

The Rules Committee met on Monday, January 24, 2022 in Room 122 of City Hall, 203 S Troy Street. The Mayor called the meeting to order 6:32 PM.

PRESENT

Mayor Fournier
Commissioner DuBuc
Commissioner Paruch

ABSENT

Also present was City Clerk Halas and City Attorney Leal.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

Janice Wagman, felt they needed to define what “good cause” is for canceling a meeting. The public should be able to view a preliminary agenda. Item 3 was highly restrictive. Item 5 regarding banners, signs, infringes on freedom of speech. Item 7 – didn’t see issues where the public put their feet on chairs. Item 11 – didn’t feel comfortable giving her address at the podium as she lives alone and it’s a danger. Item 14 shouldn’t restrict people from distributing materials at a meeting. If item 12 is approved than item 16 needs additional language reflecting that. There should be a second time for public comment at the end of the agenda.

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DISCUSSION OF RULES OF PROCEDURE

City Attorney Leal stated he was asked in an email from Manager Brake to bring the topic to revisit after the election. He presented additional rules of procedure to look at. These were rules from the former city he worked in and gave examples why they were needed. He recommended that some could be removed and put into another policy.

Commissioner Paruch agreed with the issues that were brought up in public comment. Regarding the agenda being released to the public, she felt their current system of posting the Friday prior to the meeting was as forward thinking that they could do. She disagreed with item 5, as did Commissioner DuBuc and Mayor Fournier. If something is disruptive it’s up to the Mayor to cease disruption.

Commissioner Paruch felt item 7 was unnecessary. Item 17 language was too infringing on free speech. Should follow specifics of supreme court language.

Commissioner DuBuc felt the public comment speaker should announce their name and city that they live in as opposed to their actual address.

Public comment was discussed. One time for public comment limits public debate. It is always suggested to email commissioners as well. They can always vote to suspend rule of three minutes during public comment and give a speaker additional time to speak.

Item 14 was discussed and decided the rule should be eliminated altogether. They were fine with any materials to be distributed to the commission be handed to the city clerk to disburse to the commission.

Items 12 and 16 need to have similar language or be combined into one.

Attorney Leal will make changes and requested one more Rules Committee meeting to review prior to placing it on a city commission agenda.

Motion by Commissioner DuBuc and seconded by Commissioner Paruch, the meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.

Melanie Halas, City Clerk