

RESOLUTION NO. 1452

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BOTHELL, WASHINGTON, REVISING THE CITY COUNCIL PROTOCOL MANUAL, AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 1099 (2000), AS AMENDED BY RESOLUTION NO. 1140 (2002), RESOLUTION NO. 1184 (2006), RESOLUTION NO. 1200 (2007), RESOLUTION NO. 1201 (2007), RESOLUTION NO. 1230 (2009), RESOLUTION NO. 1255 (2010), RESOLUTION NO. 1295 (2013), RESOLUTION NO. 1296 (2013), RESOLUTION NO. 1298 (2013), RESOLUTION NO. 1360 (2017), AND RESOLUTION 1394 (2019) AND RESOLUTION NO. 1423 (2022)

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted the City Council Protocol Manual on June 12, 2000, and amended same on July 22, 2002, March 13, 2006, March 20, 2007, April 17, 2007, March 17, 2009, May 4, 2010, March 19, 2013, April 2, 2013, July 9, 2013, April 18, 2017 and December 17, 2019; and February 1, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed the Protocol Manual and has determined there are certain revisions that should be made.

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

Section 1. Resolution No. 1099, as amended by Resolution Nos. 1140, 1184, 1200, 1201, 1230, 1255, 1295, 1296, 1298, 1360, 1394 and 1423 is hereby amended by certain revisions to the City of Bothell City Council Protocol Manual, those revisions summarized and specified in **Exhibit A** to this resolution, which is incorporated and hereby made a part of this resolution.

Section 2. The City Clerk is authorized to make necessary corrections to this resolution including, but not limited to, the correction of scrivener's/clerical errors, references, resolution numbering, section/subsection numbers and any references thereto.

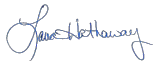
PASSED this 21st Day of November, 2023.

APPROVED:


Mason Thompson (Nov 21, 2023 21:24 PST)

MASON THOMPSON
MAYOR

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:



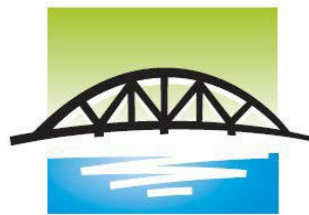
LAURA HATHAWAY
CITY CLERK

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK: 11/16/2023
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL: 11/21/2023
RESOLUTION NO.: 1452 (2023)

Exhibit A

CITY OF BOTHELL

CITY COUNCIL PROTOCOL MANUAL



City of Bothell

Adopted: June 12, 2000
Resolution No. 1099 (2000)

Revised: July 22, 2002
Resolution No. 1140 (2002)

Revised: March 13, 2006
Resolution No. 1184 (2006)

Revised: March 20, 2007
Resolution No. 1200 (2007)

Revised: April 17, 2007
Resolution No. 1201 (2007)

Revised: March 17, 2009
Resolution No. 1230 (2009)

Revised: May 4, 2010
Resolution No. 1255 (2010)

Revised: March 19, 2013
Resolution No. 1295 (2013)

Revised: April 2, 2013
Resolution No. 1296 (2013)

Revised: July 9, 2013
Resolution No. 1298 (2013)

Revised: April 18, 2017
Resolution No. 1360 (2017)

Revised: December 17, 2019
Resolution No. 1394 (2019)

Revised: February 1, 2022
Resolution No. 1423 (2022)

Revised: November 21, 2023
Resolution No. 1452 (2023)

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Foreword

In the course of serving as a public official, there are myriad of issues with which you will become involved. This protocol manual attempts to centralize information on common issues related to local government and your role as a member of the Bothell City Council.

The issues that are addressed in this publication are often complex and subjective. This manual is intended to be a guide and is not a substitute for the counsel, guidance, or opinion of the City Attorney.

The protocols included in this reference document have been formally adopted by the City Council. Provisions contained herein will be reviewed as needed or every two years.

Chapter 1

Introduction and Overview

As a City Councilmember, you not only establish important and often critical policies for the community, you are also a board member of a public corporation having an annual budget of several million dollars. The scope of services and issues addressed by the city organization go well beyond those frequently reported in the newspaper or discussed at City Council meetings.

1.01 Council-Manager Form of Government

The City of Bothell is a Council-Manager form of government. As described in the Municipal Code and Revised Code of Washington, certain responsibilities are vested in the City Council and the City Manager. Basically, this form of government prescribes that a City Council's role is that of a legislative policy-making body which determines not only the local laws that regulate community life, but also determines what public policy is and gives direction to the City Manager to administer the affairs of the city government in a businesslike and prudent manner.

1.02 Association of Washington Cities and Municipal Research & Services Center of Washington

[The Code City Handbook, Report No. 37](#), published by the Municipal Research & Services Center (MRSC), provides a wealth of general information on the major functions of a Councilmember's job as a locally elected official. Another publication from MRSC that goes hand in hand with the handbook is, [Knowing the Territory](#): This report discusses basic powers; basic duties, liabilities, and immunities of officers; conflict of interest and appearance of fairness; prohibited uses of public funds, property, or credit; competitive bidding requirements; the Open Public Meetings Act; Open Government-Public Records-Freedom of Information; and immunities from tort liability.

1.03 Purpose of City Council Protocol Manual

The City of Bothell has prepared its own protocol manual to assist the City Council by documenting accepted practices and clarifying expectations. Administration of City Council affairs is greatly enhanced by the agreement of the City Council and staff to be bound by these practices. While attempting not to be overly restrictive, procedures are established so that expectations and practices can be clearly articulated to guide Councilmembers in their actions.

1.04 Overview of Basic City Documents

This protocol manual provides a summary of important aspects of City Council activities. However, it cannot incorporate all material and information necessary for undertaking the business of the City Council. Many other laws, plans, and documents exist which bind the City Council to certain courses of action and practices. The following is a summary of some of the most notable documents that establish City Council direction.

A. [Vision/Mission Statement](#)

B. [Bothell Municipal Code](#)

The municipal code contains local laws and regulations adopted by ordinances. Title 2 of the code addresses the role of the City Council, describes the organization of City Council meetings and responsibilities and appointment of certain city staff positions and advisory boards and commissions. Titles 13 and 22 also address advisory boards and commissions. In addition to these administrative matters, the municipal code contains a variety of laws including, but not limited to, zoning standards, health and safety issues, traffic regulations, building standards, and revenue and finance issues.

C. [Personnel Policies](#)

It is the policy of the City of Bothell to uphold, promote, and demand the highest standards of ethics from all of its elected and appointed officials. Accordingly, all members of the City Council, members of all appointed boards, commissions, committees, City employees, consultants and professional service providers are expected to maintain the utmost standards of personal integrity, truthfulness, honesty and fairness in carrying out their public duties; avoid any improprieties in their roles as public servants; and never use their City position or powers for personal gain. Section 2 and 10 of the City of Bothell Personnel Policies and Procedures address general rules of conduct and provides guidelines for City officials to be worthy of the public trust and abide by their Oath of Office.

D. [Revised Code of Washington](#)

The state laws contain many requirements for the operation of city government and administration of meetings of city councils throughout the state. Bothell is an “optional code city,” which means it operates under the general laws of the state. As an optional code city of the State of Washington, Bothell is vested with all the powers of incorporated cities as set forth in the Revised Code of Washington (RCW), Constitution of the State of Washington, and Bothell Municipal Code. Conversely, there are a number of cities within Washington that are “charter cities” and have adopted local provisions that establish basic governing procedures for local government. There are also 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Class cities that have variable statutory authority based on population. (Please see RCW Titles 35 and 35 A in general, and RCW 35.18 and 35A.13 for more specific information relating to the Council-Manager Plan of Government.

E. [Biennial Budget](#)

The biennial budget is the primary tool and road map for accomplishing the goals of the City. The budget document is the result of one of the most important processes the City undertakes. By adopting the biennial budget, the City Council makes policy decisions, sets priorities, allocates resources, and provides the framework for government operations.

F. [Comprehensive Annual Financial Report \(CAFR\)](#)

The annual financial report includes the financial statements of the City for a calendar year. It includes the financial condition of the City as reflected in the balance sheet, the results of operations as reflected in income statements, an analysis of the uses of City funds, and related footnotes. The annual financial report includes statements for the various groups of funds and a consolidated group of statements for the City as a whole.

G. [Comprehensive Plan](#)

A state-mandated comprehensive plan addresses the City's long-range planning needs relative to land use, transportation, economic development, and other planning elements. The City's comprehensive plan, *Imagine Bothell...* is reviewed on an ongoing basis, but may only be revised once a year, except as provided by State law.

H. *Seven-year Capital Improvement Program*

The Seven-year Capital Improvement Program serves as a guide for determining priorities, planning, financing, and constructing capital projects which add to, support, or improve the physical infrastructure, capital assets, or productive capacity of city services.

I. *Disaster Preparedness Plan*

The City maintains a disaster preparedness plan that outlines actions to be taken during times of extreme emergency. The Mayor is called upon to declare the emergency, and then the Fire Chief or other incident commander directs all disaster response activities. The City Council may be called upon during an emergency to establish policies related to a specific incident.

1.05 Orientation of New Members

It is important for the members of the City Council to gain an understanding of the full range of services and programs provided by the City. As a new member of the City Council, the City Manager and City Clerk will host an orientation program that provides an opportunity to tour municipal facilities and meet with key staff within the first quarter of taking office. Another training opportunity for new members is the Association of Washington Cities-sponsored newly elected officials' orientation. At any time, if there are facilities or programs about which you would like more information, arrangements will be made to increase your awareness of these operations.

Chapter 2

Bothell City Council: General Powers and Responsibilities

2.01 City Council Generally

Fundamentally, the powers of the City Council are to be utilized for the good of the community and its residents; to provide for the health, safety and general welfare of the citizenry. The City Council is the policy making and law-making body of the City. State law and local ordinances grant the powers and responsibilities of the Council.

It is important to note that the Council acts as a body and speaks with one “corporate voice.” No member has any extraordinary powers beyond those of other members. While the Mayor has some additional ceremonial and presiding officer responsibilities as described below, when it comes to establishing policies, voting, and in other significant areas, all members are equal. It is also important to note that policy is established by at least a majority vote of the Council. While individual members may disagree with decisions of the majority, a decision of the majority does bind the Council to a course of action. Councilmembers should respect adopted Council policy. In turn, it is staff’s responsibility to ensure the policy of the Council is upheld.

Actions of staff to pursue the policy direction established by a majority of Council do not reflect any bias against Councilmembers who held a minority opinion on an issue.

A. Council Non-Participation in Administration

In order to uphold the integrity of the council-manager form of government, and to provide proper checks and balances, members of the City Council shall refrain from becoming directly involved in the administrative affairs of the City. As the Council is the policy making body and the maker of local laws, its involvement in enforcement of ordinances would only damage the credibility of the system. [RCW 35A.13.120](#) specifically prohibits interference by Councilmembers in the city’s administrative service, including the hiring, firing, and work of city staff, with the exception of the City Manager.

Except for the purpose of inquiry, the Council and its members will deal with the administrative service solely through the City Manager or designee, and neither the Council nor any committee or member of a committee shall give orders to any subordinate of the City Manager.

2.02 Role of Councilmembers

Members of the Bothell City Council are collectively responsible for establishing policy, adopting a biennial budget, and providing vision and goals to the City Manager. The following outline is a brief description of the various duties of Councilmembers. The description is not intended to be comprehensive, but rather is an effort to summarize the primary responsibilities of the Council.

A. Summary of Council Duties and Responsibilities as Provided in, but not Limited to, the Washington Administrative Code and Revised Code of Washington

1. Establish Policy
 - a. Adopt goals and objectives
 - b. Establish priorities for public services
 - c. Approve/amend the operating and capital budgets
 - d. Approve contracts over \$100,000
 - e. Adopt resolutions
2. Enact Local Laws
 - a. Adopt ordinances
3. Supervise Appointed Officials
 - a. Appoint City Manager
 - b. Evaluate performance of City Manager
 - c. Establish advisory boards and commissions
 - d. Make appointments to advisory bodies
 - e. Provide direction to advisory bodies
4. Provide Public Leadership
 - a. Relate wishes of constituents to promote representative governance
 - b. Mediate conflicting interests while building a consensus
 - c. Call special elections as necessary
 - d. Communicate the City's vision and goals to constituents
 - e. Represent the City's interest at regional, county, state, and federal levels
5. Decision-Making
 - a. Study problems
 - b. Review alternatives
 - c. Determine best course of public policy

2.03 Role of Mayor

A. Presiding Officer

The Mayor serves as the presiding officer and acts as chair at all meetings of the City Council. The Mayor may participate in all deliberations of the Council in the same manner as any other member and is expected to vote in all proceedings, unless a conflict of interest exists. The Mayor does not possess any power of veto. The Mayor may not move an action, but may second a motion.

B. Ceremonial Representative

Responsibility to act as the City Council's ceremonial representative at public events and functions has been assigned to the Mayor. The Mayor is vested with the authority to initiate and execute proclamations. In the Mayor's absence, the Deputy Mayor assumes this responsibility. Should both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor be absent, the Mayor will appoint another Councilmember to assume this responsibility.

2.04 Absence of Mayor and Councilmembers

In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor shall perform the duties of the Mayor. When both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are absent, the Council may choose from among its members a person to serve as acting mayor, who shall, for the term of such absence, have the powers of the Mayor.

If the Mayor or other Councilmembers are absent from the City for more than 15 days, they shall notify the other Councilmembers and the City Manager of such absence.

