

CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS
Council Chamber
3191 Katella Ave., Los Alamitos CA 90720

TRAFFIC COMMISSION AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, October 11, 2023 – 7:00 PM

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC - This Agenda contains a brief general description of each item to be considered. Except as provided by law, action or discussion shall not be taken on any item not appearing on the agenda. Supporting documents, including staff reports, are available for review at City Hall in the City Clerk's Office or on the City's website at www.cityoflosalamitos.org once the agenda has been publicly posted.

Each matter on the agenda, no matter how described, shall be deemed to include any appropriate motion, whether to adopt a minute motion, resolution, payment of any bill, approval of any matter or action, or any other action. Items listed as "for information" or "for discussion" may also be the subject of an "action" taken by the City Council at the same meeting.

Agenda-related documents provided to a majority of the City Council after distribution of the Traffic Commission agenda packet (GC §54957.5) will be made available for public inspection at the meeting. Such documents will also be available at the City Clerk's office, 3191 Katella Avenue Los Alamitos, CA 90720.

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If you are unable to attend this meeting in person, you may submit comments on any agenda item or on any item not on the agenda by email to cityclerk@cityoflosalamitos.org with the subject line "TRAFFIC COMMISSION PUBLIC COMMENT". Comments received by 3:00 p.m. the day of the meeting will be compiled, provided to the City Council, and made available to the public before the start of the meeting. Staff will not read email comments at the meeting. You may also view the meeting live on local cable channel 3.

If, as an attendee, or a participant at this meeting, you will need special assistance beyond what is normally provided, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (562) 431-3538, extension 220, 48-hours prior to the meeting so that reasonable arrangements may be made.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Chair Patz
Vice Chair Murphy
Commissioner D. Hill
Commissioner R. Hill
Commissioner Marchese
Commissioner Mejia
Commissioner Salai

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

At this time, any individual in the audience may address the Traffic Commission and speak on any item within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. Please state if you wish to speak on an item on the Agenda. **Remarks are to be limited to not more than three minutes.**

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

All Consent Calendar items may be acted upon by one motion unless a Traffic Commissioner requests separate action on a specific item.

A. Approval of Minutes (Development Services)

Approve the Minutes for the Regular Meeting of August 9, 2023.

6. STAFF REPORTS

A. Rosenberg's Rules of Order (Development Services)

Cities, counties, special districts, committees, boards, commissions, neighborhood associations, and private corporations and companies need rules and procedures when conducting a public meeting. Most boards in California utilize the Rosenberg's Rules of Order to maintain a basic tenet of order.

Recommendation:

Receive and File

B. Traffic Commission Status Log (Development Services)

This is a tracking tool used by the Commission to track assignments and accomplishments.

Recommendation:

Receive, File and Revise as necessary.

7. ITEMS FROM THE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

8. TRAFFIC COMMISSION INITIATED BUSINESS

At this time, Commissioners may report on items not included on the agenda, but no such matter may be discussed, nor may any action be taken in which there is interest to the community, except as to provide Staff direction to report back or to place the item on a future agenda.

9. ADJOURNMENT

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California, that the foregoing Agenda was posted at the Los Alamitos City Hall, 3191 Katella Ave. and online at www.cityoflosalamitos.org not less than 72 hours prior to the meeting.



Vandine Ouk
Department Secretary
Dated: 10/05/2023

MINUTES OF TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS

REGULAR MEETING – August 9, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Traffic Commission met in Regular Session at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 9, 2023, Chair Patz presiding.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners: Chair Patz,
Vice Chair Murphy
D. Hill (absent), R. Hill, Marchese (absent),
Mejia, and Salai

Present: Staff: Ron Noda, Development Services Director
Brent Malatesta, Sergeant
Michelle Müller, Management Analyst
Vandine Ouk, Department Secretary

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chair Murphy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATION

Chair Patz opened oral communications.

Chair Patz closed oral communications.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

All Consent Calendar items may be acted upon by one motion unless a Traffic Commissioner requests separate action on a specific item.

A. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting of June 14, 2023.

Motion/Second: Mejia/Salai

Carried 5/0 (D. Hill and Marchese absent): The Traffic Commission approved the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 14, 2023, with the noted revisions.

6. STAFF REPORTS

A. Fiscal Year 23-24 Los Alamitos Capital Improvement Project

Development Services Director Noda summarized the staff report.

Chair Patz asked and received confirmation from Development Services Director Noda about the Orange County Sanitation District (OC San) absorbing the costs for damages caused by their contractor during a recent project.

Development Services Director Noda briefly discussed the upcoming Capital Improvement Projects, including the Bloomfield Street Improvement project.

Commissioner Salai expressed concern over the proposed project location for the Bloomfield project, further stating that Bloomfield Street north of Cerritos Avenue is in worse condition.

Development Services Director Noda also explained that the City contracts with Wildan Engineering to complete a street assessment every two years to determine which streets need repair. Development Services Director Noda proposed to have the Public Works Division assess the location of concern and if deemed that improvement is needed, a vendor will be hired to fix the street.

Development Services Director Noda briefly discussed that the Bloomfield Street Improvement project is coming from a federal grant.

The Traffic Commission and Development Services Director Noda briefly discussed the road condition of Bloomfield Avenue, between San Bonito and Cerritos Avenue. Development Services Director Noda advised that he have staff assess the area.

Development Services Director Noda briefly discussed the following:

- Design projects and the importance of having shelf ready projects. If a grant is not available, projects would go to City Council for approval.
- Planned Bradbury/Rossmoor Way Traffic Signal Relocation.
- The City's Engineering team is currently working on a timeline for CIP projects, to identify commencement dates.
- Planned demolition of the LATV building.
- Anticipated Youth Center relocation and building remodel.

Commissioner R. Hill asked about using the funds received from Janet Nguyen and Michelle Steele's office towards the projects instead of using general funds. Development Services Director Noda briefly explained the procedures for project consideration during the budget process, which is then considered by the City Council for budget allocations and Requests for Proposals (RFP's) approval and awarding.

Commissioner Mejia asked and received clarification from Development Services Director Noda stating that Measure M funds can be used for anything having to do with the streets.

