

## C1.B. Woodards - Council Meetings

# Council Proposed Amendment

## VERSION B

### Section 2.8

#### Brief Summary of Amendment

- Allows Council meetings to be canceled when a quorum is not available to allow for flexibility for community events and religious holidays.
- Clarifies that the meeting requirements apply to the council business meetings and not to other regular meetings.

#### Original Amendment

Section 2.8 – The Council shall meet at such times and places as it may determine, provided it shall hold regular ~~periodic~~business meetings, not oftener than once a week, at least forty-six (46) times each calendar year unless a quorum is not available. Special meetings shall be called by the City Clerk on the written request of the Mayor or any three Council members. Such request shall state the subject or subjects to be considered at such meeting, and no other subject shall be considered thereat. Each Council member shall be given such notice that may be required by State law, but in no event less than twelve hours' notice, of the time and place of such special meetings. All meetings of the council shall be public as prescribed by State law. (Amendment approved by vote of the people November 6, 1979.)

#### NEW AMENDMENT

Section 2.8 – The Council shall meet at such times and places as it may determine, provided it shall hold regular ~~not oftener than once a week~~, periodic meetings at least ~~forty-six~~seventy (4670) times each calendar year. Special meetings shall be called by the City Clerk on the written request of the Mayor or any three Council members.<sup>6</sup> Such request shall state the subject or subjects to be considered at such meeting, and no other subject shall be considered thereat. Each Council member shall be given such notice that may be required by State law, but in no event less than twelve hours' notice, of the time and place of such special meetings. All meetings of the council shall be public as prescribed by State law.

#### Rationale for C1B

When Section 2.8 of the City Charter was adopted in 1979, the Council held only one regular weekly business meeting. It now holds weekly study sessions as well as weekly evening business meetings; thus meeting much more frequently than it did in 1979. The proposed amendment would recognize that the Council now meets far more frequently than contemplated by the voters in 1979 by providing more flexibility in scheduling regular meetings of the Council. Greater flexibility is created by removing the prohibition upon meeting no oftener than once a week and increasing the meeting requirements by 50% to 70 meetings to capture the additional meetings.

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6. RCW 42.30.080 establishes the procedure for emergency meetings pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act.