2.05 Election of Officers

Procedures for electing officers are as follows:

A. Biennial Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor

Biennially, at the first meeting of the new Council, councilmembers will choose a presiding officer from their number who will have the title of Mayor. In addition to the powers conferred upon them as Mayor, they will continue to have all the rights, privileges and immunities of a member of the Council. If a permanent vacancy occurs in the Office of Mayor, the members of the Council at their next regular meeting will select a Mayor from their number for the unexpired term. Following the election of the Mayor, there will be an election for Deputy Mayor. The term of the Deputy Mayor will run concurrently with that of the Mayor.

B. Nominations

The City Clerk will conduct the election for Mayor. The City Clerk will call for nominations. Each member of the City Council will be permitted to nominate one (1) person, and nominations will not require a second. A nominee who wishes to decline the nomination will do so at this time. Nominations are then closed. The Mayor-elect will conduct the election for Deputy Mayor, and nominations will be made in the same manner described for the election of the Mayor.

C. Casting Ballots

Except when there is only one nominee, election will be by written ballot. Each ballot will contain the name of the Councilmember who cast it. The City Clerk will publicly announce the results of the election by reading each ballot into the record, stating the name of each voting Councilmember and the manner in which the Councilmember voted. Thereafter, the City Clerk will record in the minutes of the meeting the manner in which each voting member of the Council cast their ballot. To be elected, a nominee must receive a majority vote of the members present.

D. Ties

Should there be a tie, there will be another round of voting. Rounds will continue as necessary until a nominee receives the majority vote of members present.

E. Resignation of Mayor or Deputy Mayor

If the Mayor or Deputy Mayor resigns, the City Council will appoint a new Mayor or Deputy Mayor using the procedure outlined above.

2.06 Emergency Response

The Mayor shall sign any declaration of emergency.

2.07 Appointment of Officer

The City Council is responsible for appointing one position within the city organization--the City Manager. The City Manager serves at the pleasure of the Council. The City Manager is responsible for all personnel within the city organization, including the City Attorney, Municipal Court Judge, Municipal Prosecutor, and Public Defender. The City Manager's appointment of the Municipal Court Judge is subject to confirmation by the City Council.

2.08 Advisory Bodies

A. Appointments Made by the Council

Advisory boards, commissions, and committees provide a great deal of assistance to the Bothell City Council when formulating public policy and transforming policy decisions into action. The City has several standing boards and commissions. In addition, special purpose (ad hoc) committees and task forces are often appointed by the City Council to address issues of interest or to conduct background work on technical or politically sensitive issues. Special or ad hoc committees will be dissolved upon completion of the intended task.

The procedures established in this manual reflect the policy of the City Council regarding the appointment of volunteers to the various advisory bodies of the City. The establishment of these procedures ensures that well-qualified, responsible, and willing members of the public are given the opportunity to serve the City and participate in the governing of their community.

The City Council is specifically empowered to create all advisory boards and commissions pursuant to the provisions of [Chapter 35A \(Optional Municipal Code\)](#), or such advisory boards or commissions not specifically enumerated, as the Council deems necessary or advisable. In the exercise of this power, it is the desire of the City Council to establish a consistent policy in its decision-making role to fairly and equitably evaluate community members who demonstrate desire to serve on such boards or commissions.

1. For full-term vacancies, the filing period is the third week of January through the third week of February. The City Clerk will:
 - a. Publicly announce the position vacancy and filing period by publication on the city's [website](#).
 - b. Post notices of the position vacancy and filing period on/in the places established in Section 8.02 (b) of this manual.
 - c. Notify by email the Chairpersons of advisory boards and commissions and the associated staff liaison of the vacancy.
 - d. Notify incumbents by email whose terms are expiring.
2. For partial-term vacancies, a minimum 30-day filing period applies, with dates to be determined by the City Clerk. Partial-term vacancies will be filled as outlined in Section 2.08(A) ([1a-c](#)), above.

B. Qualifications, Terms of Service, Forms

Persons wishing to be considered for appointment or reappointment will submit to the City Clerk's Office an application on a form provided by that office. The Council will review applications and make appointments.

It is the policy of the City Council to evaluate each applicant on an objective basis, utilizing the following criteria:

1. Residency - Residency requirements for advisory boards and commissions are noted in applicable sections of the Bothell Municipal Code, and summarized on the Membership and Qualification Matrix appended hereto. Appointees must retain their residency requirement for the entire duration of their term.
2. Sectional Composition - Normally, consideration should be given toward maintaining an equitable balance of community representation on all boards and commissions.

The City Council will not appoint multiple members from the same family or household to a single board or commission, in order to avoid the reality or appearance of improper influence or favor.

The City Council will not appoint members of Councilmembers' families or households to boards or commissions to avoid the appearance of favor and to increase community representation.

3. Occupation - The Council will attempt to maintain a broad mix of occupational backgrounds on all boards and commissions.
4. Knowledge of Municipal and Planning Process - When ranking equally qualified applicants, the Council will consider background experience and knowledge of the municipal process as appropriate to the position, in reaching its decisions.
5. Contributive Potential - The Council will evaluate the potential contribution that each applicant may make if appointed to a board or commission. Criteria to guide the Council in its evaluation may include:
 - Ability to communicate
 - Desire to perform public service
 - Ability to express ideas, concepts, or philosophies
 - Desire to participate in decision-making process
6. Leadership Potential - Since each appointee may be called upon to serve as a Chair, the Council will evaluate leadership abilities, such as:
 - Past or present leadership experience (current employment, special interests, etc.)
 - Past or present participation in community services
 - Expressed interest in a leadership role
7. The City Council will not appoint persons to serve as members of more than one board or commission at the same time; however, persons serving on a board or commission who have requested appointment to another board or commission position may be appointed to such position if they, concurrent with the appointment, resign from the board or commission position they are holding at the time of the new appointment.

C. Reappointment Criteria

A staff liaison shall be appointed to each board and commission at such time as reappointment is considered (or at any time during their term of service), the staff liaison shall notify the City Manager regarding the following:

1. Regularity of Attendance
2. Understanding of board or commission function
3. Demonstrated leadership
4. Effectiveness
5. Demonstrated contribution during past term of office on issues, programs, policies, etc., of the advisory board or commission
6. Objectivity

D. Council Action

1. Council Interview Period - It shall be the privilege of the Council to personally interview each applicant individually, at a time and place to be designated by the Council.
2. Council Evaluation & Selection - After each applicant or member is evaluated, the Council will deliberate and reach a decision at its earliest convenience, using the following procedure:

A ballot sheet will be provided by the City Clerk. Council will cast their votes and submit their ballots to the Clerk and take a brief recess while staff tally's the votes. Applicants must receive a majority vote of councilmembers present for appointment. Council will then ratify the results.

All written ballots used to select board and commission members will be retained with the agenda packet materials for that Council meeting.

3. Decision & Announcement - Each applicant will be notified by email of the decision of the Council. The City Clerk will also notify the associated chairperson and staff liaison regarding Council appointments.
4. Reports to Council – In order to better engage with Boards and Commissions, Council may meet with them in joint sessions up to twice annually (suggested half of the Boards at one session and half at another session). Boards and Commissions may also present updates at Council meetings under Board & Commission Reports. This is an opportunity to review workplans, update Council on Board & Commission activities, and seek guidance or support from Council. Council will also receive Board & Commission workplans annually to be included in a Council agenda packet.

E. Resignations

In the interest of timely noticing of vacancies, and to minimize the impact of such vacancies on boards and commissions, the City Council delegates to the Mayor the authority to accept resignations. Following the Mayor's acceptance of the resignation, the City Clerk is authorized to advertise such vacancies according to the process set forth in Section 2.08(A).

F. Cause for Dismissal

Board and Commission Members may be dismissed from service for failure to attend meetings (3 unexcused absences), or failure to complete OPMA/PRA training pursuant to RCW42.30 and 42.56 within 90 days of appointment. Members may also be dismissed for using personal email accounts to conduct city business and/or failure to use city email accounts.

G. Rules of Conduct

By accepting appointment to any City board or commission, members thereby agree to conduct themselves in accordance with the following rules of conduct.

1. All members of City boards and commissions will abide by all applicable state laws, City ordinances, and other doctrines relating to the conduct of board or commission members, including, but not limited to, the Appearance of Fairness Doctrine, conflict of interest statutes, and the State Open Public Meetings Act.

2. Members of City boards and commissions will not testify in their capacity as a board or commission member, before any other board, commission, administrative officer or agency of the federal government, the State of Washington, or of any county or other municipal corporation, including cities and towns, except as hereinafter provided. Exceptions to the policy set forth above shall be as follows:
 - a. If the member is testifying in such a capacity pursuant to a lawfully issued subpoena; or
 - b. In the event the board or commission has designated the member or members to act as a spokesperson for the board or commission to explain the majority vote and recommendation of that board or commission; or
 - c. In the event the City Council appoints the member or members to represent the City before another tribunal.
3. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing contained herein is intended to preclude a board or commission member from speaking as an individual, so long as the following conditions are met:
 - a. The individual clearly identifies that they are speaking only as an individual and is not in any manner representing or speaking on behalf of the board or commission of which they are a member; and
 - b. No board or commission member testifies orally or in writing as to any quasi-judicial matter being heard, or having the possibility of being heard, by the board or commission of which the person is a member.

Councilmembers' Role and Relationship with City Advisory Bodies

4. In accordance with the provisions of state law, Councilmembers shall not be appointed to City advisory bodies concurrent with their term of office as Councilmember.
5. Unless specifically authorized by majority vote of a quorum of the Council, no Councilmember shall be authorized to state or testify to the policy or position of the Council before any advisory board or commission of the City.
6. Limitations on the conduct of Councilmembers before the City's advisory boards and commissions should be voluntarily undertaken in order to assure public confidence in the decision-making process and avoid the appearance of bias, prejudice, or improper influence. Toward this purpose, the following protocol should be observed:
 - a. Councilmembers shall not testify in quasi-judicial matters pending before any advisory board or commission that will receive, or could potentially receive, future appeal or review before the City Council. Violation of this protocol may require the Councilmember to disqualify themselves from participating in any appeal or review proceedings before the City Council.

- b. Councilmembers, in their capacity as private individuals, should refrain from providing testimony in legislative or administrative matters pending before any advisory board that will receive, or could potentially receive, future review or other action before the Council. Where a Councilmember elects to provide such testimony, the following rules shall apply:
 - (i) The Councilmember shall declare at the outset and upon the record that they are present in their private capacity as an interested individual, and not on behalf or at the request of the City Council.
 - (ii) The Councilmember shall refrain from stating or implying that their position or opinion is that of the City Council.
 - (iii) The Councilmember shall refrain from directing City staff or the advisory body to take any action on their behalf.
 - (iv) The Councilmember shall observe any rules of procedure or protocol that apply to any other private individual testifying before the advisory board.

2.09 Incompatibility of Offices

There is no single statutory provision governing dual office holding. Statutory law is usually silent on that question except where the legislature has deemed it best either to prohibit or permit particular offices to be held by the same person regardless of whether they may or may not be compatible under common law principles. Chapters 35.24 and 35A.12 RCW expressly permit the offices of clerk and treasurer to be combined in certain cases. However, RCW 35A.12.030 and 35A.13.020 prohibit a mayor or Councilmember in a code city from holding any other public office. or employment within Bothell’s government “except as permitted under the provisions of Chapter 42.23 RCW.” A statute expressly permits Councilmembers to hold the position of volunteer fire fighter (but not chief or other officer). RCW 35A.13.060 expressly authorizes a city manager to serve two or more cities in that capacity at the same time, but also provides that a city council may require the city manager to devote their full time to the affairs of that code city.

For additional information or clarification, please refer to [Knowing the Territory](#), published by the Municipal Research & Services Center.

2.10 Representation by Councilmembers on Outside/Regional Boards, Commissions or Committees:

Councilmembers are often asked to serve on outside boards, councils, commissions, or committees. This type of representation serves to facilitate communication and provide interaction with other governmental bodies. The City Council appoints members to some of these groups on an as-needed or as-requested basis.

Membership appointment to these groups shall be made by consensus of the Council for a 2-year period. Council will make appointments in early January of even numbered years. If more than one Councilmember desires to serve as a member of a particular outside group, the member for that group will be appointed by a majority vote of the Council.

Where applicable, Council will appoint an alternate to attend outside boards, councils, commissions, or committees. The main delegate will notify the alternate as soon as possible after they realize they will be unable to attend an upcoming meeting of the outside group.

Based on existing policy. Personal positions, when given, will be identified and not represented as the position of the City. Assignment and direction of staff in relation to regional meetings are at the discretion of the City Manager.

Chapter 3

Support Provided to City Council

3.01 Staff Liaison

Staff support to members of the City Council is provided through the City Clerk's Office. Support includes updating Council webpages, registration to various conferences and meetings and forwarding information to all councilmembers in order that Council does not violate the OPMA. Councilmembers keep their own calendars and make their own appointments. Should Council requests of staff require significant time commitments or deviation from regular work activities, Councilmembers will consult with the City Manager prior to making requests.

3.02 Electronic Devices

To enhance Councilmembers' service to the community and their ability to communicate with staff and the public, the City provides meeting facilities and office equipment for City business.

The Employee and Technology Services Department (ETS) will provide electronic devices at the request of Councilmembers, for official City use. ETS will ensure that all appropriate software is installed and will also provide an orientation in the use of computers and related software. While staff will maintain those computer applications related to City affairs, staff cannot provide assistance for personal computer applications. Personal media and programs cannot be stored on City computers. Councilmembers must adhere to all policies under the City of Bothell Information Services Security Policies.

Throughout Councilmember terms, City equipment is subject to audit. Virus protection software must not be disabled at any time on City equipment and non-city programs or media found during audits will be removed. When individual Councilmembers have completed their term of office, ETS staff will retrieve City computers, software, and modems.

