CITY CLERK DEPT.
2018 MAY 10 AM11:55

RESOLUTION AMENDING THE RULES OF ORDER FOR THE EL PASO CITY COUNCIL REVISED, AS EFFECTIVE APRIL 17, 2018

SECTION 1. PURPOSE OF RESOLUTION

This Resolution is adopted pursuant to Section 3.5.B of the Charter of the City of El Paso as a procedural guide for the benefit of the City Council and for the general information of the public. These rules shall apply to regular or special meetings at which action is to be taken, but shall not apply to meetings for committees of the City Council or to informational gatherings of the Council.

SECTION 2. RULES OF ORDER

Robert's Rules of Order Revised shall govern the procedures of Council unless they are in conflict with these rules.

SECTION 3. EFFECT OF FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE RULES

No action of the Council which is otherwise legal shall be invalidated merely by reason of the failure of the Council or City staff to follow these Rules of Order, unless the majority of the Council agrees that such action shall be invalidated.

SECTION 4. STANDING

No one other than a member of the City Council shall have standing to assert before the Council that any action taken by the Council is invalid by reason of the Council's failure to comply with these Rules of Order.

SECTION 5. SUSPENSION OF RULES

These rules may be suspended temporarily by a majority of the Council members present and voting, except as they pertain to a quorum, or to the majority required for any motion, or to other matters pre-empted by laws other than those Rules of Order.

SECTION 6. PRESIDING OFFICER

The Mayor shall preside at all meetings of the City Council, but if for any reason he is absent from the City, sick or unable to act, then the Mayor Pro Tempore shall preside at such meetings and at such times shall exercise all of the powers and discharge the duties of the Mayor, except that the Mayor Pro Tempore shall vote as a Representative. In the absence or inability of both the Mayor and the Mayor Pro Tempore, the Alternate Mayor Pro Tempore shall preside and shall vote as a Representative. Upon the arrival of the Mayor, the Mayor Pro Tempore or the Alternate Mayor Pro Tempore, the acting chairman shall immediately relinquish the chair upon the conclusion of the business immediately pending before the Council.

The presiding officer shall preserve strict order and decorum at all regular and special meetings of the Council, and shall state questions coming before the Council as necessary for clarity, and shall announce the decision of the Council on all subjects. The Presiding Officer shall disable the microphone at the podium when he determines that the speaker has violated council rules of order.

SECTION 7. QUESTIONS OF ORDER

All questions of order shall be decided by the presiding officer with the right of appeal from his or her decision to the Council that is present, the majority of whom, present and voting, may override the decision.

SECTION 8. VOTING

The electronic voting system shall be utilized for the casting of the roll call votes of the Council in Council Chambers except as otherwise provided herein. The City Clerk shall call for an electronic vote and each Representative shall, without undue delay, cast his or her vote on the electronic voting system. When all votes have been cast, the City Clerk will review, announce and display the results of the voting, and staff will capture the display on the digital recording of the meeting or fully read the results into the record. In the event of a tie vote, the City Clerk will announce the results and call for the Mayor's vote before displaying the results. Any error in voting or any discrepancy between the display of the votes and the City Clerk's announcement of the results shall be corrected prior to the time that the Council proceeds to consider the next agenda item.

The requirements under this section for the use of the electronic voting system shall be automatically suspended under the following circumstances and for the duration as announced by the City Clerk: (a) upon the announcement of the City Clerk that the electronic voting system is not working properly; (b) for votes on procedural matters including motions to recess and to take an agenda item out of order, and votes by acclamation; (c) when the Council is voting on more than one agenda item simultaneously; and (d) when more than one vote will be taken pertaining to an agenda item and in such instance, the City Clerk shall announce which vote shall be taken by use of the electronic voting system and which vote(s) shall be taken only by voice vote.

In the event that the use of the electronic voting system is suspended or the system is otherwise not available, the City Clerk shall call the roll beginning with the Representative seated furthest to the Mayor's right and continuing in that order. Each Representative shall audibly indicate his or her vote.