Commissioner Mejia asked if there will be any traffic mitigation relating to the new construction (on Katella Avenue east of Siboney Street) in Cypress. Development Services Director Noda briefly discussed the Vehicles-Miles Traveled (VMT) metric utilized in the Environmental Impact Review (EIR) completed for that project, which identified that there is no need for street improvements.

Development Services Director Noda briefly discussed the light synchronization on Katella Avenue.

Commissioner Mejia inquired about the striping issues and where that is addressed. Development Services Director Noda advised that this falls within the street marking striping line item.

B. Traffic Commission Status Log

This is a tracking tool used by the Traffic Commission to track assignments and accomplishments.

Commissioner Murphy inquired about the following:

- E1: Requested clarification on this item. Development Services Director Noda advised that this item does not have a financial threshold in order to be placed on the list for Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) therefore, staff will look into this item internally.

Commissioner R. Hill asked and received clarification from Development Services Director Noda confirming that item F can be moved to the approved and pending section [of the Traffic Commission Status Log].

Chair Patz expressed concern over the operating flashing signal on Bloomfield Street. Development Services Director Noda advised that he would check on the status with the Public Works Division.

7. FROM THE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Development Services Director Noda discussed the following:

- Announced that the last concert series of the summer will be at Orville R. Lewis Park featuring the band Knyght Ryders.
- Extended an invitation and provided information about the upcoming event, Celebrate Los Al, on September 16, 2023.

- Briefly explained the PinestrEATs grant.

Commissioner R. Hill inquired about the potential impacts on the high school kids and their booster clubs. Development Services Director Noda briefly described how the City will be assisting Larry Strawther with his event [Taste of Los AI].

8. **TRAFFIC COMMISSION INITIATED BUSINESS**

Commissioner Salai asked and received clarification from Development Services Director Noda on radars triggering the flashing stop signs when cars are approaching.

Commissioner Salai expressed concern over the striping in the Old Town West neighborhood. Development Services Director Noda briefly discussed the upcoming street improvement projects which includes crosshatching striping to the area to help with calming traffic.

Commissioner Murphy asked and received an update from Development Services Director Noda on the striping modification on Lexington Drive [between Farquhar Avenue and Katella Avenue]. Development Services Director Noda stated that the team is still working on a solution.

Commissioner Mejia stated that he would like our Southern California Edison (SCE) representative to visit [a Commission meeting]. Development Services Director Noda advised that he will be meeting with the City representative next week and will discuss it at the time.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion/Second: Salai/Murphy

Carried 5/0 (D. Hill and Marchese absent): The Traffic Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting until September 13, 2023.

The Traffic Commission adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Daniel Patz, Chair

Attest:

Vandine Ouk, Department Secretary

Traffic Commission Minutes
August 9, 2023
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City of Los Alamitos

TRAFFIC COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: October 11, 2023

ITEM NUMBER: 6A

To: Chair Patz & Members of the Traffic Commission

Presented By: Ron Noda, Development Services Director

Subject: Rosenberg's Rules of Order

SUMMARY

Cities, counties, special districts, committees, boards, commissions, neighborhood associations, and private corporations and companies need rules and procedures when conducting a public meeting. Most boards in California utilize the Rosenberg's Rules of Order to maintain a basic tenet of order.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and File

BACKGROUND

Rosenberg's Rules of Order is a simplified set of parliamentary rules widely used in California. Hundreds of cities, counties, special districts, committees, boards, commissions, neighborhood associations, and private corporations and companies have adopted Rosenberg's Rules in lieu of Robert's Rules because they have found them practical, logical, simple, easy to learn and user-friendly. The rules were developed by Dave Rosenberg, a longtime Superior Court Judge in Yolo County, based on his decades of experience chairing meetings in state and local government. The rules have been simplified for smaller governing bodies and slimmed down for the 21st Century, while retaining the basic tenets of order.

DISCUSSION

When a body conducts a public meeting, the members should conduct themselves and the business at hand efficiently, fairly and with full participation. At the same time, it is up to the chair and the members of the body to maintain common courtesy and decorum. The rules of procedure at meetings should be simple enough for most people to understand. The Rosenberg's Rules of Order assist bodies to understand procedures and how to conduct themselves.

This treatise on modern parliamentary procedure is built on a foundation supported by the following four pillars:

1. Rules should establish order. The first purpose of rules of parliamentary procedure is to establish a framework for the orderly conduct of meetings.
2. Rules should be clear. Simple rules lead to wider understanding and participation.

Complex rules create two classes: those who understand and participate; and those who do not fully understand and do not fully participate.

3. Rules should be user-friendly. That is, the rules must be simple enough that the public is invited into the body and feels that it has participated in the process.
4. Rules should enforce the will of the majority while protecting the rights of the minority. The ultimate purpose of the rules of procedure is to encourage discussion and to facilitate decision making by the body. In a democracy, the majority rules. The rules must enable the majority to express itself and fashion a result, while permitting the minority to also express itself, but not dominate, while fully participating in the process.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

Attachment: 1. Rosenberg's Rules of Order



Rosenberg's Rules of Order

REVISED 2011

Simple Rules of Parliamentary Procedure for the 21st Century

By Judge Dave Rosenberg



MISSION AND CORE BELIEFS

To expand and protect local control for cities through education and advocacy to enhance the quality of life for all Californians.

VISION

To be recognized and respected as the leading advocate for the common interests of California's cities.

About the League of California Cities

Established in 1898, the League of California Cities is a member organization that represents California's incorporated cities. The League strives to protect the local authority and autonomy of city government and help California's cities effectively serve their residents. In addition to advocating on cities' behalf at the state capitol, the League provides its members with professional development programs and information resources, conducts education conferences and research, and publishes Western City magazine.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dave Rosenberg is a Superior Court Judge in Yolo County. He has served as presiding judge of his court, and as presiding judge of the Superior Court Appellate Division. He also has served as chair of the Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee (the committee composed of all 58 California presiding judges) and as an advisory member of the California Judicial Council. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Rosenberg was member of the Yolo County Board of Supervisors, where he served two terms as chair. Rosenberg also served on the Davis City Council, including two terms as mayor. He has served on the senior staff of two governors, and worked for 19 years in private law practice. Rosenberg has served as a member and chair of numerous state, regional and local boards. Rosenberg chaired the California State Lottery Commission, the California Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board, the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District, the Yolo County Economic Development Commission, and the Yolo County Criminal Justice Cabinet. For many years, he has taught classes on parliamentary procedure and has served as parliamentarian for large and small bodies.

