

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 the specific 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. 2017-081 Exh. A; Ord. 2015-021 Exh. A; Ord. 2010-044 Exh. A; Ord. 2008-004 Exh. A).