2000: Ord. 12870 § 6, 1997: Ord. 11683 § 13, 1995).
1.24.135 Rule 14: Adoption by consent.

A. Consent agendas may be established by the chair of the council or a committee. Proposed legislation may be placed on a consent agenda at a council meeting upon recommendation by the committee that considered the legislation. If a member objects to the placement of proposed legislation on a consent agenda, the proposed legislation must be removed from the consent agenda. Proposed legislation on the consent agenda at a council meeting is not subject to amendment except as recommended in the committee report. All items on a consent agenda, whether committee recommendations or final council action, may be adopted in one motion by oral roll call vote.

B. Employment and administration committee recommendations shall be contained in a written recommendation report that shall be sent to the full council in the manner set forth in the council’s organizational motion. The council shall consider the recommendation reports from the committee on an employment and administration committee consent agenda. However, in the event the employment and administration committee forwards two recommendations to the council on the same matter, the two recommendations shall be considered separately from the consent agenda. Upon the request of any member present before the full council, any specific recommendation from the employment and administration committee shall be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately by the council after adoption of the employment and administration committee consent agenda.

C. A consent agenda on hearing examiner recommendations may be established by the chair of the council. A hearing examiner recommendation may be placed on the agenda on hearing examiner recommendations if a hearing was previously held on the measure and if a council member does not object to the placement. If a member objects to the placement of a hearing examiner recommendation on the consent agenda on hearing examiner recommendations, the recommendation must be removed from the consent agenda on hearing examiner recommendations. All items on the consent agenda on hearing examiner recommendations may be adopted in one motion by oral roll call vote.

D. A consent agenda on motions confirming reappointments to boards and commissions may be established by the chair of the council. If a member objects to the placement of a confirmation motion on the consent agenda, the motion must be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately before adoption of the confirmation consent agenda. Confirmation motions referred to the consent agenda may be adopted in one motion by oral roll call vote. (Ord. 15668 § 5, 2006: Ord. 15340 § 13, 2005: Ord. 14336 § 3, 2002: Ord. 14284 § 3, 2002: Ord. 13982 § 14, 2000: Ord. 11683 § 14, 1995).


A. The requirements for a quorum of a standing committee are prescribed in Rule 6A, K.C.C. 1.24.055.A. The requirements for a quorum of a regional committee are prescribed in Rule 7, K.C.C. 1.24.065.

B.1. Five members constitute a quorum of the county council, except as provided in subsection B.2. of this section. If there is a lack of a quorum, the chair shall request the clerk of the council to call members so as to constitute a quorum. Unless otherwise required by the King County Charter, a vote of the majority of those present is necessary for the conduct of council business.
2. In the event that an emergency, as defined in K.C.C. 12.52.010, reduces the number of members, then those members available and present for duty have full authority to act in all matters as the county council. Quorum requirements for the council shall be suspended for the period of the emergency, and where the affirmative vote of a specified proportion of the council is required for approval of an ordinance or other action, the same proportion of those members available shall be sufficient. As soon as practicable thereafter, the available members shall act in accordance with the charter and state law to fill existing vacancies on the council.

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

C.1. Members may participate and vote in meetings of standing committees of which they are members and in meetings of the full council by telephone or other electronic means under the following circumstances:

a. any regular meeting convened during the time period specified by the chair for the council's annual trip to Washington, D.C., to confer with federal officials and members of Congress on matters affecting the county;

b. under any circumstances up to five times per calendar year per councilmember; and

c. under circumstances constituting good cause, which include:
   i. an emergency, as defined in K.C.C. 12.52.010;
   ii. special meetings convened during the dates in Rule 4.A., K.C.C. 1.24.035.A., when the regular meetings of the council shall not take place; or
   iii. urgent circumstances as defined in subsection C.5. of this section, if the member's attendance is approved in accordance with subsection C.2. of this section.

2. A member wishing to participate and vote in a full council or standing committee meeting by telephone or other electronic means under subsection C.1.b.iii. of this section shall use the following process:

a. The member shall declare orally or in writing to the chair of the meeting that the member requests to participate and vote by telephone or other electronic means because of urgent circumstances;

b. After receiving the request from the member, the chair shall promptly approve or deny the request and so inform the member, who may accept the chair's ruling or appeal the chair's ruling to the members present at the meeting; and

c. Reversal of the chair's ruling requires an affirmative vote of a two-thirds majority of the members present at the meeting. For a full council meeting, reversal of the chair's ruling also requires that a quorum be present.