The complete policy can be viewed here: [Personnel Policy 10.05 - Electronic Communication](#)

3.03 Meeting Rooms

Council has a shared office at City Hall. A schedule of office hours has been established which is published on the website and with the City Clerk. Council may reserve this room during non-office hours by contacting the City Clerk. There are also numerous Town Hall meeting rooms on the first floor of City Hall which Council may reserve by contacting City Hall.

3.04 Mail, Deliveries

Members of the City Council receive a large volume of mail and other materials that are delivered primarily through the use of mailboxes located in the Council office. Councilmembers are encouraged to check mailboxes often. In addition, City staff will email or personally deliver materials that are time-sensitive to a member's home or office, if appropriate correspondence addressed to one Councilmember will be copied for all Councilmembers.

Chapter 4

Financial Matters

4.01 Council Compensation

The municipal code provides for payment of a salary to members of the City Council. A seated City Council may not increase or decrease its own compensation. Councils may only pass an ordinance to adjust the compensation of an incoming City Council (Constitutional Article 2, Section 25 and Article 30, Section 1). Currently, Council Salaries are set by a Salary Commission as provided in [BMC Chapter 2.92](#) and [RCW 35.21.015](#).

4.02 Budget

The City [Biennial Budget](#) includes appropriations for expenses necessary for members to undertake official City business. Funding provided includes membership in professional organizations, attendance at conferences or educational seminars, purchase of publications and office supplies. Reference is made to the attached City Manager's [budget](#) instructions.

4.03 Financial Disclosure

Candidates for the office of Councilmember shall file a financial disclosure statement with the State Public Disclosure Commission within two weeks of filing a nomination paper. When appointed to fill a vacancy on the Council, the appointee shall file a financial disclosure statement with the Commission, covering the preceding 12-month period, within two weeks of being so appointed. Councilmembers are required to file a financial disclosure statement with the Commission on an annual basis after January 1 and before April 15 of each year covering the previous calendar year. Councilmembers whose terms expire on December 31 shall file the statement for the year that ended on that December 31. Statements filed in any of the above cases will be available for public inspection.

Failure to file or filing a false or incomplete financial disclosure statement, if done knowingly, is a Class 1 Misdemeanor. There are also civil penalties for violations.

4.04 Travel Policy

Members of the City Council and City boards and commissions are subject to the City's Travel Policy. [Personnel Policy 8.5 – Travel](#)

Chapter 5

Communications

5.01 Overview

Perhaps the most fundamental role of a Councilmember is communication:

- Communication with the public to assess community opinions and needs, and to share the vision and goals of the City with constituents;
- Communication with staff to provide policy direction and to gain an understanding of the implications of various policy alternatives.

Because the City Council performs as a body (that is, acting based on the will of the majority as opposed to individuals), it is important that general guidelines be understood when speaking for the Council. Equally important, when members are expressing personal views and not those of the Council, the public should be so advised.

5.02 Correspondence from Councilmembers

Members of the City Council will often be called upon to write letters to community members, businesses, or other public agencies. Typically, the Mayor will be charged with transmitting the City's position on policy matters to outside agencies on behalf of the City Council. Individual members of Council will often prepare letters for constituents in response to inquiries, or to provide requested information. City letterhead is available for this purpose, and staff can assist in the preparation of such correspondence.

On occasion, members may wish to correspond on an issue on which the Council has yet to take a position, or about an issue for which the Council has no position. In these circumstances, members should clearly indicate that they are not speaking for the City Council as a whole, but for themselves as one member of Council. City letterhead and office support may be utilized in these circumstances.

Councilmembers may occasionally be asked to prepare letters of recommendation for students or others seeking employment or appointment. It is appropriate for Councilmembers to utilize City letterhead and their Council titles for such letters.

City letterhead and staff support cannot be utilized for personal or political purposes.

5.03 Local Ballot Measures

At times, initiatives may be placed on the ballots that affect City Council policy. State statute and caselaw prohibit the City from using its personnel, equipment, materials, buildings, or other resources to influence the outcome of elections. RCW 42.17A.555). What the City can do is distribute informational reports or pamphlets for the purpose of informing the public of the facts of an issue.

One of the exceptions to this broad provision is the ability for City Council to take an action to approve a motion or a Resolution expressing support for or opposition to a local ballot proposition. To do so, the City must provide Council members and members of the public an equal opportunity to express either support for or opposition to the ballot proposition. If the City Council wishes to take such action, interest should be communicated to the City Manager in sufficient time to bring the request before Council and provide public notice.

5.04 Proclamations

Proclamations are issued by the Mayor as a ceremonial commemoration of an event or issue. Proclamations are not statements of policy, and do not require the approval or action of the Council. Proclamations are a manner in which the City can make special recognition of an individual, event, or issue. Proclamation requests require three weeks’ notice prior to the event being honored and will be submitted through the City Clerk’s Office and forwarded to the Mayor for approval.

5.05 State Public Disclosure Act/Open Public Meetings Act

To ensure that business communications submitted to and by elected and appointed officials comply with the State Public Disclosure Act, [RCW 42.17](#), and the [State Open Public Meetings Act, RCW 42.30](#), the following is set forth:

A. Communications - Generally

All letters, memoranda, and interactive computer communication involving City Councilmembers and members of advisory boards and commissions, the subject of which relates to the conduct of government or the performance of any governmental function, with few exceptions as stated by the Public Disclosure Act, are public records. Copies of such letters, memoranda, and interactive computer communication may not be provided to the public or news media unless a public disclosure request has first been filed with the City Clerk.

B. Written Communications

Written letters and memoranda received by the City, addressed to a Councilmember or the Council as a body, will be provided to all City Councilmembers, and a copy kept according to the City’s Records Retention Schedule.

C. Electronic Communications

1. Informal messages with no retention value and that do not relate to the functional responsibility of the recipient or sender as a public official, such as meeting notices, reminders, telephone messages and informal notes, do not constitute a public record. Users should delete these messages once their administrative purpose is served.
2. All other messages that relate to the functional responsibility of the recipient or sender as a public official constitute a public record. Such records are subject to public inspection and copying.
 - If a community member sends an email to a Councilmember and requests that it be included in the record of a particular public hearing, the

Councilmember will forward said email to: CityClerk@bothellwa.gov who will forward it to the full council.

- If a Councilmember wishes that an email be distributed to a City staff member, the Councilmember will forward said email to the City Manager.
 - Staff will not review email unless a public records request is received.
3. Email communications that are intended to be shared among four or more Councilmembers, whether concurrently or serially must be considered in light of the Open Public Meetings Act. If the intended purpose of the email is to have a discussion that should be held at an open meeting, the electronic discussion should not occur. Further, the use of email communication to form a collective decision of the Council is inappropriate.
 4. Email should be used cautiously when seeking legal advice or to discuss matters of pending litigation or other “confidential” City business. In general, email is discoverable in litigation, and even deleted email is not necessarily removed from the system. Confidential email communications should not be shared with individuals other than the intended recipients, or the attorney-client privilege protecting the document from disclosure may be waived.
 5. Email between Councilmembers and Councilmembers and staff shall not be transmitted to the public or news media unless a public disclosure request has first been filed with the City Clerk.
 6. Email will not be used for personal use, since Councilmembers’ conventional e-mail addresses include the City’s “return address.”

5.06 Council Corner / Community Updates

Each quarter, an individual Councilmember will be scheduled to write an update to the community(Council Corner). This is an opportunity for Councilmembers to write brief articles on topics of interest to them and the Bothell community. The procedure of scheduling, writing and submittal is set forth below:

1. The Public Information Officer will provide a yearly schedule that shows the column rotation and which Councilmember may write for each edition.
2. The Councilmember column rotation will support equal writing opportunities for all 7 Councilmembers over the course of a 4-year term
3. Councilmembers will not be eligible to publish a column if they are actively campaigning for public office at the time of publication.
4. Columns may consist of 150 to 200 words and are submitted to the Public Information Officer according to the provided rotation schedule.
5. Staff will review columns for grammar, punctuation, phrasing etc., but will not edit Councilmembers’ columns.
6. Content will be published to the City’s website and promoted using existing channels (e.g. social media, electronic newsletter, , etc.).

Chapter 6

Conflicts of Interest, Appearance of Fairness Doctrine, and Liability of Elected Officials

6.01 Conflicts of Interest

The conflict of interest law is one of the most complicated laws on the books. To understand its effect on a Councilmember's actions, it is suggested that members discuss the law and potential conflicts with a private attorney or the City Attorney. It is imperative that Councilmembers identify in advance what their conflicts are.

It is illegal to fail to declare a conflict of interest, or to participate or otherwise be involved in discussions on issues or contracts where such an interest exists. Violations of the conflict of interest law may result in significant penalties, including criminal prosecution.

In circumstances where only a "remote interest" (see below) exists, after disclosure of the interest to other Councilmembers and in the meeting minutes, the Council may approve the contract to which a Councilmember has a remote interest, absent participation in the voting by the Councilmember with the remote interest, but only if the Councilmember refrains from any attempt to influence other members to approve the contract.

A. *Applicability*

All City officers, elected and appointed, are subject to the conflict of interest law in [RCW 42.23](#) This includes Councilmembers.

B. *Definition*

Remote Interests are so minor that they do not constitute illegal conflicts of interest.

Remote interests exist when a City official is:

- a non-salaried officer or member of a nonprofit corporation doing business or requesting money from the City. Therefore, being such an officer or member would not constitute a conflict
- the landlord or tenant of a contracting party. For instance, a Councilmember may lease office space to a party which has a private interest in a public matter without it resulting in a conflict of interest
- the owner of less than 1 percent of the shares of a corporation or a cooperative doing business with the City
- being reimbursed only for actual and necessary expenses incurred in performance of official duties

C. *Acts not Constituting a Conflict of Interest*

- receiving municipal services on the same terms and conditions as if not a City official. Thus, when a Councilmember who owns a business within the City votes for or against an increase in the business license fees, a conflict would not exist because this action would apply to all businesses in the corporate limits
- an officer or employee of another political subdivision or public agency unless it is the same governmental entity being served who is voting on a contract or decision which

would not confer a direct economic benefit or detriment upon the officer. Therefore, a Councilmember who is a school teacher may vote to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the school district, unless such agreement would confer some direct economic benefit, such as a salary increase, upon the Councilmember

- a member of a trade, business, occupation, profession, or class of persons and has no greater interest than the other members of that trade, business, occupation, or class of persons. A class must consist of at least ten members to qualify the interest as remote.

A City official may sell equipment, material, supplies, or services to the City if this is done through an award or contract let after public competitive bidding. An exception to this law permits the City Council to approve a policy on an annual basis to allow the City to purchase supplies, materials, and equipment from a member of the Council without going to public competitive bid as long as the single transaction does not exceed \$300 and the annual total of such transactions does not exceed \$1,000.

D. Declaration of a Conflict

When a substantial interest exists, the City official must:

1. Refrain from voting or in any way influencing a decision of the City Council; and
2. Declare that a conflict of interest exists and make it known in the official records of the City.

Should a situation arise wherein a majority of Councilmembers or a majority of a quorum of those present at a Council meeting have a substantial conflict of interest, state law provides that if the conflict of interest statutes prevent the City Council from acting as required by law in its official capacity, such action shall be allowed if the members of the Council with the apparent conflicts of interest make them known.

E. City Attorney Opinions

A Councilmember's request for an opinion from the City Attorney concerning conflict of interest is confidential. However, formal final opinions are a matter of public record and must be filed with the City Clerk. This filing requirement does not apply to verbal communications between Councilmembers and the City Attorney.

Councilmembers may seek advice from a private attorney, at their own expense, concerning potential conflicts. In such cases, no disclosure policy would apply.

F. Filing of Disclosures

The City Clerk maintains a file for all disclosures and legal opinions of conflicts of interest.

G. Apparent Conflict of Interest in Litigation Matters

A Councilmember who actively supports a position contrary to an official City of Bothell action or position, as adopted or ratified by a majority of the City Council, should recuse themselves and not participate in any vote, deliberation, executive session, or distribution of confidential information regarding further consideration or action in that matter once litigation has been served or filed regarding the matter. Litigation shall include but is not limited to legal action or appeals of any type including Growth Management Hearings Board appeals.

- The fact that a Councilmember voted in opposition or expressed an opinion in opposition to the official action or position prior to the filing or service of litigation shall not, by itself, be sufficient to trigger the need for recusal or non-participation.
- Once litigation has been served or filed, communication regarding the case with anyone other than City staff or legal counsel involved in the litigation of the case is discouraged during the pendency of the litigation.
- Councilmembers shall voluntarily recuse themselves and choose not to participate under the conditions listed above; however, if Councilmembers fail to voluntarily recuse themselves or withdraw from participation, any other Councilmember may challenge the ongoing participation and request the challenged Councilmember to disclose any communication and participation with regard to the pending litigation.
- If the apparent conflict still cannot be resolved voluntarily after such challenge, a majority plus one of the Council as a whole may vote to sanction and remove the challenged Councilmember from further participation with regard to the pending litigation on the basis of an apparent conflict of interest.
- Later legislative participation by a previously recused or sanctioned Councilmember, related to the same issue, is not prevented by the provisions of this subsection once the conflict no longer exists or the litigation has terminated.

6.02 Liability

The City must always approach its responsibilities in a manner that reduces risk to all involved. Nevertheless, with such a wide variety of high profile services (i.e., police, parks, roads, land use), risk cannot be eliminated. To better manage insurance and risk, the City participates in risk- and loss-control activities.

It is important to note that violations of certain laws and regulations by individual members of the City Council may result in the member being personally liable for damages which would not be covered by the City's insurance. Examples may include discrimination, harassment, or fraud.

