

Council Operating Agreements Discussion, Continued

February 18, 2026

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Quick Reminders

- Last Discussion: October 13, 2025
- Council passed a series of administrative updates to Operating Agreements (Attachment B)
- Additional topics were covered, and Council expressed interest in revisiting for further discussion



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Topics to Cover

1. **Public Comment**
 - A. Virtual Speakers
 - B. Prioritization of Boards, Commissions, Neighborhood Association Speakers
 - C. Prioritization of New Speakers
2. **Placement of Action Items on Agenda**
3. **Postponing Agenda Items**
4. **Unplanned Substantive Motions**
5. **In-Person Wednesday Work Sessions**

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Topic 1A: Public Comment – Virtual Speakers

Currently:

- Public comment speakers in person
- Virtual public comment accepted via email

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Topic 1B: Public Comment - Prioritization of Boards, Commissions, and Neighborhood Assoc Speakers

Currently:

- Representatives of Boards, Commissions, and Neighborhood Associations are prioritized ahead of other randomized speakers
- Practice since Mayor Piercy, but was never formalized in operating agreements

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Topic 1C: Public Comment - Prioritization of New Speakers

Currently:

- Speakers are randomized and new speakers are not prioritized over previous speakers

Possible Change:

- Restructure speaking order to enable new speakers to go before persons who spoke at the previous meeting's public comment.
- Staff have developed a process to operationalize this request.

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Topic 2: Placement of Action Items on Agenda

Currently:

- Action items are scheduled *before* Public Comment
 - This was an informal process change, not reflected in the operating agreements

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Topic 3: Postponing Agenda Items Due to Councilor Absence

Currently:

- Councilors can request postponement of agenda item in writing to the Mayor

Possible Change:

- Requests for postponement of agenda topic handled by voting in meeting

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Topic 4: Unplanned Substantive Motions and Council Discussion

Currently:

- Councilors can make unplanned substantive motions at any time during discussion

Possible Change:

- Allow for a full round of councilor discussion before introduction of unplanned substantive motions

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Topic 5: In-Person Wednesday Work Sessions

Currently:

- Wednesday Work Sessions are held in virtual-only format
- Budget reduction strategy implemented during the 2023-2025 biennium

Considerations:

- Additional cost for meals, security and staff time for 27 Wednesday work sessions per calendar year
- Approximately \$39,000

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Discussion and Decision Points

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1A: Public Comment – Virtual Speakers

- If Council wishes to allow virtual speakers at public comment:

- Motion: Move to direct the City Manager to enable virtual speakers during public comment.

OR

- If Council does not wish to allow virtual speakers at public comment:

- *No Motion*. The current practice of in-person speakers and virtual comment by email will continue.

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1B: Public Comment - Prioritization of Boards, Commissions, Neighborhood Association Speakers

- If Council wishes to continue the practice of prioritizing of Boards, Commissions, Neighborhood Association speakers during Public Comment:
 - Motion: Move to add to Section 1.05 of the Operating Agreements: "Official representatives of Boards, Commissions, and Neighborhood Associations will be prioritized for speaking during Public Comment ahead of other randomized speakers."

OR

- If Council does not wish to continue this practice:
 - *No Motion*. The practice of prioritizing these groups will end on 2/23

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1C: Public Comment - Prioritization of New Speakers

- If Council wishes to prioritize new speakers during Public Comment:
 - Motion: Move to make the following changes to Section 1.05 of the Operating Agreements to prioritize new speakers: "Request-to-Speak forms will be shuffled so that speakers are called in random order, **with persons who did not speak at the previous Public Comment prioritized over persons who did speak at the previous Public comment.**"

OR

- If Council does not wish to adopt this practice:
 - *No Motion*. Speakers will continue to be randomized without prioritization of new speakers.

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2: Placement of Action Items on the Agenda

- If Council wishes to place action items *before* Public Comment:
 - Motion: Move to make the following change to Section 3.06 of the Operating Agreements: "In general, action on ordinances and councilor-introduced resolutions or motions shall be placed on regular City Council meeting agendas and shall be scheduled **before Public Comment...**"

OR

- If Council does not wish to adopt this practice:
 - *No Motion*. Effective 2/23, action items will be scheduled *after* public comment per current operating agreements

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3: Postponing Agenda Items Due to Councilor Absence

- If Council wishes to require a vote to postpone agenda items due to Councilor absence:
 - Motion: Move to make the following change to Section 5 of the Operating Agreements: "**The request to postpone will be considered at the meeting, and will be granted upon the agreement of the majority of the councilors.**"

OR

- If Council does not wish to adopt this practice:
 - *No Motion*. Councilors can continue to request postponement of agenda items in writing to the Mayor, per current operating agreements

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4: Unplanned Substantive Motions and Council Discussion

- If Council wishes to limit unplanned substantive motions until after Council discussion:
 - Motion: Move to add the following sentence to Section 7.02, of the Operating Agreements: **"Notwithstanding Section 7.01, generally, substantive motions not on the agenda should be made after all Councilors have had an opportunity to fully discuss the agenda item."**

OR

- If Council does not wish to adopt this practice:
 - *No Motion*. Councilors can continue to introduce unplanned substantive motions at any time during discussion

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5: In-Person Wednesday Work Sessions

- If Council wishes to return to in-person Wednesday Work Sessions:
 - Motion: Move to direct the City Manager to prepare a budget request on the next supplemental budget to allocate ongoing funding to support in-person Wednesday Work Sessions.

OR

- If Council does not wish to return to in-person Wednesdays:
 - *No Motion*. Wednesday Work Sessions will continue to be held in virtual-only format

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