3. In notifying the meeting chair of the member's intent or request to participate and vote by telephone or other electronic means under this subsection C., the member shall specify the specific provision of this subsection C. on which the member is relying.

4. To facilitate connection to the broadcasting system, notices or requests for participation by telephone or other electronic means should be made half an hour in advance of the meeting when possible, and the member should promptly inform the clerk of the meeting of the notice or request. When participating by telephone or other electronic
means, the member shall speak audibly so that the public can hear the discussion and voting process.

5. For the purposes of this subsection C., "urgent circumstances" means when a member experiences one or more of the following:
   a. inclement weather, such as a flood alert or snow in the member's district, that results in circumstances that make it unsafe for the member to attend the meeting; and
   b. the member or an immediate family member, as "immediate family" is defined in K.C.C. 3.12.010, has a medically-related issue or other urgent need for assistance, including without limitation the death of an immediate family member, that makes it difficult for the member to attend the meeting.

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

E. A vote before the council must be recorded as to the "ayes" and "nos." Upon the final passage of legislation before the council, the vote must be taken by oral roll call. On any other matter, the vote must be taken by oral roll call if requested by at least one member. When once begun, the roll call may not be interrupted. The order of names on the roll call must be alphabetical by last name except for the chair, who votes last when the "ayes" and "nos" are called. (Ord. 19048 § 7, 2020: Ord. 18865 § 7, 2019: Ord. 18809 § 1, 2018: Ord. 18315 § 1, 2016: Ord. 18002 § 2, 2015: Ord. 17995 § 3, 2015: Ord. 16991 § 1, 2010: Ord. 15707 § 6, 2007: Ord. 15668 § 6, 2006: Ord. 13982 § 15, 2000: Ord. 11683 § 15, 1995).

1.24.155 Rule 16: Amendments. A member may sponsor amendments to proposed legislation for consideration by the council or a standing committee, in accordance with the following:

A. The clerk of the council shall establish the proper form for an amendment. Except as provided in subsection F. of this rule, an amendment must:
   1. be in writing;
   2. bear the name of the member who sponsors it as well as the page and line number of the proposed legislation to be amended; and
   3. be distributed to each member at the time the legislation is before the council or standing committee.

B. As a courtesy to the clerk, amendments should be filed one-half hour before the beginning of the council meeting.

C. An amendment to proposed legislation may not change the scope and object of the proposed legislation. An amendment must be germane and must embrace the single subject contained within the proposed legislation.

D.1. For the purposes of this subsection D:
   a. "line amendment" means an amendment that either adds or deletes, or both, material in a specified portion of legislation. A "specified portion of legislation" includes either or both the legislation's body and any substantive attachment incorporated as part of the legislation; and
   b. "striking amendment" means an amendment that deletes the entire text of legislation and inserts new language.
2. Striking amendments should be considered before any line amendments. If a striking amendment is moved, all line amendments to the striking amendment, including amendments to the attachment, must be approved or rejected before the striking amendment is approved or rejected.

3. Line amendments should be considered section by section with perfecting amendments considered first.

4. Only one amendment and one amendment to the amendment are permitted at a time, but any number of each may be moved in succession if a question already decided is not raised again.

5. Title amendments must be considered after the amendments to the proposed legislation.

E.1. Substitute legislation may only come before the council after consideration by a standing committee. A member may demand a vote on the question of whether the committee substitute is to be substituted for the original proposed legislation. A substitute ordinance must be within the scope and object of the original proposed ordinance.

2. A member may move proposed substitute legislation for a standing committee's consideration, but a member may demand a vote on the question of whether the standing committee is to consider the original legislation rather than the proposed substitute legislation. A proposed substitute ordinance must be within the scope and object of the original proposed ordinance.


G. To promote efficiency, the council chair, or the chair of a standing committee at the committee's meeting, may accept for consideration an oral amendment that is easily understood. (Ord. 19048 § 8, 2020; Ord. 16751 § 9, 2010; Ord. 16362 § 7, 2009; Ord. 15340 § 14, 2005; Ord. 13982 § 16, 2000; Ord. 11683 § 16, 1995).