Chapter 2.25 of the Bothell Municipal Code addresses indemnification of employees and officers.

Elected and appointed officials will participate in risk management training to reduce liability due to actions taken, especially in the areas of land use.

Chapter 7

Interaction with City Staff/Officials

7.01 Overview

City Council policy is implemented through dedicated and professional staff. Therefore, it is critical that the relationship between Council and staff be well understood by all parties so policies and programs may be implemented successfully. To support effective relationships, it is important that roles are clearly recognized.

The City Council also supports and acknowledges that Council and the City Manager are most effective when working as a team and as such the Council endeavors to support mutual respect between the City Council and City staff by creating the organizational teamwork necessary for successful implementation of the Council's policies and programs.

7.02 Council-Manager Plan of Government

Bothell has a Council-Manager plan of government. Basically, with this structure, the City Council's role is to establish city policies and priorities. The Council appoints a City Manager to implement those policies and undertake the administration of the organization.

The City Manager is appointed by the City Council to enforce its laws, to direct the daily operations of city government, to prepare and monitor the principal budget, and to implement the policies and programs initiated by the City Council. The City Manager is responsible to the City Council, rather than to individual Councilmembers, and directs and coordinates the various departments. The City Manager is responsible for appointing all department directors and authorizing all other personnel positions. The City Council authorizes positions through the budget process; based upon that authorization, the City Manager makes the appointments. The City Manager appoints members to the Civil Service Commission.

The Council-Manager plan of government is outlined in [RCW Chapter 35A.13](#). The powers and duties of the City Manager include:

- General supervision over the administrative affairs of the city
- Appoint and remove at any time all department directors and employees
- Attend all meetings of the Council at which the manager's attendance may be required by that body
- See that all laws and ordinances are faithfully executed, subject to the authority which the Council may grant the Mayor to maintain law and order in times of emergency
- Recommend for adoption by the Council such measures as the manager may deem necessary or expedient
- Prepare and submit to the Council such reports as may be required by that body, or as deemed advisable to submit
- Keep the Council fully advised of the financial condition of the City and its future needs
- Prepare and submit to the Council a proposed budget for the fiscal year, and to be responsible for its administration upon adoption
- Perform such other duties as the Council may determine by ordinance or resolution
- Implements and administers City Council policy

7.03 City Council Non-interference

The City Council is to work through the City Manager when dealing with administrative services of the City.

In no manner, either directly or indirectly, shall a Councilmember become involved in, or attempt to influence, personnel matters that are under the direction of the City Manager. Nor shall the City Council be involved in, or influence, the purchase of any supplies beyond the requirements of the City procurement code/procedures.

7.04 City Council/City Manager Relationship

The employment relationship between the City Council and City Manager honors the fact that the City Manager is the chief executive of the City. All dealings with the City Manager, whether in public or private, should respect the authority of the City Manager in administrative matters. Disagreements should be expressed in policy terms, rather than in terms that question satisfaction with or support of the City Manager.

The City Manager respects and is sensitive to the policy responsibilities of the City Council and acknowledges that the final responsibility for establishing the policy direction of the City is held by the City Council.

A. Performance Evaluation

The City Council is to evaluate the City Manager on an annual basis to ensure that both the City Council and City Manager agree about performance and goals based upon mutual trust and common objectives. The City Manager's performance is evaluated based upon a mutually agreed upon work plan.

7.05 City Council/City Staff Relationship

City Councilmember contact with City staff members, inclusive of the City Manager, will be during regular business hours, except in the case of an emergency.

7.06 Code of Ethics

The City Manager is subject to a professional code of ethics as a member of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). It should be noted that this code binds the City Manager to certain practices that are designed to ensure actions are in support of the City's best interests. Violations of such principles can result in censure by ICMA. This code is posted in the City Manager's office. [ICMA Code of Ethics](#).

7.07 City Council/City Attorney Relationship

The City Attorney, similar to other Department Director positions, is appointed by the City Manager. Legal professional services performed under contract or agreement shall be consistent with the City's adopted Procurement Policy. The City Attorney is the legal advisor for the Council, its committees, commissions and boards, the City Manager, and all City officers and employees

with respect to any legal question involving an official duty or any legal matter pertaining to the affairs of the City. The general legal responsibilities of the City Attorney are to:

1. provide legal assistance necessary for formulation and implementation of legislative policies and projects;
2. represent the City's interest, as determined by the City Council, in litigation, administrative hearings, negotiations, and similar proceedings;
3. prepare or approve as to form ordinances, resolutions, contracts, and other legal documents to best reflect and implement the purposes and intentions of the City Council; and
4. keep City Council and staff apprised of court rulings and legislation affecting the legal interest of the City.

It is important to note that the City Attorney does not represent individual members of Council, but rather the City Council as a whole.

7.08 Roles and Information Flow

A. Council Roles

The full City Council retains the authority to accept, reject, or amend the staff recommendation on policy matters.

Members of the City Council must avoid intrusion into those areas that are the responsibility of staff. Individual Councilmembers may not intervene in staff decision-making, the development of staff recommendations, scheduling of work, and executing department priorities without the prior knowledge and approval of the City Council as a whole. This is necessary to protect staff from undue influence and pressure from individual Councilmembers, and to allow staff to execute priorities given by management and the Council as a whole without fear of reprisal. If a Councilmember wishes to influence the actions, decisions, recommendations, workloads, work schedule, or priorities of staff, that member must prevail upon the Council to do so as a matter of Council policy. All Councilmembers with concerns affecting the community of Bothell should bring those concerns to the full Council before contacting an outside agency.

B. Access to Information

The City Manager is the information liaison between Council and City staff. Requests for information from Councilmembers are to be directed to the City Manager and will be responded to promptly. The information requested will be copied to all members of Council so that each member may be equally informed. The sharing of information with City Council is one of the City Manager's highest priorities.

There are limited restrictions when information cannot be provided. The City is legally bound not to release certain confidential personnel information. Likewise, certain aspects of police department affairs (i.e., access to restricted or confidential information related to crimes) may not be available to members of the City Council.

C. Staff Roles

The Council recognizes the primary functions of staff as executing Council policy and actions taken by the Council and in keeping the Council informed. Staff is obligated to take guidance and direction only from the City Manager or Department Director. This direction follows the policy guidance of the City Council as a whole. Staff is directed to reject any attempts of individual Councilmembers to unduly direct or otherwise pressure them into making, changing, or otherwise influencing recommendations.

City staff will make every effort to respond in a timely and professional manner to all requests for information or assistance made by individual Councilmembers; provided that, in the judgment of the City Manager, the request is not of a magnitude, either in terms of workload or policy, which would require that it would be more appropriately assigned to staff through the direction of the full City Council.

D. Significant Requests

No Councilmember shall request or direct the City Manager or Department Directors to initiate any action or prepare any report that is significant in nature, or initiate any significant project or study without the consent of a majority of the Council. The City Manager shall determine whether or not a matter is significant.

7.09 Dissemination of Information

In addition to regular, comprehensive memoranda written by the City Manager directly to City Council concerning all aspects of City operations (exclusive of confidential personnel issues), all Councilmembers receive copies of all correspondence received by the City Manager that will assist in them in their policy-making role. The City Manager also provides other documents to Council on a regular basis, such as status reports and executive summaries,

A variety of methods are used to share information with Council. Workshops and study sessions are held to provide detailed presentations of matters. Council/staff retreats serve to focus on topics and enhance information exchange. The City Manager's open-door policy allows individual Councilmembers to meet with the Manager on an impromptu or one-on-one basis.

7.10 Magnitude of Information Request

Any information, service-related needs, or policy positions perceived as necessary by individual Councilmembers that cannot be fulfilled based upon the above guidelines should be considered as an item for the agenda of a City Council meeting. If so directed by action of the Council, staff will proceed to complete the work within a Council-established timeline.

7.11 Staff Relationship to Advisory Bodies

Staff support and assistance may be provided to advisory boards, commissions, and task forces. Advisory bodies, however, do not have supervisory authority over City employees. While staff may work closely with advisory bodies, staff members remain responsible to their immediate supervisors and, ultimately, the City Manager. The members of the commissions, boards, or committees are responsible for the functions of the advisory body. The chairperson is responsible for committee compliance with the municipal code and/or committee bylaws. Staff members are to assist the advisory body chair to ensure appropriate compliance with state and local laws and regulations.

Staff support includes: (1) preparation of a summary agenda after approval by the chairperson; (2) preparation of reports providing a brief background of the issues, a list of alternatives, recommendations, and appropriate backup materials, if necessary; and (3) preparation of minutes of advisory body meetings. Advisory body members should have sufficient information to reach decisions based upon a clear explanation of the issues.

Advisory bodies wishing to communicate recommendations to the City Council shall do so through adopted Council agenda procedures. In addition, when an advisory body wishes to correspond with an outside agency, correspondence shall be reviewed and approved by the City Council.

7.12 Restrictions on Political Involvement by Staff

Bothell is a nonpartisan local government. Professional staff formulates recommendations in compliance with Council policy for the good of the community, not influenced by political factors. For this reason, it is very important to understand the restrictions of political involvement of staff.

By working for the City, staff members do not surrender rights to be involved in political activities. Employees may privately express their personal opinions. They may register to vote, sign nominating or recall petitions, and they may vote in any election.

7.13 Council Attendance Policy

[RCW 35A.13.020](#) (Council-Manager Plan of Government) directs us to [RCW 35A.12.060](#) (Mayor-Council Plan of Government) - Vacancy for Nonattendance. A council position shall become vacant if the Councilmember fails to attend three consecutive regular meetings of the council without being excused by the council.

At the start of each City Council meeting, the Mayor or City Clerk, or designee, will call the roll. Any absent Councilmember who has called the Mayor or City Manager's Office prior to 5:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting to advise of such absence will be deemed excused.

7.14 Remote Attendance

It is preferable that Councilmembers attend meetings in person whenever possible; however, remote attendance is allowed. Council will endeavor to give 24-hour advance notice of remote attendance to the Mayor, City Manager or City Clerk. If attending remotely for a specific item, Councilmembers agree to be present for the entirety of the item, not just the vote.

Chapter 8

City Council Meetings

The City Council's collective policy and law-making powers are put into action at the council meetings. It is here that the Council conducts its business. The opportunity for community members to be heard, the availability of local officials to the public, and the openness of council meetings all lend themselves to the essential democratic nature of local government.

8.01 Meeting Schedule

Regular meetings are held the first, second, and third Tuesdays of each month at 6:00 p.m., in the Bothell Council Chambers, 18415-101st Ave. NE, Bothell. Should these days happen to be designated as a legal holiday, the Council meeting will be held the fourth Tuesday of the month.

8.02 Public Notice of Meetings and Hearings

Pursuant to [RCW 35.22.288](#), cities are charged with establishing a procedure for notifying the public of upcoming hearings and the preliminary agenda for the forthcoming council meeting. The procedure followed by the City of Bothell is as follows:

A. Notices

Except where a specific means of notifying the public of a public hearing is otherwise provided by law or ordinance, notice of upcoming public hearings before the City Council or the City's Boards and Commissions shall be given one publication notice containing the time, place, date, subject, and body before whom the hearing is to be held, in the City's official newspaper at least ten (10) days before the date set for the hearing.

B. Preliminary Agenda of Council Meeting

The public shall be notified of the preliminary agenda for the forthcoming regular City Council meeting by posting a copy of the agenda in the following public places in the City at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting:

- Bothell City Hall – Elevator Vestibule
18415 - 101st Avenue NE
Bothell, WA 98011
- The City's Official Website: www.bothellwa.gov

C. Duties of City Clerk

The City Clerk is directed to publish notices and post agendas as required by Section 8.02 of the Bothell City Council Protocol Manual

[RCW 42.30.080](#) addresses the subject of special meetings. For special meetings, only those items specifically listed on the agenda may be discussed, considered, or decided.

8.03 Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called by either the Mayor or Deputy Mayor, or by the written request of four Councilmembers. Notice of a special meeting will be made by the City Clerk by delivering personally (emergencies only), or by email to each member of the Council and to each local newspaper of general circulation of all special meetings at least 24 hours before the time of such meeting as specified in the notice. The call and notice shall specify the time and place of the special meeting and the business to be transacted.

The notices provided in this section may be dispensed with in the event a special meeting is called to deal with an emergency involving injury or damage to persons or property or the likelihood of such injury or damage, when time requirements of such notice would make notice impractical, and increase the likelihood of such injury or damage.

At all regular and special meetings, public comments are invited during a public hearing before or during consideration of any item on the agenda. Public comment is appropriate on any matter within the jurisdiction of the City Council.

8.04 Placing Items on the Agenda

All members of City Council may request adding an item to the Council Agenda for discussion. Such requests will be added to the Council Agenda within the section, Projected Agenda Discussion. Requested items should be raised with staff in advance of discussion at a meeting so that written material may be published to alert the community as well as all members of Council of the requested item. Advanced discussion with the City Manager is encouraged so that staff can do preliminary research and be prepared to speak to the request and identify necessary resources and timelines.

Emergency items may be added to an agenda in accordance with state law. Emergency items are only those matters immediately affecting the public health, safety and welfare of the community, such as widespread civil disorder, disasters, and other severe emergencies. The reason(s) for adding an emergency item to the agenda shall be announced publicly at the meeting, and the issue shall be included in the minutes of the meeting.

8.05 Development of the Agenda

Given the rigorous time frame for agenda development, it is extremely difficult for staff to compile or prepare information requested at a Tuesday night meeting in time for the next deadline. The Council will receive follow-up information at the second Council meeting following the date it is requested. This would allow staff sufficient time to prepare reports that require additional investigative research and/or additional time due to complexity of subject matter.

8.06 Audio Recording of Meetings

The City Clerk, or designee, shall make and keep audio recordings of all meetings of the Bothell City Council, except those meetings or portions of meetings conducted in Executive Session, or unless a motion is passed to suspend audio recording of a meeting. Council typically suspends the Rules of Recording for Board & Commission interviews and Council Retreats. Recordings and related records of all City Council meetings, except as referenced above, shall be retained by the City in accordance with the Washington State Records Retention Schedule.

8.07 Order of Business – Regular Meetings

The City Council, by adoption of this manual, establishes the general order of meetings. This section summarizes each meeting component. The Mayor or City Manager may, rearrange the agenda order to allow for better flow given the items being discussed. The Council may, during the meeting under meeting agenda approval, make changes to the agenda. Any such change is subject to consensus of the Council.

Call to Order/Flag Salute/Roll Call

1. Meeting Agenda Approval

This is the time when Councilmembers or the City Manager may withdraw or move items on the agenda.

2. Public Engagement Opportunities

3. Proclamations

4. Public Comment

Persons addressing the Council, who are not specifically scheduled on the agenda will be invited by the Mayor to the podium. Speakers will limit their remarks to 3 minutes . . . No speaker may convey or donate their time for speaking to another speaker. Speakers are asked to sign up online by 3:00 PM day of meeting.

Written comments will be submitted into the record. A copy of the document will be provided to each Councilmember; the document will not be read aloud.

The following language will be added to the published agenda under Public Comment: During this item, the Mayor will invite public comment. Those testifying or providing comment will be limited to 3 minutes. Virtual attendees will be muted and not audible to the Council except during times they are designated to speak.

Public comment during this portion of the meeting shall be limited to the topic concerning current, future, or requested City projects, actions, programs, plans and regulations. Comments not pertaining to these subject matters are not germane and may result in your comments being suspended. The Mayor has the authority to preserve order at all meetings of the Council, to cause the removal of any person from any meeting for disorderly conduct and to enforce the rules. The Mayor may command assistance of any peace officer of the City to enforce all lawful orders of the Mayor to restore order at any meeting.

Community members with complaints, concerns, or questions, will be encouraged to refer the matter to the City Manager,.

- i. *Addressing the Council – Generally - Written Communications.* All persons may address the Council by written communication, including email. Such written communication pertaining to items subject to public hearing procedures will be made a part of the public record, but will not be read aloud.

Written comments may be submitted to the Council at any time by email or mailing or otherwise delivering to the City Clerk, 18415 – 101st Avenue NE, Bothell, WA 98011. The Clerk will distribute a copy of the correspondence to each Councilmember.

Oral Communications. All persons may address the Council verbally, either:

- a) During the Public Comment portion of the Agenda
- b) During public hearings, following staff (and applicant, if applicable) comments.

Addressing the Council -- Manner -- Limits. Each person addressing the Council will give their name in an audible tone of voice for the record, and shall limit the address to three (3) minutes.

Addressing the Council-- Signs in meetings-- Limits. General public comment is invited and encouraged during the public comment section of the Agenda only. All other comment is limited to specific items and issues as noted in the Agenda or otherwise allowed by Council with regard to specific items of business. During the public comment portion of the meeting, the Mayor will invite members of the public to speak to Council about topics that are not scheduled for public testimony. Comments on any non-agenda items will not be allowed other than during the public comment section of the Agenda. Signs will be allowed in the meeting by the presiding officer so long as they are limited in size to 11 x 17 inches and are not displayed or otherwise employed in a manner that disturbs or threatens others as determined by the presiding officer. All signs, placards or other forms of public display type written comment must be composed of soft, collapsible materials with no protrusions or hard mountings. Any person bearing a sign or other form of public display type written comment that violates the provisions of this section will be required to remove such sign from the meeting chambers and may themselves be barred from the meeting if they become disruptive by refusing to remove such signs.

- ii. *Addressing the Council -- After a Motion is made*
After the Council makes a motion, no person will address the Council without first securing the permission of the Mayor or presiding officer to do so.

5. Reports

a. City Manager Report

- Outside Presentations – Outside agencies attending meetings to give updates on regional issues that affect Bothell or may be presented to recognize a group/individual or program.
- Staff briefings - Staff briefings allow staff to update the Council and public on issues/items they are working on which might not otherwise come before the City Council but are of interest regarding the goings-on of the city. As the name implies, these shall be brief.

- b. Board & Commission Reports – This is an opportunity for Board and Commission members to update Council on activities, workplans and other items of interest.
- c. Council Committee Reports, Community Reports & Conversations - This is an opportunity for Councilmembers to update each other and the public on regional committee activities, community updates, and other topics of interest

6. Projected Agenda Discussion

7. Consent Agenda

Those matters of business that require action by the Council which are considered to be of a routine and non-controversial nature are placed on the consent agenda. The individual items on the consent agenda shall be approved, adopted, or enacted by one motion of the Council. Examples of such items include:

- Approval of all Council minutes;
- Approval of vouchers;
- Final approval of leases and agreements;
- Final acceptance of grants, deeds, or easements;
- Setting dates for public hearings/meetings;
- Passage of resolutions and/or ordinances which the Council has given direction to place on the consent agenda;
- Final acceptance of public works construction projects.

*No discussion shall take place regarding any item on the consent agenda beyond asking questions for simple clarification.

8. Public Meetings, Public Hearings, Open Record Reviews, and Closed Record Reviews

Public meetings, public hearings, open record reviews, and closed record reviews shall be held at 6:00 p.m. or later, unless otherwise noticed in accordance with law.

Individuals desiring to speak during a public hearing are encouraged to sign up beforehand and address the Council from the speaker podium or virtually after giving their name. Comments are limited to the specific matter for which the public hearing is held. Comments not pertaining to these subject matters are not germane and may result in your comments being suspended. Comments are limited to three (3) minutes. No speaker may convey their time for speaking to another speaker. Written comments are encouraged during the public hearings. When materials are presented during public hearings, they should be submitted to the City Clerk before the public hearing is closed on the item.

In the event of single subject group comment, at the discretion of the presiding officer, single time allocation for a spokesperson greater than three (3) minutes can be allowed. Groups that qualify for this special treatment shall submit to the presiding officer, prior to comment, a list of present group constituents or others in agreement so that duplication will not occur.

After a public hearing is closed, no member of the public shall be permitted to address the Council or the staff. In fairness to members of the public, the City Council shall be considered to be in deliberations from that point forward. Continuance of the item shall place it on a forthcoming agenda. Additional public testimony either that evening or at a future meeting would be precluded until public hearing notification procedures required by the Bothell Municipal Code are concluded.

9. Ordinances & Resolutions

All ordinances and resolutions shall, before presentation to the Council, have been approved as to form and legality by the City Attorney, the applicable Department Head and the City Manager. No ordinance shall contain more than one subject that shall be fully and clearly expressed in its title.

10. Contracts/Agreements

All contract documents shall, before presentation to the Council, have been approved as to form and legality by the City Attorney and shall further have been presented to the City Manager or authorized representative for review.

11. Appointments

Appointments to Outside/Regional Council Committees, Board and Commission Appointments or Pro/Con Committees for ballot measures.

12. Other

Items that do not fit into any other category.

13. Study Sessions

The study session is the forum used by Council to review forthcoming programs of the City, to receive progress reports on current issues, or to receive similar information from the City Manager and others. Further, the purpose of Study Sessions is to allow Councilmembers to do concentrated preliminary work with administration on single subjects of time consuming, complex matters (i.e., budget, complex legislation or reports, etc.)

14. Executive Session & Closed Session

At the call of the presiding officer, or with a majority vote, the City Council may recess to Executive Session to privately discuss and consider matters of confidential concern to the well-being of the City. The purposes for which an Executive Session or Closed Session may be held are identified in [RCW 42.30.110](#) and [RCW 42.30.140](#). The City Council may also hold an Executive Session to receive confidential advice from the City Attorney under the attorney-client privilege.

Before convening in Executive Session or Closed Session, the presiding officer shall publicly announce the purpose for excluding the public from the meeting place, and the time when the Executive Session/Closed Session will be concluded. An Executive Session/Closed Session may be extended to a stated later time by announcement of the presiding officer.

15. Adjournment

Council meetings are scheduled to conclude no later than 9:00 PM but will continue until business is concluded with no motion necessary to extend. In the event the Council cannot conclude the agenda at the current meeting, the meeting will be recessed to a definite time and place, and notice of such continued meeting will be given as provided by statute.

8.08 General Procedures

A. Seating Arrangement of the Council

While the Deputy Mayor is customarily seated immediately next to the Mayor, they may choose to sit anywhere at the dais. The Mayor, with the approval of Councilmembers, shall establish other seating arrangements for regular council meetings.

B. Signing of City Documents

The Mayor, unless unavailable, shall sign all ordinances, resolutions and other documents which have been adopted by the City Council and require an official signature; except when the City Manager has been authorized by Council action to sign documents. In the event the Mayor is unavailable, the Deputy Mayor may sign such documents.

C. Quorum

Four members of the Council shall constitute a quorum and are necessary for the transaction of City business. In the absence of a quorum, the Mayor shall, at the request of any two members present, compel the attendance of absent members.

D. Minutes

The City Clerk or designee shall take minutes at all meetings of the City Council. The minutes shall be made available for public inspection.

E. How Many Votes are Required for Passage?

For all resolutions, and motions, a simple majority of the Councilmembers present (assuming a quorum) is sufficient for passage.

The passage of any ordinance, grant or revocation of a franchise or license, and any resolution for the payment of money, requires an affirmative vote of at least a majority of the whole membership of the Council.

Public emergency ordinances, necessary for the protection of public health, public safety, public property, or public peace, may take effect immediately upon final passage (instead of after a 30-day delay), if passed by a majority plus one of the whole membership of the Council.

F. Voting

When seated at the dais for regular Council meetings, votes will be taken by voice vote.

8.10 Open Public Meetings Act

A. Applicability

The open meeting law applies to the City Council, all quasi-judicial bodies, and all standing, special or advisory boards, commissions, committees or subcommittees of, or appointed by, the City Council.

B. Meetings

All meetings of the Council shall be open to the public, except in the special instances as provided in RCW 42.30.110 and RCW 42.30.140 as hereafter amended. A meeting takes place when a quorum (a majority of the total number of Councilmembers currently seated on the Council) is present and information concerning City business is received, discussed, and/or acted upon.

C. ADA Requirements

The City of Bothell strives to provide accessible meetings for people with disabilities. Assisted-listening devices are available for use in the Council Chambers. If these or other accommodations are required, please contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator at (425) 806-6201 at least three days prior to the meeting.

D. Actions

No legal action can be taken by the Council except in a public meeting. At a *Special Meeting*, action can be taken only on those items appearing on the posted agenda, except for emergency items as defined in Section 8.08(E). At a Regular Meeting of the City Council, the Council is free to take action on non-agenda items, subject to applicable notice requirements in state statutes or local ordinances for the subject matter being considered.

E. Correspondence

All writings distributed for discussion or consideration at a public meeting are public records. To that end, Councilmembers shall not communicate using text, Microsoft Teams chat, Zoom chat, Instagram, Twitter, Facebook or other social media during a council meeting. Councilmembers shall refrain from making or receiving personal, private phone calls or emails while at the Council dais. Councilmembers shall not communicate in any electronic format with another councilmember during a council meeting.

Written material protected by attorney-client privilege must not be cited or quoted.

Chapter 9

Protocol Administration

9.01 Biennial Review

The City Council will review and revise the City Council Protocol Manual every two years, or as needed.

9.02 Adherence to Protocol

- A. Each Councilmember shall have the duty and obligation to review this Protocol Manual and be familiar with its provisions.
- B. During City Council discussions, deliberations, and proceedings, the Mayor will be primarily responsible to ensure that the City Council, staff, and members of the public adhere to the Council's adopted Protocol Manual.
- C. Knowing and/or willful failure to adhere to the provisions of this Protocol Manual may subject a Councilmember to enforcement and sanctions as follows:
 - (1) Upon determining that there is credible evidence that a Councilmember has, or may have, engaged in knowing and/or willful action or omission that constitutes failure to adhere to the provisions of this Protocol Manual, the Mayor or the Deputy Mayor, in the event that the Mayor is the Councilmember alleged to have engaged in such action or omission, may call upon the Council to determine whether such knowing and/or willful action or omission has occurred, and the sanctions, if any, to be imposed.
 - (2) Prior to conducting any hearing on an alleged failure to adhere to the provisions of this Protocol Manual, the Mayor or Deputy Mayor shall provide written notice to the Councilmember alleged to have engaged in such failure to adhere at least ten (10) calendar days prior to calling for such hearing. The written notice shall identify the specific provisions of this Protocol Manual with which the Councilmember is alleged to have failed to adhere and the facts supporting such allegation.
 - (3) Upon call by the Mayor or Deputy Mayor, a majority of a quorum of the Council shall vote on whether to hold a hearing to determine the existence of an act or omission constituting a failure to adhere and the sanctions, if any, to be imposed. If such hearing is approved by the Council, the hearing shall be held at a time and place specified in the motion approving such hearing.