Records of all roll call votes shall be incorporated in the Minutes of the meeting.

SECTION 9. RECORDED DEBATE

A Representative may request, through the presiding officer, to have an abstract of his or her statement on any subject under consideration by the Council entered in the Minutes or to attach any document referenced during a Council meeting to the Minutes. The recording secretary may be directed by the presiding officer to enter in the Minutes a synopsis of the discussion on any question coming before the Council.

SECTION 10. ORDER OF PRECEDENCE OF MOTIONS

The order of procedure of motions is set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and fully incorporated by reference.

SECTION 11. MOTION TO RECONSIDER

A motion to reconsider any action taken by the Council may be made at any time prior to adjournment of the same meeting at which such action was taken.

SECTION 12. OBTAINING THE FLOOR

Every person desiring to speak shall address the presiding officer, and when recognized by the presiding officer, shall address only the question under consideration.

SECTION 13. RIGHT OF CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Public Hearings/Agenda Items:
Any citizen of the City of El Paso shall have a reasonable opportunity to be heard at all public hearings of the City Council in regard to any and all matters to be considered at such hearings that are germane and relative to any subject matter of City affairs or business which is within the scope of the authority and legislative functions of the City Council. Provided, however, that the time allowed for each citizen's appearance before City Council will be limited to a fixed number of minutes at the discretion of the presiding officer. Members of the public will usually be granted three (3) minutes to present their position on issues. Time will be kept by the City Clerk. The presiding officer may grant a speaker additional time at his or her discretion.

Public Comment/Non Agenda Items:
A maximum of sixty (60) minutes will be allotted for a public comment portion of each regular City Council meeting. The City Council will designate time to allow members of the public to have a reasonable opportunity to provide comment on items not already posted on the agenda, except that no person shall engage in political advertising contrary to state law. Persons wishing to provide comment during the public comment portion of the City Council agenda must sign up prior to 9:00 a.m. on the day of the City Council meeting either online or by using the sign-in sheet for the public outside of Council Chambers on the day of the Council meeting up until 9:00 a.m. Any person signing up to provide comment during the public comment portion of the agenda must provide their name, address and a short description of the topic(s) of their comment. Members of the public are required to speak on the topic identified upon the sign-in sheet. If the speaker is a lobbyist, he or she must indicate that fact on the audience participation sheet and prior to commencing his/her comments. Members of the public may not grant their time to another nor may they purport to speak for another who is not present at the meeting. If someone would like a letter to become a part of the record, they may do so by providing the City Clerk with copies of the letter which will be distributed to the Council. It shall not be necessary to read the letter into the record. Interpretation services are only to be provided by the certified interpreter provided by the City.

Any group of five (5) or more wishing to speak on the same topic will be asked to select one (1) representative to speak for the group and that individual will have three (3) minutes to address Council.

To facilitate the receiving of comment from as many citizens as possible who are interested in bringing topics forward to the City Council for comment, a person may sign up to obtain one time slot to speak or otherwise make a presentation on one or more specified topics during the public comment portion of a City Council meeting. This provision does not restrict any member of the public from signing up to speak on items posted on the regular agenda or to ask questions regarding items posted on the consent agenda.

The time allotted for the public comment portion of the agenda shall be uniformly divided among those who have signed up to obtain a time slot and participate and except as provided below, no speaker will have more than three (3) minutes to speak or otherwise make a presentation, regardless of the number of topics a speaker wishes to address within his or her time slot. At the beginning of the public comment portion of the agenda, the City Clerk will make one announcement as to the amount of time that each person has to provide comment. The City Clerk will call each person signed up to make comment to the podium in the order that they signed up to speak and will keep time. Each topic brought forward will be for comment from the speaker and may not be deliberated by the members of Council nor rebutted or debated by members of the public. Any member of the City Council may propose that the topic commented on be posted by staff on a future Council meeting agenda for the Council's discussion and action.

