



City Council Rules Committee

Monday, February 28, 2022, 8:00 AM

Remote Meeting Minutes

Approved by the Rules Committee on March 28, 2022

Rules Committee Members:

Councilor Andrew Zarro, Chair

Mayor Kate Snyder

Councilor Pious Ali

Councilor Mark Dion

The meeting, held by ZOOM technology, convened at 8:00 a.m. on February 28, 2022.

Attendees: Committee members Councilor Andrew Zarro, Chair, Mayor Kate Snyder, Councilor Pious Ali, and Councilor Mark Dion, and Acting Corporation Counsel Jen Thompson, and assistant Nancy English. Members of the public Portland Regional Chamber, Ian Paleologopoulos, and John P., attended.

Councilor Zarro convened the meeting and asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the February 7, 2022 meeting. Councilor Dion moved and Mayor Snyder seconded his motion to approve, which was approved by a roll call vote of 4-0.

Councilor Zarro began the meeting with the review of redlined changes attached to the agenda, beginning with Rule 19, Reconsideration. A revision from the word "majority" to "the prevailing side" was agreed to, to be repeated in the second paragraph of Rule 19.

During discussion of Rule 20, Failure to Pass, Acting Corporation Counsel Jen Thompson said that when a motion fails, this rule provides a method for the Council to make a clear decision to reject the item by voting to postpone it indefinitely. Mayor Snyder said it was best to leave the rule in place. Councilor Dion asked if the time frame should be specified, requiring this motion at the time of the failed motion, but it was decided that this suggestion could be added in the future.

Discussion of the redline change to Rule 32 allowing questions to be directed at individual councilors determined that this could prove disruptive. Jen Thompson said comment was better addressed to the City Council as a whole. Mayor Snyder said this

change would be against the spirit of the other rules, and Councilor Zarro agreed it was not advisable.

In discussion of Rule 32, Section 5, Councilor Dion said it was important for people giving public comment to state where they are from. Mayor Snyder said identifying the town is enough, without the person's specific address. Councilor Dion said the commenter should provide a first and last name.

Chair Zarro said he did not want to cause discomfort or embarrassment to the unhoused who may not have an address to share and stated that having speakers identify themselves by name and town was acceptable. Mayor Snyder summarized the change as requiring first and last name, city of residence, and/or district and/or organization represented.

Jen Thompson's revision of Rule 32 with the language, "abusive or disrespectful" in place of the term "scurrilous" was approved by the committee.

A move or change of time of non-agenda item public comment was set for discussion at the next meeting, to be scheduled following adjournment, as well as any further discussion of Rules 32 and 38. Additional changes to the workshop rule language requested by Councilor Ali will also be discussed at that time.

Acting Corporation Counsel Thompson asked that the committee members send her any suggested changes soon in order to include them in a document for the next meeting.

Councilor Zarro asked if there were any public comment and seeing no hands raised, closed public comment.

Mayor Snyder moved and Councilor Dion seconded the motion to adjourn, which passed by a roll call vote of 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:11 a.m.