- (4) At such hearing, the Council shall determine whether there is a preponderance of credible and substantial evidence indicating that a Councilmember has knowingly and/or willfully acted or failed to act in a manner constituting a failure to adhere to the provisions of this Protocol Manual. The Councilmember alleged to have failed to adhere to the provisions of this Protocol Manual shall have the right to present evidence and testimony. The finding of the existence of such knowing and/or willful failure to adhere shall be determined by motion approved by a majority of the Council plus one.
- (5) Upon finding that a knowing and/or willful failure to adhere to the provisions of this Protocol Manual has occurred, the Council shall proceed to determine whether the sanctions, if any, should be imposed. Appropriate sanctions may include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - (i) public censure
 - (ii) removal of appointment to extra-territorial boards, committees, or commissions; and
 - (iii) removal of appointment to Council boards or committees

9.03 City Attorney as Protocol Advisor

The City Attorney shall assist the Mayor and serve as an advisor for interpreting the City Council's adopted Protocol Manual.

9.04 Adherence to Non-interference Ordinance

The City Council delegates to the City Manager the responsibility to discuss with any Councilmember, on behalf of the full Council, any perceived or inappropriate interference or encroachment of administrative services. The City Manager will discuss with the Councilmember the action and suggest a more appropriate process or procedure to follow. After this discussion, if inappropriate action continues, the City Manager will report the concern to the full Council.

9.05 Applicability of Protocol Manual

The City Council Protocol Manual shall also apply when the Council is sitting as another entity or agency. The role of Mayor and Deputy Mayor shall be interchangeable with the Chair and Vice Chair, or President or Vice President, when sitting as another entity.

Chapter 10

Leaving Office

10.01 Return of Materials and Equipment

During their service on the City Council, members may have acquired or been provided with equipment such as computers or other items entailing a significant expense, as well as copies of the Bothell Municipal Code, *Imagine Bothell...*, Comprehensive Plan, mailbox key, etc. These items are to be returned to the City at the conclusion of a member's term.

10.02 Filling Council Vacancies

A. Purpose

The purpose of this section is to provide guidance to the City Council when a Bothell Councilmember position becomes vacant before the expiration of the official's elected term of office. Pursuant to state law, a vacancy shall be filled only until the next regular municipal election, to serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

B. References

[RCW 42.30.110 \(H\)](#) – Executive Session Allowed to Consider Qualifications of a Candidate for Appointment to Elective office.

[RCW 42.30.060](#) – Prohibition on Secret Ballots.

[RCW 42.12](#) – Vacant Position.

[RCW 35A.13.020](#) – Vacancies – Filling of Vacancies in Council/Manager Form of Government.

C. Appointment Process

(1) A Council position shall be officially declared vacant upon the occurrence of any of the causes of vacancy set forth in [RCW 42.12.010](#), including resignation, recall, forfeiture, written intent to resign, or death of a Councilmember. The Councilmember who is vacating their position cannot participate in the appointment process.

(2) The City Council shall direct staff to begin the Councilmember appointment process and establish an interview and appointment schedule, so that the position is filled at the earliest opportunity.

(3) The City Clerk's Office shall prepare and submit a display advertisement to the City's official newspaper, with courtesy copies to all other local media outlets, which announces the vacancy consistent with the requirements necessary to hold public office: that the applicant (a) be a registered voter of the City of Bothell, and (b) have a one (1) year residency in the City of Bothell. This display advertisement shall be published once each week for two (2) consecutive weeks. This display advertisement shall contain other information, including but not limited to, time to be served in the vacant position, election information, salary information, Councilmember powers and duties, the deadline date and time for submitting applications, interview and appointment schedules, and such other information that the City Council deems appropriate.

(4) The City Clerk's Office shall prepare an application form which requests appropriate information for City Council consideration of the applicants. Applications will be available at City of Bothell offices and on the City's official website. Copies of the display advertisement will be provided to current members of the City of Bothell commissions, committees, task forces and other City-sponsored community groups.

(5) Applications received by the deadline date and time will be copied and circulated, by the City Clerk's Office, to the Mayor and City Council. Packets may also contain additional information received such as endorsements, letters of reference and other pertinent materials.

(6) The City Clerk's Office shall publish the required public notice(s) for the meeting scheduled for interviewing applicants for consideration to the vacant position. This meeting may be a regularly scheduled City Council meeting, or a special City Council meeting.

(7) The City Clerk's Office shall notify applicants of the location, date and time of City Council interviews.

(8) Prior to the date and time of the interview meeting, the Mayor shall accept one interview question from each Councilmember.

D. Interview Meeting

Each interview of an applicant/candidate shall be no more than 30 minutes in length as follows:

(1) The applicant shall present their credentials to the City Council. (5 minutes)

(2) The City Council shall ask the predetermined set of questions which must be responded to by the applicant. Each applicant will be asked and will answer the same set of questions, and will have 2 minutes to answer each question. (14 minutes)

- (3) An informal question and answer period in which Councilmembers may ask and receive answers to miscellaneous questions. (10 minutes)
- (4) The applicants' order of appearance will be determined by a random lot drawing performed by the City Clerk.
- (5) The Council may reduce the 30-minute interview time if the number of applicants exceeds six (6) candidates, or alternatively, the Council may elect not to interview all of the applicants if the number exceeds six (6) candidates. The decision as to which applicants to interview will be based on the information contained in the application forms.

E. Voting

Upon completion of the interviews, Councilmembers may convene into Executive Session to discuss the qualifications of the applicants. However, all interviews, deliberations, nominations and votes taken by the Council shall be in open public session.

- (1) The Mayor shall ask for nominations from the Councilmembers for the purpose of creating a group of candidates to consider. No second is needed.
- (2) Nominations are closed by a motion, second and majority vote of the Council.
- (3) Councilmembers may deliberate on such matters as criteria for selection and the nominated group of candidates.
- (4) The Mayor shall poll Councilmembers to ascertain that Councilmembers are prepared to vote.
- (5) The City Clerk shall proceed with a roll-call vote.
- (6) Elections will continue until a nominee receives a majority vote of the remaining Councilmembers.
- (7) At any time during the election process, the City Council may postpone elections until a date certain or regular meeting if a majority vote has not been received.
- (8) Nothing in this policy shall prevent the City Council from reconvening into Executive Session to further discuss the applicant/candidate qualifications.
- (9) The Mayor shall declare the nominee receiving the majority vote as the new Councilmember and shall be sworn into office by the City Clerk at the earliest opportunity or no later than the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting.
- (10) If the City Council does not appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy within 90 days of the declared vacancy, pursuant to RCW 42.12.070(4), the county in which all or the largest geographic portion of the city is located shall appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy.

Chapter 11

Additional Training and Resource Materials

11.01 Association of Washington Cities [(800) 562-8981]

<https://wacities.org/> The Association is a voluntary, nonpartisan, nonprofit association comprised of all incorporated cities and towns in Washington.

11.02 National League of Cities [(202) 626-3000]

www.nlc.org A non-partisan organization serving municipal governments, the NLC works to establish unified policy positions, advocates those policies forcefully, and shares information that strengthens municipal government throughout the nation.

11.03 International City/County Management Association [(202) 289-4262]

<https://icma.org/> ICMA is a professional and educational association of local government administrators that serves to enhance the quality of local government through professional management and to support and assist professional local government administration. The Association's *Elected Officials Handbook* series can be of great value to Councilmembers. Publications are also available through ICMA concerning every basic city service.

11.04 Government Finance Officers Association [(312) 977-9700]

www.gfoa.org GFOA is a professional association of state and local finance officers. The Association administers a broad range of services and programs related to government financial management:

11.05 Municipal Research & Services Center of Washington [(206) 625-1300]

www.mrsc.org MRSC is a nonprofit, independent organization created in 1969 to continue programs established in 1934 under the Bureau of Governmental Research at the University of Washington. One of the principal services of MRSC is to respond to inquiries on virtually every facet of local government.

11.06 Appendix

Reference materials are provided in the Appendix of this manual. Materials include:

- A. Glossary of Terms
- B. Parliamentary Procedure

11.06 A - Glossary of Terms

Adjourn: to end the meeting

Agenda: summarization of items scheduled to be heard and acted upon at a public meeting

Amend: to change a motion

Conflict of interest exists when a Councilmember may have a personal interest in the outcome of a Council action. When a substantial conflict of interest exists, a City official must declare such and refrain from participating in or influencing the discussion or vote on the item

Consent agenda: a listing of non-controversial items presented to Council for their collective approval

Council packet: a compilation of Council Communications with reports and supporting documentation for items to be considered by Council

Debate: discussion about a motion

Decorum: behavior that is conducive to carrying on debate in a smooth and orderly manner. To maintain proper decorum and order, the following practices and customs are observed by members of the assembly: (1) confining remarks to the merits of the pending question; (2) refraining from attacking a member's motives; (3) addressing all remarks through the chair; (4) avoiding the use of members' names; (5) refraining from speaking adversely on a prior action not pending; (6) reading from reports, quotations, etc., only with permission; and, (7) refraining from disturbing the assembly

Emergency clause: a clause added to ordinances or resolutions declaring them to be of more than ordinary public need and necessity and putting them into effect immediately upon adoption. Ordinances and resolutions adopted without the emergency clause go into effect 30 days from the date of adoption.

Formal action: an act or direction of the City Council directing things to be done or recorded, but not requiring an ordinance or resolution

Germane: closely related to, or having bearing on, the subject

In order: relevant to the business at hand

Incidental motion: is a question of procedure that arises out of other motions. An incidental motion must be considered before the other motion. Incidental motions yield to privileged motions and to the motion to table. They are not debatable, except “appeal” and in this case, the presiding officer may submit to the assembly for a decision. Motions of this classification include (listed in order of precedence): (1) point of order; (2) appeal the decision of the chair; (3) suspension of rules; and, (4) parliamentary inquiry

Main motion: introduces an item of business to the Council for its consideration. A main motion cannot be made when another motion is before the Council. A main motion yields to privileged, subsidiary and incidental motions

Majority: more than one-half of the members present

Miscellaneous motions: not conveniently classified as subsidiary, incidental, or privileged, but which are in common use. These include: (1) take from the table; (2) reconsider; and (3) rescind

Motion: a formal proposal by a member, put to the Council for a decision by vote

Municipal code: the codification of general ordinances adopted by Council.

Ordinance: an action that has the effect of making or amending or repealing substantive city law

Parliamentary procedure: a set of rules for conduct at meetings. It allows everyone to be heard and to make decisions without confusion

Point of order: to raise a question of order. Point of order is pronounced when a member thinks that the rules of the assembly are being violated, thereby calling upon the chair for a ruling and an enforcement of the regular rules

Privileged motions: concern special or important matters not related to pending business. Privileged motions are most urgent and are of highest importance. Such a motion takes precedence over any pending question. Privileged motions are not debatable. They must be concerned with the rights of the assembly as a whole and the rights of each member in relation to the assembly. Privileged motions include the following and are listed in order of precedence: 1) adjourn; (2) recess; (3) question of privilege

Protocol: a code prescribing strict adherence to correct etiquette and precedence

Quasi-judicial proceedings: those proceedings in which the City Council is required to make findings based on an evidentiary record. In quasi-judicial proceedings, the City Council sits as the judge and jury, and is required to make findings based on the evidence and records presented. Examples of quasi-judicial proceedings heard by the City Council include open record reviews, closed record reviews, and subdivision map approvals.

Quorum: the number of members that must be present for the meeting to be called to order and to conduct business legally. A quorum of the Bothell City Council consists of four members, when all seven Council seats are filled.

Resolution: a formal, permanent, or long-standing expression of intent or public policy of the City

Second: a verbal signal from a member that they wish Council to consider the proposed motion

Special meeting: an unscheduled public meeting of the City Council held to act on an item(s) requiring immediate consideration. Special meetings must be posted 24 hours prior to the time of the meeting in order to be held

Subsidiary motion: changes or affects how the main motion is handled. This motion is voted on before the main motion. Subsidiary motions yield to all privileged and incidental motions and subsidiary motions above it in order of rank: (1) lay on the table (postpone temporarily); (2) the previous question (close debate); (3) limit or extend limits of debate; (4) postpone definitely or to a time certain; (5) commit, refer, or recommit to committee; (6) amend (change or modify a motion); (7) postpone indefinitely (kill a motion)

Title: the lead-in paragraph of an ordinance or resolution declaring its purpose. The title appears on the meeting agenda

Voting: the means by which motions are accepted or rejected by the Council

11.06 B- Parliamentary Procedure

By approval of the Council Protocol Manual, the City Council has adopted a modified version of *Robert's Rules of Order*. The abridged rules of order that will be entertained by the Bothell City Council can be found in the Appendix.

Customs of Formality

The presentation and disposition of motions at a City Council meeting involves significant interaction between the presiding officer and the members of the Council. Therefore, members should understand the customs of formality that are followed by the presiding officer and members in conformance with parliamentary procedure.

A Customs Observed by Members

The regular presiding officer of the Council is addressed as “Mayor_____” or Mr. (or Madam) Mayor.” Even at meetings where no members of the public are present, the presiding officer is called by the individual’s proper title and is never addressed or referred to by their first name or the personal pronoun “you.”

As a general rule, the presiding officer is addressed as “the chair” when additional reference is required. For example, “Mr. Mayor, do I understand the chair to state...” The presiding officer’s place or station in the chambers is also called “the chair.” Therefore, the term “the chair” applies to both the presiding officer and to that person’s station in the council chambers.

Members address only the chair, or address each other through the chair, and generally refer to each other by title. For example, “Mr. Mayor, may I ask Councilwoman A to explain...”

B Customs Observed by the Presiding Officer

The presiding officer refers to themselves as the chair and never uses the personal pronoun “I.” For example, “The chair rules that...” The presiding officer also does not address an individual member as “you,” but refers to members by their proper title.

Meeting Decorum and Order

The presiding officer shall preserve decorum and decide all questions of order, subject to appeal by the Council. During Council meetings, Councilmembers shall preserve order and decorum and shall not delay or interrupt the proceedings or refuse to obey the orders of the chair or the rules of protocol.