The presiding officer at his or her discretion may grant a speaker one (1) additional minute to wrap up his or her comments regardless of whether the allotted sixty (60) minutes will otherwise be taken up by the others making comment.

Members of the public wishing to ask a question regarding an item posted on the consent agenda or to speak to an item posted on the regular agenda must sign up prior to 9:00 a.m. on the day of the City Council meeting. The City Clerk shall make available the sign-in sheet for the public outside of Council Chambers on the day of the Council meeting up until 9:00 a.m. or online prior to 9:00 a.m. Persons may sign up to address multiple items, however this does not mean it is permissible to "mark all" or to sign up for every item "just in case" they wish to speak when the discussion on an item takes place.

Members of the public who do not desire to speak but want to register support or opposition to an item on the agenda may do so by indicating their position on the audience participation form. The City Clerk will notify the Council of the number of position statements received and the tally when the agenda item is announced.

At the time that the consent agenda is taken up for consideration, the City Clerk shall advise the Mayor Pro Tempore whether persons in the audience have signed up to ask a question regarding an item posted on the consent agenda. The Mayor Pro Tempore shall have the floor and may ask the City Clerk to call those individuals up to the podium to hear their questions. At that time, the City Clerk will announce the agenda item number and call the person to the podium. The Mayor Pro Tempore may request the City Manager to respond to the questions raised by the members of

the public. In his or her discretion, the Mayor Pro Tem may move the consent agenda item to the regular agenda for continued discussion and action by the City Council.

Members of Council may move to overrule the determinations by the Mayor Pro Tempore under this section by a simple majority vote of the Council members present and voting.

No person may speak a second time except by permission of the presiding officer, and further, no person shall be heard a second time until all persons desiring to speak once have been given the opportunity to do so.

Personal attacks are not permitted. Members of the public should address their questions to the Council, not to the staff. Council may in turn ask staff to provide input.

Members of the public may be asked to leave or be removed from Council Chambers if it is determined that they are disruptive to the meeting. Such determination will be made by the presiding officer. Members of Council may move to overrule such determination by the presiding officer subject to a simple majority vote of Council, present and voting.

SECTION 14. CALLING AND ORDER OF AGENDA ITEMS

Executive Session will be scheduled at the end of the meeting or other such time as determined by the Council. The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance will take place no sooner than 9:00 a.m. Thereafter, the proceedings will take place as specified on the Attached **Exhibit "B"**.

Items accepting or acknowledging donations to the City will be taken prior to consideration of the consent agenda. Items removed from the consent agenda by the Mayor Pro Tempore or at the request of other Council members will be considered at the time when items for the related department are being considered or as otherwise requested by the Mayor Pro Tempore. The introduction of ordinances will be considered first on the regular agenda, followed by the procurement items posted on the regular agenda by the Financial Services and/or Engineering and Construction Management departments, and any reports or updates from the City's Committees, Boards and Commissions.

Notwithstanding the above provisions, the City Manager shall direct the placement of all matters relating to the City Council's adoption of the annual City budget and associated matters relating to the start of each new fiscal year and the adoption of the tax levy on one or more agendas so as to meet all required statutory and charter deadlines.

At the time that each agenda item is to be considered by the City Council, the City Clerk will announce all agenda items by number and a brief statement as to the nature of the item when appropriate. In the case of a revision, the City Clerk or staff shall read the item into the record, as appropriate.

SECTION 15. PARLIAMENTARIAN

The City Attorney and the Deputy City Attorney are confirmed to serve as Parliamentarian and Alternate Parliamentarian, respectively.

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SECTION 16. USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Electronic devices within Council chambers shall be used in accordance with all established City practices and procedures and as directed by Information Technology Department staff providing support services during a meeting. City staff, other than the dignitary protection officers, and members of the public shall turn off the signals of all pagers, cellular telephones and other devices capable of making an audible signal and shall not make or take any telephone calls while in Council chambers once a Council meeting has been called to order.

