



Lowell City Council

Rules SC Minutes

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Date: March 1, 2022
Time: 5:30 PM
Location: Council Chamber, City Hall / Zoom(Hybrid)

PRESENT:

Present on Roll Call were Chairman Jenness, C. Mercier and C. Scott. Also present was C. Gitschier, C. Drinkwater, C. Nuon and C. Yem.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairman Jenness called the meeting to order noting the attendance and topics for discussion.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

C. Jenness indicated that the Council Rules will need updating to reflect the changes made to the body. C. Jenness proposed changes to Rule #1; 3; 6; 7; 33; and 36 to reflect change in the number of votes needed to obtain a majority under the new Council membership. C. Jenness commented on Rule #5 indicating that changes would not have to be made to it as it reflects majority needed to debate beyond established time frame. **Motion** by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Scott to refer changes to the six rules as indicated to Law Department for review and recommendation and prepare final draft for acceptance of the full Council. So voted.

C. Jenness noted that changes to Rule 14 had been suggested by C. Gitschier. C. Gitschier noted the addition of "Old Business" to agenda would make it easier for updates for motion responses that may take longer to prepare. C. Jenness indicated need to change Rule 12 regarding submission of articles for the agenda to comply with hours of operation at City Hall and that new submission date would be by close of business on Thursday before the next meeting. C. Jenness noted changes to be made to Rule 26 regarding notification to speak at Council meeting back to 4:30 PM so to ensure more efficiency. C. Mercier noted that people could address body if they did not register beforehand by means of suspending the rule to enable same. **Motion** by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Scott to refer changes to Rule #14; 12; and 26 as indicated to Law Department for review and recommendation and prepare final draft for acceptance of the full Council. So voted.



C. Scott recommended that Rule #26 be changed to reflect three minutes for public discussion from current five minutes. C. Gitschier noted the procedure would be good and there is an ability to extend time if needed. C. Mercier noted rule change for public not body. **Motion** by C. Scott, seconded by C. Mercier to refer changes to Rule # 26 as indicated to Law Department for review and recommendation and prepare final draft for acceptance of the full Council. So voted.

C. Jenness opened the discussion regarding the use of Zoom at Council Meetings. C. Mercier noted that regulations regarding Zoom should be part of City Council Rules. C. Mercier expects Department Heads to be present at meetings unless emergency exists. C. Jenness noted Zoom would be beneficial to use with consultants working for the City. C. Jenness noted there should be a Rule #39 incorporated into Council Rules covering remote participation and the use of Zoom for Council members and department heads. **Motion** by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Scott to request Law Department draft Rule #39 incorporating remote participation and the use of Zoom for Council and department heads to bring before City Council for approval. So voted. **Motion** by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Scott to request Law Department draft Rule #40 incorporating the use of Zoom for public to bring before City Council for approval. So voted.

C. Jenness indicated he would send his notes regarding the changes to Law Department to assist with drafting changes to the Council Rules.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion "To Adjourn" by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Scott. So voted. Meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk