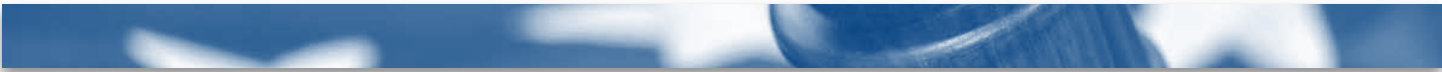


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INTRODUCTION

The rules of procedure at meetings should be simple enough for most people to understand. Unfortunately, that has not always been the case. Virtually all clubs, associations, boards, councils and bodies follow a set of rules — *Robert's Rules of Order* — which are embodied in a small, but complex, book. Virtually no one I know has actually read this book cover to cover. Worse yet, the book was written for another time and for another purpose. If one is chairing or running a parliament, then *Robert's Rules of Order* is a dandy and quite useful handbook for procedure in that complex setting. On the other hand, if one is running a meeting of say, a five-member body with a few members of the public in attendance, a simplified version of the rules of parliamentary procedure is in order.

Hence, the birth of *Rosenberg's Rules of Order*.

What follows is my version of the rules of parliamentary procedure, based on my decades of experience chairing meetings in state and local government. These rules have been simplified for the smaller bodies we chair or in which we participate, slimmed down for the 21st Century, yet retaining the basic tenets of order to which we have grown accustomed. Interestingly enough, *Rosenberg's Rules* has found a welcoming audience. Hundreds of cities, counties, special districts, committees, boards, commissions, neighborhood associations and private corporations and companies have adopted *Rosenberg's Rules* in lieu of *Robert's Rules* because they have found them practical, logical, simple, easy to learn and user friendly.

This treatise on modern parliamentary procedure is built on a foundation supported by the following four pillars:

1. **Rules should establish order.** The first purpose of rules of parliamentary procedure is to establish a framework for the orderly conduct of meetings.
2. **Rules should be clear.** Simple rules lead to wider understanding and participation. Complex rules create two classes: those who understand and participate; and those who do not fully understand and do not fully participate.
3. **Rules should be user friendly.** That is, the rules must be simple enough that the public is invited into the body and feels that it has participated in the process.
4. **Rules should enforce the will of the majority while protecting the rights of the minority.** The ultimate purpose of rules of procedure is to encourage discussion and to facilitate decision making by the body. In a democracy, majority rules. The rules must enable the majority to express itself and fashion a result, while permitting the minority to also express itself, but not dominate, while fully participating in the process.

Establishing a Quorum

The starting point for a meeting is the establishment of a quorum. A quorum is defined as the minimum number of members of the body who must be present at a meeting for business to be legally transacted. The default rule is that a quorum is one more than half the body. For example, in a five-member body a quorum is three. When the body has three members present, it can legally transact business. If the body has less than a quorum of members present, it cannot legally transact business. And even if the body has a quorum to begin the meeting, the body can lose the quorum during the meeting when a member departs (or even when a member leaves the dais). When that occurs the body loses its ability to transact business until and unless a quorum is reestablished.

The default rule, identified above, however, gives way to a specific rule of the body that establishes a quorum. For example, the rules of a particular five-member body may indicate that a quorum is four members for that particular body. The body must follow the rules it has established for its quorum. In the absence of such a specific rule, the quorum is one more than half the members of the body.

The Role of the Chair

While all members of the body should know and understand the rules of parliamentary procedure, it is the chair of the body who is charged with applying the rules of conduct of the meeting. The chair should be well versed in those rules. For all intents and purposes, the chair makes the final ruling on the rules every time the chair states an action. In fact, all decisions by the chair are final unless overruled by the body itself.

Since the chair runs the conduct of the meeting, it is usual courtesy for the chair to play a less active role in the debate and discussion than other members of the body. This does not mean that the chair should not participate in the debate or discussion. To the contrary, as a member of the body, the chair has the full right to participate in the debate, discussion and decision-making of the body. What the chair should do, however, is strive to be the last to speak at the discussion and debate stage. The chair should not make or second a motion unless the chair is convinced that no other member of the body will do so at that point in time.

The Basic Format for an Agenda Item Discussion

Formal meetings normally have a written, often published agenda. Informal meetings may have only an oral or understood agenda. In either case, the meeting is governed by the agenda and the agenda constitutes the body's agreed-upon roadmap for the meeting. Each agenda item can be handled by the chair in the following basic format:



First, the chair should clearly announce the agenda item number and should clearly state what the agenda item subject is. The chair should then announce the format (which follows) that will be followed in considering the agenda item.

Second, following that agenda format, the chair should invite the appropriate person or persons to report on the item, including any recommendation that they might have. The appropriate person or persons may be the chair, a member of the body, a staff person, or a committee chair charged with providing input on the agenda item.

Third, the chair should ask members of the body if they have any technical questions of clarification. At this point, members of the body may ask clarifying questions to the person or persons who reported on the item, and that person or persons should be given time to respond.

Fourth, the chair should invite public comments, or if appropriate at a formal meeting, should open the public meeting for public input. If numerous members of the public indicate a desire to speak to the subject, the chair may limit the time of public speakers. At the conclusion of the public comments, the chair should announce that public input has concluded (or the public hearing, as the case may be, is closed).

Fifth, the chair should invite a motion. The chair should announce the name of the member of the body who makes the motion.

Sixth, the chair should determine if any member of the body wishes to second the motion. The chair should announce the name of the member of the body who seconds the motion. It is normally good practice for a motion to require a second before proceeding to ensure that it is not just one member of the body who is interested in a particular approach. However, a second is not an absolute requirement, and the chair can proceed with consideration and vote on a motion even when there is no second. This is a matter left to the discretion of the chair.

Seventh, if the motion is made and seconded, the chair should make sure everyone understands the motion.

This is done in one of three ways:

1. The chair can ask the maker of the motion to repeat it;
2. The chair can repeat the motion; or
3. The chair can ask the secretary or the clerk of the body to repeat the motion.

Eighth, the chair should now invite discussion of the motion by the body. If there is no desired discussion, or after the discussion has ended, the chair should announce that the body will vote on the motion. If there has been no discussion or very brief discussion, then the vote on the motion should proceed immediately and there is no need to repeat the motion. If there has been substantial discussion, then it is normally best to make sure everyone understands the motion by repeating it.

Ninth, the chair takes a vote. Simply asking for the “ayes” and then asking for the “nays” normally does this. If members of the body do not vote, then they “abstain.” Unless the rules of the body provide otherwise (or unless a super majority is required as delineated later in these rules), then a simple majority (as defined in law or the rules of the body as delineated later in these rules) determines whether the motion passes or is defeated.

Tenth, the chair should announce the result of the vote and what action (if any) the body has taken. In announcing the result, the chair should indicate the names of the members of the body, if any, who voted in the minority on the motion. This announcement might take the following form: “The motion passes by a vote of 3-2, with Smith and Jones dissenting. We have passed the motion requiring a 10-day notice for all future meetings of this body.”

Motions in General

Motions are the vehicles for decision making by a body. It is usually best to have a motion before the body prior to commencing discussion of an agenda item. This helps the body focus.

Motions are made in a simple two-step process. First, the chair should recognize the member of the body. Second, the member of the body makes a motion by preceding the member’s desired approach with the words “I move ...”

A typical motion might be: “I move that we give a 10-day notice in the future for all our meetings.”

The chair usually initiates the motion in one of three ways:

1. **Inviting the members of the body to make a motion**, for example, “A motion at this time would be in order.”
2. **Suggesting a motion to the members of the body**, “A motion would be in order that we give a 10-day notice in the future for all our meetings.”
3. **Making the motion**. As noted, the chair has every right as a member of the body to make a motion, but should normally do so only if the chair wishes to make a motion on an item but is convinced that no other member of the body is willing to step forward to do so at a particular time.

The Three Basic Motions

There are three motions that are the most common and recur often at meetings:

The basic motion. The basic motion is the one that puts forward a decision for the body’s consideration. A basic motion might be: “I move that we create a five-member committee to plan and put on our annual fundraiser.”



The motion to amend. If a member wants to change a basic motion that is before the body, they would move to amend it. A motion to amend might be: “I move that we amend the motion to have a 10-member committee.” A motion to amend takes the basic motion that is before the body and seeks to change it in some way.

The substitute motion. If a member wants to completely do away with the basic motion that is before the body, and put a new motion before the body, they would move a substitute motion. A substitute motion might be: “I move a substitute motion that we cancel the annual fundraiser this year.”

“Motions to amend” and “substitute motions” are often confused, but they are quite different, and their effect (if passed) is quite different. A motion to amend seeks to retain the basic motion on the floor, but modify it in some way. A substitute motion seeks to throw out the basic motion on the floor, and substitute a new and different motion for it. The decision as to whether a motion is really a “motion to amend” or a “substitute motion” is left to the chair. So if a member makes what that member calls a “motion to amend,” but the chair determines that it is really a “substitute motion,” then the chair’s designation governs.

A “friendly amendment” is a practical parliamentary tool that is simple, informal, saves time and avoids bogging a meeting down with numerous formal motions. It works in the following way: In the discussion on a pending motion, it may appear that a change to the motion is desirable or may win support for the motion from some members. When that happens, a member who has the floor may simply say, “I want to suggest a friendly amendment to the motion.” The member suggests the friendly amendment, and if the maker and the person who seconded the motion pending on the floor accepts the friendly amendment, that now becomes the pending motion on the floor. If either the maker or the person who seconded rejects the proposed friendly amendment, then the proposer can formally move to amend.

Multiple Motions Before the Body

There can be up to three motions on the floor at the same time. The chair can reject a fourth motion until the chair has dealt with the three that are on the floor and has resolved them. This rule has practical value. More than three motions on the floor at any given time is confusing and unwieldy for almost everyone, including the chair.

When there are two or three motions on the floor (after motions and seconds) at the same time, the vote should proceed *first* on the *last* motion that is made. For example, assume the first motion is a basic “motion to have a five-member committee to plan and put on our annual fundraiser.” During the discussion of this motion, a member might make a second motion to “amend the main motion to have a 10-member committee, not a five-member committee to plan and put on our annual fundraiser.” And perhaps, during that discussion, a member makes yet a third motion as a “substitute motion that we not have an annual fundraiser this year.” The proper procedure would be as follows:

First, the chair would deal with the *third* (the last) motion on the floor, the substitute motion. After discussion and debate, a vote would be taken first on the third motion. If the substitute motion *passed*, it would be a substitute for the basic motion and would eliminate it. The first motion would be moot, as would the second motion (which sought to amend the first motion), and the action on the agenda item would be completed on the passage by the body of the third motion (the substitute motion). No vote would be taken on the first or second motions.

Second, if the substitute motion *failed*, the chair would then deal with the second (now the last) motion on the floor, the motion to amend. The discussion and debate would focus strictly on the amendment (should the committee be five or 10 members). If the motion to amend *passed*, the chair would then move to consider the main motion (the first motion) as *amended*. If the motion to amend *failed*, the chair would then move to consider the main motion (the first motion) in its original format, not amended.

Third, the chair would now deal with the first motion that was placed on the floor. The original motion would either be in its original format (five-member committee), or if *amended*, would be in its amended format (10-member committee). The question on the floor for discussion and decision would be whether a committee should plan and put on the annual fundraiser.

To Debate or Not to Debate

The basic rule of motions is that they are subject to discussion and debate. Accordingly, basic motions, motions to amend, and substitute motions are all eligible, each in their turn, for full discussion before and by the body. The debate can continue as long as members of the body wish to discuss an item, subject to the decision of the chair that it is time to move on and take action.

There are exceptions to the general rule of free and open debate on motions. The exceptions all apply when there is a desire of the body to move on. The following motions are not debatable (that is, when the following motions are made and seconded, the chair must immediately call for a vote of the body without debate on the motion):

Motion to adjourn. This motion, if passed, requires the body to immediately adjourn to its next regularly scheduled meeting. It requires a simple majority vote.

Motion to recess. This motion, if passed, requires the body to immediately take a recess. Normally, the chair determines the length of the recess which may be a few minutes or an hour. It requires a simple majority vote.

Motion to fix the time to adjourn. This motion, if passed, requires the body to adjourn the meeting at the specific time set in the motion. For example, the motion might be: “I move we adjourn this meeting at midnight.” It requires a simple majority vote.

Motion to table. This motion, if passed, requires discussion of the agenda item to be halted and the agenda item to be placed on “hold.” The motion can contain a specific time in which the item can come back to the body. “I move we table this item until our regular meeting in October.” Or the motion can contain no specific time for the return of the item, in which case a motion to take the item off the table and bring it back to the body will have to be taken at a future meeting. A motion to table an item (or to bring it back to the body) requires a simple majority vote.

Motion to limit debate. The most common form of this motion is to say, “I move the previous question” or “I move the question” or “I call the question” or sometimes someone simply shouts out “question.” As a practical matter, when a member calls out one of these phrases, the chair can expedite matters by treating it as a “request” rather than as a formal motion. The chair can simply inquire of the body, “any further discussion?” If no one wishes to have further discussion, then the chair can go right to the pending motion that is on the floor. However, if even one person wishes to discuss the pending motion further, then at that point, the chair should treat the call for the “question” as a formal motion, and proceed to it.

When a member of the body makes such a motion (“I move the previous question”), the member is really saying: “I’ve had enough debate. Let’s get on with the vote.” When such a motion is made, the chair should ask for a second, stop debate, and vote on the motion to limit debate. The motion to limit debate requires a two-thirds vote of the body.

NOTE: A motion to limit debate could include a time limit. For example: “I move we limit debate on this agenda item to 15 minutes.” Even in this format, the motion to limit debate requires a two-thirds vote of the body. A similar motion is a *motion to object to consideration of an item*. This motion is not debatable, and if passed, precludes the body from even considering an item on the agenda. It also requires a two-thirds vote.

Majority and Super Majority Votes

In a democracy, a simple majority vote determines a question. A tie vote means the motion fails. So in a seven-member body, a vote of 4-3 passes the motion. A vote of 3-3 with one abstention means the motion fails. If one member is absent and the vote is 3-3, the motion still fails.

All motions require a simple majority, but there are a few exceptions. The exceptions come up when the body is taking an action which effectively cuts off the ability of a minority of the body to take an action or discuss an item. These extraordinary motions require a two-thirds majority (a super majority) to pass:

Motion to limit debate. Whether a member says, “I move the previous question,” or “I move the question,” or “I call the question,” or “I move to limit debate,” it all amounts to an attempt to cut off the ability of the minority to discuss an item, and it requires a two-thirds vote to pass.

Motion to close nominations. When choosing officers of the body (such as the chair), nominations are in order either from a nominating committee or from the floor of the body. A motion to close nominations effectively cuts off the right of the minority to nominate officers and it requires a two-thirds vote to pass.

Motion to object to the consideration of a question. Normally, such a motion is unnecessary since the objectionable item can be tabled or defeated straight up. However, when members of a body do not even want an item on the agenda to be considered, then such a motion is in order. It is not debatable, and it requires a two-thirds vote to pass.

Motion to suspend the rules. This motion is debatable, but requires a two-thirds vote to pass. If the body has its own rules of order, conduct or procedure, this motion allows the body to suspend the rules for a particular purpose. For example, the body (a private club) might have a rule prohibiting the attendance at meetings by non-club members. A motion to suspend the rules would be in order to allow a non-club member to attend a meeting of the club on a particular date or on a particular agenda item.

Counting Votes

The matter of counting votes starts simple, but can become complicated.

Usually, it’s pretty easy to determine whether a particular motion passed or whether it was defeated. If a simple majority vote is needed to pass a motion, then one vote more than 50 percent of the body is required. For example, in a five-member body, if the vote is three in favor and two opposed, the motion passes. If it is two in favor and three opposed, the motion is defeated.

If a two-thirds majority vote is needed to pass a motion, then how many affirmative votes are required? The simple rule of thumb is to count the “no” votes and double that count to determine how many “yes” votes are needed to pass a particular motion. For example, in a seven-member body, if two members vote “no” then the “yes” vote of at least four members is required to achieve a two-thirds majority vote to pass the motion.

What about tie votes? In the event of a tie, the motion always fails since an affirmative vote is required to pass any motion. For example, in a five-member body, if the vote is two in favor and two opposed, with one member absent, the motion is defeated.

Vote counting starts to become complicated when members vote “abstain” or in the case of a written ballot, cast a blank (or unreadable) ballot. Do these votes count, and if so, how does one count them? The starting point is always to check the statutes.

In California, for example, for an action of a board of supervisors to be valid and binding, the action must be approved by a majority of the board. (California Government Code Section 25005.) Typically, this means three of the five members of the board must vote affirmatively in favor of the action. A vote of 2-1 would not be sufficient. A vote of 3-0 with two abstentions would be sufficient. In general law cities in



California, as another example, resolutions or orders for the payment of money and all ordinances require a recorded vote of the total members of the city council. (California Government Code Section 36936.) Cities with charters may prescribe their own vote requirements. Local elected officials are always well-advised to consult with their local agency counsel on how state law may affect the vote count.

After consulting state statutes, step number two is to check the rules of the body. If the rules of the body say that you count votes of “those present” then you treat abstentions one way. However, if the rules of the body say that you count the votes of those “present and voting,” then you treat abstentions a different way. And if the rules of the body are silent on the subject, then the general rule of thumb (and default rule) is that you count all votes that are “present and voting.”

Accordingly, under the “present and voting” system, you would **NOT** count abstention votes on the motion. Members who abstain are counted for purposes of determining quorum (they are “present”), but you treat the abstention votes on the motion as if they did not exist (they are not “voting”). On the other hand, if the rules of the body specifically say that you count votes of those “present” then you **DO** count abstention votes both in establishing the quorum and on the motion. In this event, the abstention votes act just like “no” votes.

How does this work in practice?

Here are a few examples.

Assume that a five-member city council is voting on a motion that requires a simple majority vote to pass, and assume further that the body has no specific rule on counting votes. Accordingly, the default rule kicks in and we count all votes of members that are “present and voting.” If the vote on the motion is 3-2, the motion passes. If the motion is 2-2 with one abstention, the motion fails.

Assume a five-member city council voting on a motion that requires a two-thirds majority vote to pass, and further assume that the body has no specific rule on counting votes. Again, the default rule applies. If the vote is 3-2, the motion fails for lack of a two-thirds majority. If the vote is 4-1, the motion passes with a clear two-thirds majority. A vote of three “yes,” one “no” and one “abstain” also results in passage of the motion. Once again, the abstention is counted only for the purpose of determining quorum, but on the actual vote on the motion, it is as if the abstention vote never existed — so an effective 3-1 vote is clearly a two-thirds majority vote.

Now, change the scenario slightly. Assume the same five-member city council voting on a motion that requires a two-thirds majority vote to pass, but now assume that the body **DOES** have a specific rule requiring a two-thirds vote of members “present.” Under this specific rule, we must count the members present not only for quorum but also for the motion. In this scenario, any abstention has the same force and effect as if it were a “no” vote. Accordingly, if the votes were three “yes,” one “no” and one “abstain,” then the motion fails. The abstention in this case is treated like a “no” vote and effective vote of 3-2 is not enough to pass two-thirds majority muster.

Now, exactly how does a member cast an “abstention” vote?

Any time a member votes “abstain” or says, “I abstain,” that is an abstention. However, if a member votes “present” that is also treated as an abstention (the member is essentially saying, “Count me for purposes of a quorum, but my vote on the issue is abstain.”) In fact, any manifestation of intention not to vote either “yes” or “no” on the pending motion may be treated by the chair as an abstention. If written ballots are cast, a blank or unreadable ballot is counted as an abstention as well.

Can a member vote “absent” or “count me as absent?” Interesting question. The ruling on this is up to the chair. The better approach is for the chair to count this as if the member had left his/her chair and is actually “absent.” That, of course, affects the quorum. However, the chair may also treat this as a vote to abstain, particularly if the person does not actually leave the dais.

The Motion to Reconsider

There is a special and unique motion that requires a bit of explanation all by itself; the motion to reconsider. A tenet of parliamentary procedure is finality. After vigorous discussion, debate and a vote, there must be some closure to the issue. And so, after a vote is taken, the matter is deemed closed, subject only to reopening if a proper motion to consider is made and passed.

A motion to reconsider requires a majority vote to pass like other garden-variety motions, but there are two special rules that apply only to the motion to reconsider.

First, is the matter of timing. A motion to reconsider must be made at the meeting where the item was first voted upon. A motion to reconsider made at a later time is untimely. (The body, however, can always vote to suspend the rules and, by a two-thirds majority, allow a motion to reconsider to be made at another time.)

Second, a motion to reconsider may be made only by certain members of the body. Accordingly, a motion to reconsider may be made only by a member who voted in the majority on the original motion. If such a member has a change of heart, he or she may make the motion to reconsider (any other member of the body — including a member who voted in the minority on the original motion — may second the motion). If a member who voted in the minority seeks to make the motion to reconsider, it must be ruled out of order. The purpose of this rule is finality. If a member of minority could make a motion to reconsider, then the item could be brought back to the body again and again, which would defeat the purpose of finality.

If the motion to reconsider passes, then the original matter is back before the body, and a new original motion is in order. The matter may be discussed and debated as if it were on the floor for the first time.



Courtesy and Decorum

The rules of order are meant to create an atmosphere where the members of the body and the members of the public can attend to business efficiently, fairly and with full participation. At the same time, it is up to the chair and the members of the body to maintain common courtesy and decorum. Unless the setting is very informal, it is always best for only one person at a time to have the floor, and it is always best for every speaker to be first recognized by the chair before proceeding to speak.

The chair should always ensure that debate and discussion of an agenda item focuses on the item and the policy in question, not the personalities of the members of the body. Debate on policy is healthy, debate on personalities is not. The chair has the right to cut off discussion that is too personal, is too loud, or is too crude.

Debate and discussion should be focused, but free and open. In the interest of time, the chair may, however, limit the time allotted to speakers, including members of the body.

Can a member of the body interrupt the speaker? The general rule is “no.” There are, however, exceptions. A speaker may be interrupted for the following reasons:

Privilege. The proper interruption would be, “point of privilege.” The chair would then ask the interrupter to “state your point.” Appropriate points of privilege relate to anything that would interfere with the normal comfort of the meeting. For example, the room may be too hot or too cold, or a blowing fan might interfere with a person’s ability to hear.

Order. The proper interruption would be, “point of order.” Again, the chair would ask the interrupter to “state your point.” Appropriate points of order relate to anything that would not be considered appropriate conduct of the meeting. For example, if the chair moved on to a vote on a motion that permits debate without allowing that discussion or debate.

Appeal. If the chair makes a ruling that a member of the body disagrees with, that member may appeal the ruling of the chair. If the motion is seconded, and after debate, if it passes by a simple majority vote, then the ruling of the chair is deemed reversed.

Call for orders of the day. This is simply another way of saying, “return to the agenda.” If a member believes that the body has drifted from the agreed-upon agenda, such a call may be made. It does not require a vote, and when the chair discovers that the agenda has not been followed, the chair simply reminds the body to return to the agenda item properly before them. If the chair fails to do so, the chair’s determination may be appealed.

Withdraw a motion. During debate and discussion of a motion, the maker of the motion on the floor, at any time, may interrupt a speaker to withdraw his or her motion from the floor. The motion is immediately deemed withdrawn, although the chair may ask the person who seconded the motion if he or she wishes to make the motion, and any other member may make the motion if properly recognized.

Special Notes About Public Input

The rules outlined above will help make meetings very public-friendly. But in addition, and particularly for the chair, it is wise to remember three special rules that apply to each agenda item:

Rule One: Tell the public what the body will be doing.

Rule Two: Keep the public informed while the body is doing it.

Rule Three: When the body has acted, tell the public what the body did.



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TRAFFIC COMMISSION STATUS LOG

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	DATE INITIATED	REQUESTED BY	COUNCIL OR STAFF	TAKEN TO	REMARKS
ELECTED OFFICIALS INITIATED ITEMS - COMPLETED						
A1	install 4-way stop signs at 4-way stop intersections	Jul-15	J. Wilhelm			Completed
A2	Farquhar/Los Alamitos Alley Study		Emerson/Mejia			Completed
A3	No left turn sign by the post office on Reagan St	Jun-15	D. Patz			Completed
A4	Katella/Cherry crosswalk on eastside of Katella	Jun-15	J. Mejia			Pending - Put on 7-yr CIP
A5	High School Traffic Study		D. Hunt		TC - April 2015	Completed. Submitted request to the district and was denied. No further action at this time.
A7	Repaint arrows at bus pad on Katella @ Walnut	Apr-15	J. Mejia			Completed
A8	3-way stop sign @ Cherry St & Catalina St	Jan-13	J. Wilhelm		TC - May 2015 CC - June 2015	Completed
A9	Consider options for widening Civic Center Dr	Jan-14	J. Mejia			No longer applies
A10	Upgrade forklift crossing on Catalina	Jan-16	J. Mejia	Completed		Completed
A11	remove parking spaces on s/s Catalina opposite - near the Los Alamitos Medical Center	Mar-16	J. Mejia	Possibly Council		Completed
A12	PT/P study to downgrade fully protected operation for Rossmoor Way/Los Alamitos TS and Bradbury/Los Alamitos TS S/B and N/B directions	Jun-16	D. Emerson	Staff		Completed
A13	1. Los Alamitos Blvd @ Farquhar - safety light out 2. Los Alamitos Blvd @ Katella - safety light cycling 3. Los Alamitos Blvd @ Florista, safety light out 4. Los Alamitos Blvd @ Cerritos - Illuminated street name dark 5. Cerritos Ave @ Los Al High, ISNS is out 6. Cerritos Ave @ Humbolt, ISNS is out 7. Cerritos Ave @ Bloomfield, safety light out	Feb-19	J. Mejia	Staff		Completed
A15	Los Alamitos Blvd @ Orangewood Safety Light Out	Mar-08	Hill	Staff		Completed
A16	Safety light out at the intersection of Humbolt Street and Cerritos Ave.	May-17	Chair Patz	Staff		Completed
A17	Bloomfield speed sign is not working	Apr-17		Staff		Completed
A18	Parking Revision 10732 Los Alamitos Boulevard in Front of McNally Back to 24 Min. Zone.	Feb. 7	Commission	Council		Completed
A19	Real Estate Sign limiting visibility at the intersection of Florista and Pine	Apr-17	Commission			Completed
A20	Florista Signal Timing	Jul-17	Commissioner Hill	Staff		completed.

TRAFFIC COMMISSION STATUS LOG

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	DATE INITIATED	REQUESTED BY	COUNCIL OR STAFF	TAKEN TO	REMARKS
A21	Katella Avenue at Lexington Safety light is dark	Sept. 17	Commission	Staff		Completed
A22	Traffic signal indication at S/W corner missing	Sept. 17	Chair Patz	Staff		Completed
A23	Move or upgrade mid-block crosswalk on Cherry s/o Florista	Mar-16	J. Mejia & D. Patz	Possibly Council		Completed
A24	five (5) traffic signs on the south side of Katella Avenue, between the 605 freeway and Wallingsford are starting to lean toward the street.	Feb-19	E. Singer	Staff	Public Works	Completed
A25	parkway trees are blocking the effectiveness of the street lights, on the east side of Los Alamitos Bouelvard, between the car wash and Bradbury Road.	Feb-19	E. Singer	Staff	Public Works	Completed
A26	alley, south of Katella from Lexington heading west: overgrown vegetation at the rear of the private properties	Feb-19	E Singer	staff	Code Enforcement	Completed
A27	repair of two speeds bumps in the alley between Lexington Drive and Noel Street, and between Katella Avenue and Green Avenue.	Mar-19	J. Mejia	Staff	Public Works	Completed
A28	request to adjust the new median lights on Los Alamitos Bouelvard, so that the lights are triggered to turn on and off by the sensor and not the timer.	Feb-19	D. Patz	Staff	Public Works	Completed
A29	Scramble Timing at the intersection of Cerritos and Los Alamitos Boulevard	Apr-17	R. Hill	Staff		No further action required at this time. Will be evaluated after School Traffic Study Review
A30	Add red curb for sight distance on Katella for n/bound Bloomfield	Mar-16	D. Emerson	Possibly Council		No further action required at this time
A31	Vehicles in N/bound left turn lanes on Los Alamitos at Katella back up into thru lane	Jan-16	D. Emerson	Council		Reviewing - Would likely require capital improvements
A32	Replace speed bumps in alley - poor condition	Jan-16	J. Mejia	Staff		Completed
A33	Address sight distance for driveways on S/S Katella - Reagan to Cherry	Mar-16	J. Wilhelm	Possibly Council		Under observation. No further action required at this time
A34	Extend the "merge left" sign on Los Alamitos Boulevard (NB) to be moved closer to Katella Avenue	Apr-19	Singer	Staff	Public Works	Completed
A35	Painted "merging" street marks on Los Alamitos Boulevard north of Katella Avenue, south of Florista Avenue.	Jun-19	Traffic Commissioner Mejia	Staff	Public Works	Completed

TRAFFIC COMMISSION STATUS LOG

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	DATE INITIATED	REQUESTED BY	COUNCIL OR STAFF	TAKEN TO	REMARKS
A36	"No Parking" sign replacement at the west end of San Joaquin Avenue	Jun-19	Traffic Commissioner Patz	Staff	Public Works	Completed
A37	San Bonito Avenue street sign on Bloomfield Street going north to south is blocked by a block wall	Oct-19	Traffic Commissioner Patz	Staff	Public Works	Completed
A38	Katella Deli removal of damaged wall	Feb-19	Traffic Commissioner Mejia	Staff	Code Enforcement	Completed
A39	Overgrown tree on private property covering a signal at the intersection of Bradbury Road and Los Alamitos Boulevard	Jun-19	Traffic Commissioner Rodman	Staff	Code Enforcement	Completed
A40	Street name signs at Los Alamitos Bl/Florista-paint/vinyl peeling off	Jan-16	J. Seaman	Staff		Completed
A41	Faded permit parking signs on San Joaquin Avenue, San Mateo Avenue, and Humbolt Street paint/vinyl peeling off	Jan-22	Traffic Commissioner Patz	Staff	Public Works	Completed
A42	Restripe crosswalk on Kyle Street and Florista Street	Jun-22	Javier Mejia	Staff	Public Works	Completed
COMMUNITY INITIATED ITEMS - COMPLETED						
B1	Extend signal time for cars crossing Katella @ Walnut/Wallingsford	Apr-June-15	Lindsey			Completed
B2	Conduct Four-Way Stop Study at the intersection of Walnut and Catalina	Apr-17		Staff		Completed
B3	Traffic Signal @ Wallingsford and Katella	May-17	Resident	Staff		Completed
B4	requesting the installation of a u-turn sign and/or paint a red curb in the Woodcrest neighborhood - school traffic imposes safety concerns (Los Alamitos High School)	Oct-17	Residents: Carol Wall & Betty Binder	public		completed.
B5	installation of a right-turn only sign at the exit driveway off Farquhar, on the east side of Jack in the Box leaving Bank of America parking lot going onto Farquhar.	Nov-17	Resident: Art DeBolt	public		completed and removed.
B6	Traffic signal at Katella and Los Alamitos	Jul-17	P. Dykhous	Staff		Completed: Traffic signal is operating as was intended
B7	Red curb request on north side of Sausalito Street east of the driveway into Sausalito Walk	Sep-18	Resident: Richard Murph	Staff	Public Works	Completed
B8	Installation of a crosswalk at the intersection of Green Avenue and Bloomfield Avenue	Jan-19	Resident:	Staff	Public Works	Completed

TRAFFIC COMMISSION STATUS LOG

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	DATE INITIATED	REQUESTED BY	COUNCIL OR STAFF	TAKEN TO	REMARKS
B9	Dedicated right turn lane on Cerritos Avenue in front of Los Alamitos High School	Oct-19	Traffic Commissioner Hill	Staff	Public Works	Completed
B10	Permit parking sign removal in New Dutch Haven neighborhood - as part of the permit parking review	Oct-19	Residents	Staff	Public Works	Completed
B11	Permit parking sign removal in Carrier Row neighborhood - as part of the permit parking review	Oct-19	Residents	Staff	Public Works	Completed
B12	Red curb request on south of Sausalito Street west of Los Alamitos Boulevard (next to Shenandoah's)	Sep-18	Resident: Richard Murphy	Staff	Public Works	Completed
B13	Request for the installation of equipment for the visually impaired on Florista Street and Los Alamitos Boulevard	Fall 2018	Resident	Staff	City Council	Completed
B14	Installation of speed humps at Old Town West (Project updated to Traffic Calming)	Sep-19	Resident	Staff	City Council	Completed
B15	Red Curb Request on 4021 Howard Avenue	May-17	Matthew Dastis	Staff		Item pending written request from Mr. Dastis. <i>*Requestee passed away* No further action needed</i>
RECOMMENDATION APPROVED & PENDING IMPLEMENTATION						
C1	Analysis of other intersections near all schools within City limits which might warrant the installation of a crosswalk	Jan-19	Traffic Commission	Staff		Approved - pending implementation
C2	Street sweeping signage around the LAMC (initiated by excess trash and debris on the street)	Jan-19	Resident	Staff		Approved - pending implementation
RECOMMENDATION DENIED						
D1	installation of northbound speed limit sign on Bloomfield	Nov-19	Resident: Art DeBolt	public		denied
D2	change the alley (between Farquhar Ave & Howard Ave) to be one-way only	Nov-19	Resident: Art DeBolt	public		denied
D3	Remove "Keep Clear" on Farquhar at Cherry	Mar-16	D. Emerson	Staff	CC - March 2017	Denied
D4	Remove school signs for Laurel HS, which is closed	Nov-15	D. Patz	Staff		Denied per schools request
D5	Modify pedestrian signal/sign for NB right turns - East leg Bloomfield & Katella	Jan-14	J. Wilhelm	Staff		Denied
D6	Request to add permit parking on Maple Street in the Apartment Row neighborhood	Jan-20	Resident: Mark Giruad	Staff	Staff	Denied

TRAFFIC COMMISSION STATUS LOG

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	DATE INITIATED	REQUESTED BY	COUNCIL OR STAFF	TAKEN TO	REMARKS
D7	15 minute parking sign at 4012 Katella Ave, Suite 101	Mar-20	Business Owner: Hai Nguyen	Staff		Denied - Staff spoke to Business owner
D8	Bring the traffic study for Shea Properties Arrowhead to Commission	Mar-16	J. Mejia	Staff		Denied
ITEMS PENDING - TRAFFIC COMMISSION						
E1	Request for median markers on the east side of Katella Avenue	Jan-23	Commissioner Murphy	Staff		item pending
E2	Request for removal of flashing radar speed sign on Bloomfield Street between Cerritos Avenue and Katella Avenue	Jun-23	Chair Patz	Staff		item pending
ITEMS PENDING CONSIDERATION - CITY COUNCIL						
F1	Safety concern of accessibility on the southeast and northeast corner of Los Alamitos Boulevard/Bradbury Road and Los Alamitos Boulevard/Rossmoor Way	Apr-21	D. Hill	Staff		Item pending - added to 7-year CIP Plan