1.24.165 Rule 17: Parliamentary motions – suspension of rules. Rules relating to parliamentary motions are as follows:

A. Parliamentary motions in order during debate. When a motion has been made and stated by the council chair, the following motions are in order in the priority named:

1. Privileged motions
   a. adjourn;
   b. appeal of a ruling of the chair;
   c. adjourn to a time certain;
   d. recess to a time certain;
   e. reconsider;
   f. demand for division;
   g. question of privilege; and
   h. orders of the day;

2. Subsidiary motions:
   a. first rank: question of consideration;
   b. second rank: to lay on the table;
   c. third rank: for the previous question;
   d. fourth rank:
(1) to postpone to a day certain;
(2) to commit or recommit (to refer or rerefer); and
(3) to postpone indefinitely; and

e. fifth rank: to amend; and

3. In addition, the following incidental motions may take priority over a privileged or subsidiary motion, depending on the circumstances under which they are moved and the application to the main motion:
   a. points of order;
   b. methods of consideration;
   c. suspension of the rules;
   d. reading papers;
   e. withdraw a motion; and
   f. division of a question.

B. Motions - how presented. A motion may not be entertained or debated until announced by the chair of the council. The chair shall place the motion before the council for consideration if appropriate and recognize the mover of the motion for further remarks.

C. Effect of postponement - motions to postpone or commit. A motion to postpone to a day certain, to commit or to postpone indefinitely, once decided, may not again be allowed on the same day and at the same stage of the proceedings. When a question has been postponed indefinitely, the question may not again be brought before the council during the remainder of the calendar year. The motion to postpone indefinitely may be made at any stage of consideration of the proposed legislation except when on first reading.

D. Motions decided without debate.
   1. A motion to adjourn, to recess, to lay on the table or to call for the previous question must be decided without debate.
      The motion to lay on the table enables the council to lay the pending question aside temporarily when something else of immediate urgency has arisen. The motion to lay on the table is out of order if the evident intent is to kill or avoid dealing with legislation. A motion to lay an amendment on the table does not lay on the table the legislation being amended.
   2. An incidental motion must be decided without debate, except that members may speak to points of order and appeal as provided in Rule 26, K.C.C. 1.24.255.
   3. Except for rules requiring a vote of two-thirds of all elected members, a rule may be temporarily suspended for a special purpose by a vote of two-thirds of the members present. When the suspension of a rule is called and, after notice from the chair, an objection is not offered, the chair may announce the rule suspended and the council may proceed accordingly. A motion for suspension of the rules is not debatable except that the chair may allow: the maker of the motion to briefly explain the purpose of the motion; and a rebuttal.
   4. A member may object to the consideration of any question, including an amendment. A two-thirds vote of those members present against consideration is required to sustain the objection. (Ord. 13982 § 17, 2000: Ord. 12870 § 7, 1997: Ord. 11907 § 2, 1995: Ord. 11683 § 17, 1995).

1.24.175 Rule 18: Rules of debate. The rules for debate for the council are as follows:
A. A member may rise to a question of privilege and explain a personal matter, by leave of the chair, but the member may not discuss a pending question in the explanation.

B. After a motion is stated by the chair or proposed legislation is read by the clerk, the motion or legislation is in possession of the council. However, the motion or legislation may be withdrawn by consent of the council before decision or amendment.

C. A member may call for a division of a question, which must be divided if the question embraces subjects so distinct that one being taken away a substantive proposition remains for decision of the council. However, a motion to strike out and insert, if it is impossible to secure the desired result without making the act of striking out inseparable from that of inserting, may not be divided.

D. All questions, whether in committee or in the council, must be taken in the order in which they are named.

E. A member shall confine all remarks to the question under debate and avoid personalities. A member may not impugn the motive of a member's vote or argument. (Ord. 13982 § 18, 2000: Ord. 11683 § 18, 1995).

1.24.185 Rule 19: Ending of debate – previous question.
A. The previous question may be ordered on all recognized motions or amendments which are debatable by a two-thirds vote of the members present.
B. The previous question is not debatable and cannot be amended.
C. The results of the motion are as follows:
   1. If determined in the negative, the consideration goes on as if the motion had never made;
   2. If decided in the affirmative it shall have the effect of cutting off all debate and bringing the council to a direct vote upon the motion or amendment on which it has been ordered; provided, that when proposed legislation is on final passage or when the motion to postpone indefinitely is pending, one of the sponsors of the proposed legislation or the chair of the committee may have the privilege of closing debate after the previous question has been ordered.
   3. If adjournment is had after the previous question is ordered, the motion or proposition on which the previous question was ordered shall be put to the council immediately following the approval of the minutes at the next meeting, thus making the main question privileged over all other business, whether new or unfinished. (Ord. 13982 § 19, 2000: Ord. 11683 § 19, 1995).

A.1. Except as otherwise provided in this rule or state law, five affirmative votes are required to adopt an ordinance.
   2. Six affirmative votes are required to adopt an ordinance dealing with countywide policies and plans referred to a regional committee as required by the King County Charter when:
      a. the regional committee fails to act within the established time limit; or
      b. the ordinance adopted by the council differs from the regional committee recommendation.
   3. Six affirmative votes are required to:
      a. enact an emergency ordinance; or
b. override a veto as provided in Rule 22, K.C.C. 1.24.215.

B.1. A majority vote of the members present at a council meeting is required to approve a motion, except as provided in subsection B.2 of this rule.

2. Six affirmative votes are required to adopt a motion dealing with countywide policies and plans referred to a regional committee as required by the King County Charter when:
   a. the regional committee fails to act within the established time limit; or


A.1. A motion for reconsideration on the final adoption or passage of legislation must be made during the meeting at which the vote on final passage is taken. A vote on a motion for reconsideration on the final adoption or passage of legislation must be taken at the same meeting the vote was taken unless the council votes to postpone the vote for reconsideration until the next council meeting.

2. While the motion for reconsideration is pending, the legislation shall not be considered adopted or passed. The clerk of the council may not transmit an ordinance to the county executive until the question of reconsideration is decided.

B. If a motion to reconsider carries, the original question is placed before the council in the exact position the original question occupied before the original question was voted upon.

C. If a motion to reconsider fails, no other motion for reconsideration on the same vote may be made.

D. Only a member who voted on the prevailing side may move for reconsideration.

E. A motion to reconsider an amendment may only be made before the ordinance is passed.


A. As provided in the King County Charter, the executive may not veto a motion, an emergency ordinance except for an appropriation ordinance, an ordinance proposing an amendment to the charter or an ordinance providing for collective bargaining by the county with county employees covered by the personnel system.

B. In accordance with the King County charter, within ten days after its presentation, the county executive shall either sign the ordinance and return it to the county council, veto the ordinance and return it to the county council with a written and signed statement of the reasons for the veto or sign and partially veto an appropriation ordinance and return it to the county council with a written and signed statement of the reasons for the partial veto. If the executive vetoes an ordinance or an object of expense of an appropriation ordinance, a copy of the executive’s veto message, together with the proposed ordinance vetoed or partially vetoed, must be distributed to each member. Within thirty days after an ordinance is vetoed and returned or partially vetoed and returned, the council may override the veto
by enacting the ordinance by a minimum of six affirmative votes. Upon a member's request, the chair of the council shall place the question of override of the veto upon the agenda for the next council meeting after receipt of the request. A special council meeting may be called for the purpose of considering the override of the veto. Notice of the meeting must be given as required by state law.

C. During a period of an emergency proclaimed by the executive and as directed by the chair of the council in writing, ordinances signed by the executive may use an electronic signature on ordinances as long as the electronic signature authentication and operating procedures required by Rule 31, K.C.C. 1.24.305, have been met. (Ord. 19088 § 3, 2020: Ord. 15668 § 7, 2006: Ord. 13982 § 22, 2000: Ord. 11683 § 22, 1995).

*Reviser's note: "Ordinance 19088, Sections 3 and 4 expire June 11, 2020."
(Ordinance 19099 § 2, 2020: Ordinance 19088 § 6, 2020).

A. As provided in the King County Charter, the executive may not veto a motion, an emergency ordinance except for an appropriation ordinance, an ordinance proposing an amendment to the charter or an ordinance providing for collective bargaining by the county with county employees covered by the personnel system.
B. If the executive vetoes an ordinance or an object of expense of an appropriation ordinance, a copy of the executive's veto message, together with the proposed ordinance vetoed or partially vetoed, must be distributed to each member. Within thirty days after an ordinance is vetoed and returned or partially vetoed and returned, the council may override the veto by enacting the ordinance by a minimum of six affirmative votes. Upon a member's request, the chair of the council shall place the question of override of the veto upon the agenda for the next council meeting after receipt of the request. A special council meeting may be called for the purpose of considering the override of the veto. Notice of the meeting must be given as required by state law. (Ord. 19088 § 3, 2020 (expired June 11, 2020): Ord. 15668 § 7, 2006: Ord. 13982 § 22, 2000: Ord. 11683 § 22, 1995).

*Reviser's note: "Ordinance 19088, Sections 3 and 4 expire June 11, 2020."
(Ordinance 19099 § 2, 2020: Ordinance 19088 § 6, 2020).

1.24.225 Rule 23: Lapse and reintroduction of legislation. Proposed legislation that is not passed or defeated on a vote on final passage at a council meeting before the end of the calendar year lapses if not introduced, reintroduced or passed or defeated on a vote on final passage at a council meeting by February 1 of the next year. Legislation is reintroduced by filing a reintroduction slip with the clerk of the council. Reintroduced legislation keeps the same number assigned to the legislation originally. (Ord. 15340 § 17, 2005: Ord. 13982 § 23, 2000: Ord. 11683 § 23, 1995).

1.24.235 Rule 24: Public record of council meeting.
A. The verbatim public record required by Section 220.40 of the King County Charter must be kept by means of electronic recording of matters occurring at the open sessions of public meetings of the county council. The proceedings of all council and committee meetings must be taken by means of electronic recording. The electronic
recordings of council meetings must be retained in the office of the clerk of the council for two years, after which the recordings must be transferred to the county archivist, who shall permanently retain the recordings. The electronic recordings of committee meetings must be retained in the office of the clerk of the council for two years, after which the recordings must be transferred to the county archivist, who shall determine whether the recordings should be retained permanently.

B. The clerk of the council or of the committee shall produce minutes, in the form of proceedings, of a meeting according to state law. The clerk of the council or of the committee may post to the internet draft minutes of a meeting of a council or committee meeting before approval by the council or committee. Any posted draft minutes must include a notation that the minutes are in draft form. (Ord. 16348 § 5, 2009: Ord. 15707 § 7, 2007: 15340 § 18, 2005: Ord. 13982 § 24, 2000: Ord. 11683 § 24 1995).

1.24.245 Rule 25: Copies of electronic recordings. A person may obtain an electronic recording of a particular proceeding of the county council or a council committee by paying a fee for the reproduction of the proceedings. The clerk of the council shall set the amount of the fee, which must reflect the actual cost of reproduction. (13982 § 25, 2000: Ord. 11683 § 25, 1995).

1.24.255 Rule 26: Appeal from decision of chair. A parliamentary decision of the chair may be appealed by two members. A member may not speak on the appeal more than once unless permitted by the council.

The chair's act of adding to, removing from or taking out of order an item on a distributed and posted agenda may be appealed to the full body by any two members under Rule 5C, K.C.C. 1.24.045.C. (Ord. 15707 § 8, 2007: 13982 § 26, 2000: Ord. 11683 § 26, 1995).


1.24.305 Rule 31: Legal signature (in effect until June 11, 2020*).

A. An official document issued by order of the council must be signed by the chair or in the chair's absence the vice-chair as provided in Rule 3, K.C.C. 1.24.025, and attested by the clerk of the council or acting clerk of the council, except as otherwise provided by the King County Charter and subsection B. of this section.

B.1. During a period of an emergency proclaimed by the executive and as directed by the chair of the council in writing:

a. the signature required by subsection A. of this section may be by electronic signature; and

b. the clerk's attestation required by subsection A. of this section may be by electronic signature and shall mean for each official document that it has been authenticated and the clerk has been directed by the chair to accept electronic signatures for the official document.

*Reviser's note: "Ordinance 19088, Sections 3 and 4 expire June 11, 2020."
(Ordinance 19099 § 2, 2020: Ordinance 19088 § 6, 2020).


*Reviser's note: "Ordinance 19088, Sections 3 and 4 expire June 11, 2020."
(Ordinance 19099 § 2, 2020: Ordinance 19088 § 6, 2020).

1.24.320 Rule 32: Organizational motions – compilation and amendment. The clerk of the council shall compile and organize current motions organizing and administering the legislative branch as a single master document with separate sections, and shall post the compilation on the Internet. The council may amend an organizational motion by amending a section of the master document as compiled and organized. (Ord. 15707 § 9, 2007: Ord. 13982 § 29, 2000).

1.24.330 Rule 33: Response to charter review commission report and recommendation. Upon receipt of a report and recommendation of the charter review commission done in compliance with Section 800 of the King County Charter, the council or a standing committee of the council shall consider the commission's report and recommendations and, in an open public meeting, take such action on the commission's recommended charter amendments as the council or committee deems appropriate, which may consist of approval, rejection, amendment, postponement or any other action of record. (Ord. 16603 § 1, 2009).