Any Councilmember may request the presiding officer to enforce the rules of protocol. Upon motion and majority vote, the presiding officer shall be required to do so.

Order of Discussion

The presiding officer should follow the prepared agenda as much as possible. However, for those occasions when deviations are necessary or convenient, the presiding officer will clearly announce that the Council has decided to rearrange the agenda. When changing the order of discussion, it must be done so as not to prevent or deny any member of the public the opportunity to listen to the discussion of any agenda item.

Obtaining the Floor

A Councilmember shall address the presiding officer and gain recognition prior to making a motion or engaging in debate. The presiding officer will recognize Councilmembers by their last name, such as "Councilmember Jones." Councilmembers will address each other as Councilmember, followed by last name, such as "Councilmember Jones." Cross-exchange between Councilmembers and the public should be avoided. This is to prevent general conversation and to keep the order necessary to maintain decorum and accomplish the business of the Council.

After a member has concluded comments and yielded the floor, if two or more members are trying to obtain the floor at the same time, the general rule is that the person who addresses the chair first is entitled to be recognized. When a motion is open to debate, however, there are three instances in which the presiding officer should assign the floor to a person who may not have been the first to address the chair. These are:

1. The Councilmember who made the motion currently under debate is entitled to be recognized in preference to other members if that individual is claiming the floor and has not already spoken on the question.
2. No member is entitled to the floor a second time in the meeting on the same motion as long as another member who has not spoken on the motion desires the floor.
3. In instances where the person to be recognized is not determined by (1) or (2) above, and where the presiding officer knows that members who are seeking the floor have opposite opinions on the motion, the chair should let the floor alternate as much as possible between those favoring and those opposing the motion.

Questions to Staff

A Councilmember may, after recognition by the presiding officer, address questions to staff members.

Interruptions

Once recognized, a Councilmember should not be interrupted while speaking, except to make a point of order or personal privilege. If a Councilmember is called to order while speaking, the individual shall cease speaking until the question order is determined.

Upon being recognized by the presiding officer, members of the staff shall hold the floor until completion of their remarks or until recognition is withdrawn by the presiding officer.

Discussion Limit

A Councilmember should not speak more than once on a particular subject until every other Councilmember has had the opportunity to speak. Councilmembers are encouraged to discuss items during the decision-making process.

Basic Steps to Conducting Business

Specific requests or proposals that are presented to Council for consideration and possible action must be introduced in the form of a motion. For the proper presentation and disposition of most motions, 13 separate steps are required. The basic steps to conducting business include:

The Presiding Officer (chair):

- Introduces the item to be considered as presented on the agenda
- Opens a public hearing
- Closes the public hearing after receiving comments (if any) from the public
- Calls for discussion

A member of the Council:

- Addresses the chair
- Is recognized by the chair
- Proposes the motion

A second member of the Council:

- Seconds the motion

The Presiding Officer (chair):

- States the motion
- Calls for any further discussion or debate
- Restates the motion and puts the motion to a vote

The City Clerk:

- Takes the vote
- Announces the results

Making a Motion

Under parliamentary procedure, there are three steps required to bring a motion before the Council for its consideration:

1. A Councilmember makes a motion;
2. Another Councilmember seconds the motion, and
3. The chair states the motion.

Unless the motion can interrupt a speaker as explained in *Robert's Rules of Order*, a member must obtain the floor to make a motion. Once the chair has recognized a Councilmember, the individual makes the motion by saying, "I move that..." or "I move to..." and announcing what is proposed.

Councilmembers should attempt as much as possible to state motions in the positive form---that is, "I move to..." rather than "I move not to..." Motions where one must vote "yes" to vote against a proposal are confusing not only for Councilmembers, but also for staff and the public.

If a proposal has only minimal support, a Councilmember might state "I make this motion in order to put it on the floor for discussion. I am not sure of my position on it at the present time."

Seconding a Motion

After a motion has been made, and if it requires a second, another Councilmember who wishes to see the motion considered says, without obtaining the floor, “I second the motion,” or simply, “Second.” A second merely implies that the member agrees the motion should come before the meeting, not necessarily that the member favors it. If another member of the Council does not second the motion, the chair normally asks, “Is there a second to the motion?” If there is no second, the chair should say, “Since there is no second, the motion is not before this meeting.” If seconded, the maker of the motion should then be regarded as having the refusal of the floor in preference to all other members.

The purpose of a second is to prevent time being spent on motions that only one person wants to discuss. After the Council makes a motion, no person shall address the Council without first securing the permission of the Mayor or Council to do so.

Stating the Question

Under parliamentary procedure, making and seconding a motion does not put it before the Council for consideration. This can be done only by the chair when the presiding officer repeats the exact motion and indicates that the motion is open for debate by stating: “It has been moved and seconded that ... Is there any discussion?”

A. Right to Withdraw or Modify a Motion

Until the chair has stated the question, the maker has the right to modify or withdraw the motion. After the motion has been stated, however, it can be withdrawn only with the Council’s consent. If any objection is made, it will be necessary to obtain leave to withdraw by a motion for that purpose. When a motion is withdrawn, the effect is the same as if it had never been made.

B. Pending Motions

When the chair has stated a motion, it is said to be *pending*. When several motions are pending, the last one stated by the chair, and the first to be disposed of, is called the *immediately pending question*. Thereafter, other pending motions are considered in descending order of rank.

Amendment of the Main Motion

When the main motion does not exactly suit the members of the Council, it may be changed by means of amendment *before* it is finally voted upon. Once recognized by the chair, a Councilmember may make the motion to amend by stating, “I move to amend the motion by...” ---adding, striking out, inserting, or substituting. An amendment to the main motion requires a second; it is debatable, requires a majority vote, and must be germane---that is, closely related to or having bearing on the subject of the motion to be amended.

If the motion on the amendment passes, the chair puts the main motion, as amended, to a vote. If the motion on the amendment fails, the chair puts the main motion, as originally presented, to a vote.

The member, who offers the motion, until it has been stated by the chair, can modify the motion, or withdraw it entirely; after it is stated, they can do neither without the consent of the body (majority). For example, the mover may state, “With the consent of the body I will modify my motion to state as

follows...” If no one objects, it shall be deemed that they have the consent of the body to modify their motion. When the mover modifies their motion, the one who seconds it can withdraw their second.

Postponement of Business

A. Postpone to a Time Certain

Council may delay action on a pending question by making a motion to postpone the item either indefinitely or to a time certain. This motion can be made regardless of how much debate has taken place. The question may be postponed either so that it may be considered at a more convenient time or because debate has shown reasons for delaying a decision.

B. Postpone Indefinitely

Council may decline to take a position on a pending question by moving to postpone the item indefinitely. Voting to postpone indefinitely kills the main motion and avoids a direct vote on the question. This motion is useful for disposing of a badly expressed main motion that cannot be either adopted or expressly rejected without possibly undesirable consequences.

C. Table

Commonly misused in place of a motion to postpone, Council may lay the pending question aside temporarily when some other issue of immediate urgency has arisen. *Lay on the Table* is out of order if the evident intent is to kill or avoid dealing with an item. This motion requires a majority vote and halts consideration of a question immediately and without debate. After a question has been laid on the table, it can be taken from the table by a majority vote as soon as the interrupting business is disposed of and when no other question is pending.

Debate

The term “debate” applies to the discussion of the merits of any pending question during a Council meeting. All main motions and certain other motions are entitled to debate.

Any member of the City Council may move to close debate by saying, “I move that debate on the motion be closed,” or “I move the previous question.” However, Councilmembers should refrain from using the term, “call the question,” as a means to end debate. The audience better understands, “Move that debate on the motion be closed,” rather than “calling the question.” The motion must be seconded. The presiding officer immediately requests a vote, to which a two-thirds vote is required to close debate.

A motion to close debate can neither be debated nor amended. The motion to close debate effects the immediately pending question, whether it is an amendment or the main motion. Should the motion fail, debate is reopened. If the motion passes, then the Council shall vote on the motion for which debate was closed.

Debate shall not be closed until every Councilmember present has had at least one opportunity to speak on the motion.

While debate on a main motion is under way, amendments and subsidiary, privileged and incidental motions may be introduced (if they are in order), debated (if debatable) and disposed of.

In addition to the customs of formality discussed in Section 9.01, observance of the following practices will make debate smooth and orderly. Members of the Council should:

- Confine their comments to the merits of the pending question;
- Refrain from speaking against their own motions;
- Refrain from reading reports, quotations, etc., without permission of the Council; and
- Speakers should yield the floor to the chair whenever the chair interrupts to give a ruling or information, or to otherwise speak

Voting Procedures

Each Councilmember shall vote on all questions put to the City Council, unless a conflict of interest under State law or appearance of fairness question is present. Unless a member of the Council states that they are not voting, their silence shall be recorded as an affirmative vote.

If a member asserts a conflict of interest under State law or appearance of fairness question, and it is not apparent to all Councilmembers present, the member shall be excused from voting on an issue only by majority vote of the Councilmembers present.

If it is determined by majority vote of the City Council as a whole, plus one, that a Councilmember has a conflict of interest under State law or would violate the appearance of fairness doctrine by participating in, and/or voting on, a matter coming before the Council, then the member determined to have the conflict of interest or appearance of fairness doctrine violation shall not participate in or vote on said matter. In the event a challenged member or members requests additional time prior to the challenge having been voted on by the City Council in order for the Councilmember to present further information to the Council, then the City Council's determination with respect to the challenge shall be continued to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council, at which time the member or members requesting the additional time shall present such additional information. At the conclusion of the presentation, the City Council shall make its determination as provided hereinabove.

When the debate appears to be over and if no one indicates a desire to continue discussion, the chair puts the motion to a vote by stating, "If there is no further discussion, cast your votes."

Only those ordinances, resolutions, or motions that receive an affirmative vote by the majority of the present and voting members of the City Council who also constitute a quorum shall be passed or become effective unless other voting requirements are provided by Washington State law in which case Washington State law shall prevail. In order for an ordinance or resolution to become effective immediately, the City Council must declare that an emergency exists and approve the ordinance or resolution by the affirmative vote of the majority plus one of the whole membership of the Council (See Section 8.09E).

A conflict of interest shall be declared whenever appropriate and in compliance with state law. The affected Councilmember will not participate in the discussion and will abstain from the voting process by leaving the Council Chambers until such time as consideration of the item has been concluded.

A. Votes

Votes shall be cast in an audible tone of voice.

B. Abstention from Voting

Any member may abstain from voting on any question; provided, at the time of declaring their abstention, they shall state the reason.

C. Tie Vote

A tie vote results in the motion having failed. The presiding officer may publicly explain the effect of the tie vote for the audience.

D. Reconsideration

Reconsideration of an item will be considered by a majority vote of the Council. A member of the prevailing majority must make a motion for reconsideration when the previous vote was taken, and can be made no later than the next regular meeting after which the previous vote was taken.

Right of Protest

A Councilmember is never required to state reasons for a dissenting vote; provided, however, that any member of the City Council shall have the right to state the reasons for their dissent from, or protest against, any action of the Council. Such statement shall be noted in the minutes along with the record of the vote in the following format: "Councilmember XX verbally stated their reasons for voting in the minority on this matter." No other statement is proper or will be allowed to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

General Rules of Procedure

A. Standing to Question Procedures

These rules shall govern the parliamentary procedures of the members and by the members only. Procedures may be questioned only by members of the body, and then only in accordance with these rules. The decision of the chair will be final and conclusive as to all, subject only to a motion by a member of the body, duly and timely made, in which case the ruling of the body shall be final and conclusive. Nothing in these rules will be construed to prevent the chairman or a member from requesting aid in the interpretation of these rules or other matters from the City staff or officials.

B. Precedence

Motions having precedence on those that may be made while another motion is pending.

C. To Yield

Motions yield when they are pending and another matter can be considered while the yielding motion still pends.

D. Applied

Where a motion can have no subordinate motion applied to it, the fact is stated. For example, the motion to continue may not be applied to the motion to lay on the table.

E. Debate

Debate shall not take place until the chair has stated the question. Debate shall be limited to the immediately pending question, except that the main question is also open when the following motions are pending: postpone indefinitely, or reconsider a debatable question.

F. Putting the Question

When the debate appears to have closed, the chair will ask, "Are you ready for the question?" If no one asks for the floor, the chair shall put the question to a vote, making it clear what the question is.

G. Majority

A majority of those present shall constitute a majority of the body assuming a quorum is present. The chair has the tie-breaking vote and may second a motion.

Specific Rules of Procedure

The following motions are permissible in considering any matter on the agenda, and unless otherwise specified, shall rank in precedence and application as set forth below:

A. Undebatable Motions

1. Question of Order and Appeal.

A question of order takes precedence of the question giving rise to it, may be put when another member has the floor, needs no second, and must be decided by the chairman without debate. If a member objects he may appeal, which if seconded, will immediately be put to the body. An appeal is waived if not made immediately. On appeal, the decision of the chair is sustained on a tie vote.

2. Suspension of Rules.

This motion may not be amended, nor another motion be applied to it, nor a vote on it reconsidered. Rules of the body may not be suspended except for a definite and specific purpose and by a vote of one more than a majority present. Nothing else may be done under the suspension. It may not be renewed at the same meeting if once defeated. It shall be in order to change the order of the agenda. No rule can be suspended when the negative vote is as large as the minority protected by that rule.

3. To Lay on the Table

This motion may not be used for purposes of continuance of a matter that has been specially called for public hearing, which is done by a motion to continue. It may not be amended, nor an affirmative vote on it be reconsidered.

If carried, the subject tabled may not be considered again until the body votes to take it from the table, which motion is also undebatable.

