

IN ACCORDANCE WITH WHATCOM COUNTY CODE SECTIONS 2.02.040 AND 2.02.060, THE FOLLOWING RULES APPLY DURING COUNCIL AND COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Section 2.02.040 Meetings – General rules.

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E. All council and council committee meetings shall be conducted pursuant to The American Institute of Parliamentarians Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure, latest edition, except when in conflict with the standing rules of the council.

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L. During an open session or public hearing, audience members will be given three minutes to address the council.

M. Cell phones shall be silenced and cell phone conversations shall be prohibited within the confines of the council chambers during meetings.

N. Placards, signs, applause, or other distractions shall not be allowed in the council chambers without the consent of the council chair.

O. Any person making personal, impertinent, or slanderous remarks, or who becomes boisterous, while attending a council or council committee meeting may be requested to leave the meeting and may be forthwith, by the presiding officer, barred from further audience before the council during that meeting.

2.02.060 Meetings – Decorum of debate.

A. Any councilmember desiring to speak shall first be recognized by the chair, and shall confine his or her remarks to the specific subject under consideration or to be considered. The councilmember who has proposed a motion or the committee member who has presented a report shall be allowed the first opportunity to explain the motion or report, and usually is allowed to speak last on it. No member or small group of members shall be permitted to monopolize the discussion on a question. If a member has already spoken and other members wish to speak, they should be recognized in preference to the member who has already spoken on a question.

B. Councilmembers shall address each other as "councilmember" and the council chair shall be addressed as "chair."

C. Staff members, presenters, and the general public shall be addressed as Mr., Mrs., Ms., or by their official or honorary title.

D. When two or more councilmembers desire to speak at the same time, the chair shall name the member who shall have the floor.

E. When a councilmember is speaking, no other member shall hold discourse which may interrupt the speaker except to raise a point of order. The chair should insist that every member be attentive to the business before the assembly.

F. Councilmembers shall have time to explain any motion they intend to make. All motions will begin with the words, "I move" and must receive a second prior to being put to a vote.

G. When it appears that all councilmembers who wish to speak have done so, the chair shall inquire, "Is there any further discussion?" If there is not, the question is put to a vote.

H. To bring a question to immediate vote, a councilmember may move to close debate. If more than one motion is pending, the motion to close debate should specify the pending motions to which it applies (main motion, motion to amend, etc.). The motion to close debate cannot interrupt a speaker, is not debatable, and requires an affirmative vote by two-thirds of the councilmembers in attendance. The motion to close debate should be used in moderation, as members cannot be expected to maintain interest in an organization if they are frequently denied the right to participate in its deliberations.