Title of Document:
Ordinance amending WCC 2.02 to revise Council meeting rules

Attachments:

SEPA review required? ( ) Yes ( ) NO
SEPA review completed? ( ) Yes ( ) NO
Should Clerk schedule a hearing? ( ) Yes ( ) NO
Requested Date:

Summary Statement or Legal Notice Language: (If this item is an ordinance or requires a public hearing, you must provide the language for use in the required public notice. Be specific and cite RCW or WCC as appropriate. Be clear in explaining the intent of the action.)
Ordinance amending WCC 2.02 to revise Council meeting rules

Committee Action:

Council Action:

Related County Contract #: Related File Numbers: Ordinance or Resolution Number:

Please Note: Once adopted and signed, ordinances and resolutions are available for viewing and printing on the County's website at: www.co.whatcom.wa.us/council.
ORDINANCE NO. ______

AMENDING WHATCOM COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 2.02
TO REVISE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING RULES

WHEREAS, Whatcom County Code Section 2.02.060 sets forth guidelines for conducting council and council committee meetings; and

WHEREAS, an amendment to the Whatcom County Code Section 2.02.060 is necessary to clarify the council’s basic rules for discussion and debate; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that Whatcom County Code Section 2.02.060 is hereby amended as indicated in Exhibit A to this ordinance.

ADOPTED this ____ day of __________, 2015

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council
Carl Weimer, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

☐ Approved  ☐ Denied

Civil Deputy Prosecutor
Jack Louws, County Executive
County Council

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

H. To bring a question to immediate vote, a councilmember may move to close debate. If more than one motion is pending, the motion to close debate should specify the pending motions to which it applies (main motion, motion to amend, etc.). The motion to close debate cannot interrupt a speaker, is not debatable, and requires an affirmative vote by two-thirds of the councilmembers in attendance. The motion to close debate should be used in moderation, as members cannot be expected to maintain interest in an organization if they are frequently denied the right to participate in its deliberations. (Ord. 2010-044 Exh. A; Ord. 2008-004 Exh. A).