Members of the City Council shall not use any electronic devices other than the desk top computers provided by the City of El Paso located at their seats during any City Council meeting or City Council work sessions. The use of communication devices of any kind, including but not limited to: hand-held portable communication devices, cellphones, computers, tablets, laptops, watches, etc. is expressly prohibited during City Council meetings and shall not be allowed in the room during closed sessions unless they are being used to aid in executive session presentations.

If the City Council member needs to take a telephone call, respond to a text message, etc. during a meeting, he or she must excuse themselves from the dais or room where the closed session is taking place to engage in that communication.

The use of the desktop computers during City Council shall be limited to voting, viewing presentations, research to aid the council member and communication via email to staff. During meetings, City Council members shall not text, tweet, blog, post on Facebook, Instagram or use any other social media platform.

SECTION 17. TIME AND LOCATION OF MEETINGS

The Mayor and Council may by action of Council approved by a majority of Council, reschedule the time and place of any City Council meeting in accordance with the requirements of the Texas Open Meetings Act.

ADOPTED this 17 day of April, 2018.

CITY OF EL PASO:

Dee Margo
Mayor

ATTEST:

Laura D. Prine
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Sylvia Borunda Firth
City Attorney

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EXHIBIT "A"

ROBERTS RULES CHEAT SHEET

To:	You say:	Interrupt Speaker	Second Needed	Debatable	Amendable	Vote Needed
Adjourn	"I move that we adjourn"	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Recess	"I move that we recess until..."	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
Complain about noise, room temp., etc.	"Point of privilege"	Yes	No	No	No	Chair Decides
Suspend further consideration of something	"I move that we table it"	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
End debate	"I move the previous question"	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
Postpone consideration of something	"I move we postpone this matter until..."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Amend a motion	"I move that this motion be amended by..."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Introduce business (a primary motion)	"I move that..."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority

The above listed motions and points are listed in established order of precedence. When any one of them is pending, you may not introduce another that is listed below, but you may introduce another that is listed above it.

To:	You say:	Interrupt Speaker	Second Needed	Debatable	Amendable	Vote Needed
Object to procedure or personal affront	"Point of order"	Yes	No	No	No	Chair decides
Request information	"Point of information"	Yes	No	No	No	None
Ask for vote by actual count to verify voice vote	"I call for a division of the house"	Must be done before new motion	No	No	No	None unless someone objects
Object to considering some undiplomatic or improper matter	"I object to consideration of this question"	Yes	No	No	No	2/3
Take up matter previously tabled	"I move we take from the table..."	Yes	Yes	No	No	Majority
Reconsider something already disposed of	"I move we now (or later) reconsider our action relative to..."	Yes	Yes	Only if original motion was debatable	No	Majority
Consider something out of its scheduled order	"I move we suspend the rules and consider..."	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
Vote on a ruling by the Chair	"I appeal the Chair's decision"	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Majority

The motions, points and proposals listed above have no established order of preference; any of them may be introduced at any time except when meeting is considering one of the top three matters listed from the first chart (Motion to Adjourn, Recess or Point of Privilege).

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EXHIBIT "B"

Agenda for Regular City Council Meeting

Legislative meetings of the Whole – 9:00 A.M.

- **Public Comment**
- **Agenda Review**
- **Management Reports**
- **Executive Session**

Business Meeting – 9:00 A.M.

1. Roll Call
2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance
3. Ceremonial items: Proclamations and Recognitions *
4. Consent Agenda
5. Management Reports
6. Regular Agenda
7. Executive Session
8. Public Comment
   12noon: Public Comment. (Public Comment is for items not posted on the agenda for the City Council meeting.)

If necessary, Council will interrupt the Business Meeting or delay consideration of Executive Session items posted on its City Council agenda, to hear Public Comment at 12noon.

* Ceremonial items will consist of the reading of a proclamation, an introduction to the Mayor and Council and a photograph. Members of the public and individuals and organizations receiving proclamations and recognitions are not expected to address council.