The object of the motion is to postpone the subject in such a manner that it can be taken up at any time, either at the same or some future meeting. It may be used to suppress a question for that meeting, but not for a matter for which a public meeting has been specially set. The effect of the motion is to place on the table everything that adheres to the subject, so that if an amendment were ordered to lie on the table, the subject whom it is proposed to amend is also tabled. However, it may be limited to the particular pending matter and if so adopted the remaining matters shall still be before the body.

4. The Previous Question

This motion is not amendable and applies to any debatable question, but is not debatable itself. It requires the vote of one more than a majority of the members present for its adoption. When called and seconded, the chair shall immediately put the question. If the motion fails to carry by a majority plus one of the members present, the debate will continue as if the motion had not been made. If adopted, the chair shall immediately bring the body to vote upon the pending question.

If applied to an amendment to a pending question, it brings to a vote not only the motion to amend, but also the question to be amended. However, the motion for the previous question may be limited to the pending amendment and, if adopted, debate will be closed only to the motion to amend.

It shall be proper for a member to submit a motion and at the same time move the previous question thereon and thus cut off debate on the motion. In this case, the chair shall first put the motion for previous question to vote.

B. Debatable Motions

1. Continue to a Certain Day

This motion yields to all undebatable motions, and takes precedence of all other debatable motions, except that it may be amended by altering the time, and the previous question can be applied to it without affecting any other motions pending.

2. To Commit or Refer

This motion is to commit or refer a matter to a committee. It can be amended by altering the committee, or giving the committee instructions. The debate on the motion opens the debate on the main question it is proposed to commit.

3. To Amend

This motion takes precedence over nothing but the question that it is proposed to amend and yields to all questions except to postpone indefinitely. It can be applied to all but undebatable questions, an amendment of an amendment, to postpone indefinitely, or to reconsider. It can be amended itself, but an amendment of an amendment cannot be amended.

An amendment may be inconsistent with the one already adopted, or may be directly in conflict with the spirit of the original motion, but it must have a direct bearing upon the subject of that motion. A motion to amend by inserting new words once past may not be the subject matter of a new amendment to change the same words. The proper motion is the motion to reconsider the vote by which the words were inserted.

A motion to amend may be made to “divide the question” into two or more questions as the mover specifies, so as to get a separate vote on any particular point or points.

4. To Postpone Indefinitely

This motion takes precedence of nothing except the question to which it is applied and yields to all motions except to amend. It cannot be amended, and opens to debate the entire question which it is proposed to postpone.

Its effect is to entirely remove the question from the body for that session. The previous question, if ordered when this motion is pending, applies only to it without affecting the main question.

It cannot be applied to a matter that has been specifically set for public hearing. A negative vote on it cannot be reconsidered.

5. Principal Question

The main or principal question is a motion to bring before the body for its consideration any particular subject. No principal motion can be made when any other motion is before the body. It takes precedence over nothing and yields to all.

C. Miscellaneous Motions

1. To Rescind

This motion cannot be made for a matter that has been voted upon for which a matter has been specifically called for public hearing. However, for other matters to which it is appropriately addressed, as where it is too late to reconsider the vote, the motion is the course to pursue to rescind an objectionable policy, order or motion; it is debatable.

2. To Reconsider

This motion is not in order after the body has voted upon the principal question which is the subject matter of a specially called public hearing, unless made immediately after thereon and before the Council has moved to the next item of business. It is otherwise in order at any time, even when another member has the floor, but not after the Council has adjourned the meeting. Nothing herein shall be construed as preventing the council from considering the same item at a subsequent meeting as a new item of business.

A member who voted with the prevailing side must make the motion. It can be applied to the vote of every other question, except as noted above, and except to suspend the rules and an affirmative vote to lay on the table or to take from the table.

The motion may not be amended. Whether or not it is debatable depends upon whether the question to be reconsidered is debatable or undebatable. It may be laid on the table, in which case, the reconsider, like any other question, can be taken from the table.

3. Roll Call

Any member may demand a roll call vote any time before or after any question is put. The demand needs no second and the chair must ask for a roll call vote on demand. It is not debatable and may be applied to any question. It is waived if after the vote it is not immediately made and prior to the next matter being considered.

Suggested Forms

1. Undebatable Motions

a. Question of order

Member: "I raise a point of order."

Chair: "State your point of order."

Member: States their point of order

Chair: Ruling by the chair, which may give reasons.

Member: "I appeal from the decision of the chair."

Chair: (If seconded) "Shall the decision of the chair stand as the decision of the body?"

b. Suspension of rules (majority plus one)

Member: "I move to suspend the rules requiring..."

c. To lay on the table (majority plus one)

Member: "I move to lay the question (stating it) on the table."

Chair: (If seconded) "Shall the main question be now put?"

Member: "I call for the previous question on the amendment."

Chair: (If seconded) "Shall the question be now put on the amendment?"

2. Debatable Motions

a. Continue to a certain day (majority)

Member: "I move to continue the question of (stating it) to the next regular (or recessed) meeting of (date)." *NOTE: Confirm date of meeting with City Attorney in matters of land use to ensure compliance with the BMC.*

b. To commit or refer (majority)

Member: "I move to refer the subject to a committee."

c. To amend (majority)

Member: "I move to amend the motion to 'add', or 'insert', to 'strike', to 'strike out XYZ and insert ABC', to 'divide the question' (into two or more questions), etc."

d. To postpone indefinitely (majority)

Member: "I move to postpone the question indefinitely."

e. Principal question (majority)

Member: "I move that..."

3. Miscellaneous Motions

a. To rescind (majority)

Member: "I move to rescind that motion, policy, etc."

b. To reconsider (majority)

Member: "Having voted on the prevailing side, I move that we reconsider the vote on the motion to (stating it) and have such motion entered on the record."

c. Roll call (any member)

Member: "I demand a roll call vote." No second needed.

Chair: "The clerk will please call the roll."

Other Protocol

Councilmembers and staff shall:

- Work to preserve appropriate order and decorum during all meetings.
- Address Councilmembers as Councilmember, followed by last name, such as “Councilmember Jones,” and staff by staff member’s last name.
- Discourage side conversations, disruptions, interruptions or delaying efforts.
- Limit questions after motions and eliminate questions that are meant to merely support position.
- Focus on outcomes rather than the activities that create end result
- Inform the presiding officer when departing from a meeting.
- Limit disruptive behavior. The presiding officer will call persons demonstrating rude, boisterous, or profane behavior to order. If such conduct continues, the presiding officer may call a recess, request the removal of such person(s) from the Council Chambers, adjourn the meeting, or take such other appropriate action as permitted by the law. The City Council discourages applause, booing or other similar behaviors from the public during meetings.
- Recognize that only the City Council, staff, advisory body chairs or designated representatives, and those authorized by the presiding officer shall be permitted to sit at the Council or staff stations.

A. Enforcement of Order

The Chief of Police (or designee) acts as the sergeant-at-arms. It shall be the duty of the sergeant-at-arms to carry out all instructions of the presiding officer to preserve the peace and maintain order and decorum at Council meetings.

A portion or all of the public may be removed from the meeting site if willful disruption makes conducting the meeting unfeasible. Upon instructions of the Mayor, it shall be the duty of the sergeant-at-arms, or any of them present, to place any person who violates the order and decorum of the meeting under arrest, and cause them to be prosecuted in accordance with law.

B. Values of Respect

The City Council recognizes the importance of approaching the public’s business in an environment of personal respect that places emphasis on the consideration of policy and avoids personalization of comments. Some general guidelines utilized by the City Council include:

- Discussion should focus on policy matters.
- Personal criticism of members is inappropriate.
- Proper decorum should be displayed as other members express their views.

Parliamentarian

The Mayor, or in the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, shall serve as parliamentarian for the City Council and as such shall decide all questions of parliamentary procedure in accordance with the parliamentary rules contained in *Robert’s Rules of Order*. Before deciding any question of parliamentary procedure, the Mayor may request advice from the City Attorney or City Clerk or designee. In cases where serious errors in procedure are being used or being contemplated, the City Attorney should give advice even when it has not been requested.

Reference Guide to Motions

		Interrupts action/speaker	Requires a second	Debatable	Amendable	Required vote	Can be reconsidered	
Action								
Main motion or question	16*	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes	10
Move to adjourn	1*	No	Yes	No	No	Majority	No	21
Move to take a recess	1*	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority	No	20
Question of privilege		Yes	No	No	No	No Vote	No	19
Move to lay the question on the table		No	Yes	No	No	Majority	No	17
Move to close debate		No	Yes	No	No	2/3	Yes	16
Move to limit debate	3*	No	Yes	No	Yes	2/3	Yes	15
Move to postpone	1*	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes	14
Move to refer the matter	4*	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes	13
Move to amend the motion	5*	No	Yes	10*	Yes	Majority	Yes	12
Move to postpone indefinitely		No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority	13*	11
Move to introduce business		No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes	10
The motions listed above are in order of precedence. Below there is no order.								
Point of order		Yes	No	No	No	15*	No	23
Appeal the decision of the chair		Yes	Yes	Yes	No	9*	Yes	24
Move to suspend the rules	2*	No	Yes	No	No	2/3	No	25
Parliamentary inquiry		12*	No	No	No	No Vote	No	32
Move to take from the table	6*	No	Yes	No	No	Majority	No	33
Move to reconsider	7*	12*	Yes	10*	No	Majority	No	36
Move to rescind	8*	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	11*	14*	34

- 1* To date and time. Not necessary with “Move to adjourn.”
- 2* “. . . That interfere with _____.” The motion must state its purpose or object
- 3* Specify what limitations: i.e., time, number of speeches, etc.
- 4* Specify to whom and for what reason
- 5* Specify amendment
- 6* During same meeting at which the item was tabled
- 7* Maker of motion must have been on prevailing side 8*
- Specify action to be rescinded
- 9* The question is, “Shall the decision of the chair stand?” A majority negative vote is necessary to overrule the decision
- 10* Only if the motion in question is itself debatable
- 11* Whatever vote was required to pass the motion in question
- 12* Can only interrupt speaker with speaker’s permission, but does interrupt proceedings
- 13* Affirmative votes may be reconsidered
- 14* Negative votes may be reconsidered
- 15* No vote unless the chair submits to the assembly for a decision
- 16* For circumstances where a greater than majority vote is required for approval, see Section 8.10E of this manual
- 17* Ruling on question of privilege is made by chair

Board & Commission Matrix

Board/Commission	Residency Requirements	Special Requirements
<p>Arts Commission (BMC 2.45) 9 members/4-year terms/ Youth 2 year terms Meets 3rd Thursday of each month, 6:00 PM City Hall – Conf. Rooms 107/108 Appointing Authority: City Council</p>	<p>A majority of the members shall be residents of the city. All members shall be residents of the City’s urban growth area. 2 youth members</p>	<p>Initial terms of office shall be staggered 3 years, not more than three of which shall expire each year</p>
<p>Landmark Preservation Board (BMC 22.12) 7 members / 4-year terms Meets 4th Tuesday of each month, 6:00 PM City Hall, Conf. Rooms 107/108 Appointing Authority: City Council</p>	<p>A majority of the board members shall be residents of the city. Members shall be residents of the city’s urban growth area; provided, however, the required professional members of said board may reside outside the city or the urban growth area or city planning area.</p>	<p>At least two of the members must be professionals selected from among the disciplines of engineering, history, architecture, architectural history, historic preservation, planning, cultural anthropology, archaeology, cultural geography or American studies; there are no residency requirements for the members with professional qualifications.</p>
<p>Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (BMC 2.34) 7 members / 2-year terms Meets 3rd Tuesday of the month, 10:00 AM City Hall Appointing Authority: City Council</p>	<p>No residency requirements, except for the City Council representative, who must be a resident of the City</p>	<p>(a) 3 members must be persons involved in activities for the enhancement of tourism in the Bothell community which are funded by lodging tax revenues received under Chapter 67.28 RCW</p> <p>(b) 3 members must be representatives of businesses authorized to collect lodging tax under Chapter 67.28 RCW (hotel, rooming house, tourist court, motel, or trailer camp)</p>
<p>Parks & Recreation Board (BMC 2.44) 9 members / 4-year terms Youth 2 year terms Meets 2nd Thursday of the month, 6:00 PM City Hall Rooms 107/108 Appointing Authority: City Council</p>	<p>A majority of the members shall be residents of the city. All members shall be residents of the city’s urban growth area. 2 youth members</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">None</p>
<p>Planning Commission (BMC 2.52) 7 members / 4-year terms Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6:00 PM City Hall Council Chambers Appointing Authority: City Council</p>	<p>Reside within City limits</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">None</p>

<p>Civil Service Commission (BMC 2.48) 3 members/6-year terms Meets 3rd Wednesday of the month, 5:30 PM as needed City Hall Appointing Authority: City Manager</p>	<p>Reside within City limits</p>	<p>Citizen of the United States, resident of the city for a least one year and registered voter in King or Snohomish County</p>
<p>LEOFF 1 Board (BMC 2.88) 5 members/2-year terms Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month, 5:00 PM as needed City Hall Conf. Room 127 Appointing Authority: LEOFF 1 Board</p>	<p>Public member must reside within City limits</p>	<p>Board made up of 2 Councilmembers 1 active or retired Police Officer 1 active or retired Fire Fighter 1 member at large to be appointed by the board</p>
<p>Ad-hoc Salary Commission (BMC 2.92) 3 members/ Meets every even calendar year for 90-day review period Appointing Authority: Mayor with approval of the City Council</p>	<p>Reside within City limits</p>	
<p>Shorelines Board (BMC 13.19) 7 members/5-year terms Meets as business demands Appointing Authority: City Council</p>	<p>Reside within City Limits</p>	