



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Bill Fosbre, City Attorney *Bill Fosbre*
COPY: GPFC Committee; Andy Cherullo; Doris Sorum; Rebecca Boydston; Latasha Ware
PRESENTER: Bill Fosbre, City Attorney's Office
SUBJECT: Proposed Council Rule For Walk-on Amendments
DATE: September 17, 2019

PRESENTATION TYPE:
Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:

The City Attorney's Office will present a proposed process for walking on amendments (or substitutions) to resolutions, ordinances, and motions to be added to the Rules of Procedure of the Council.

BACKGROUND:

Neither Washington State law nor the Tacoma City Charter provide rules related to how amendments to legislation must occur. A number of cities and counties have adopted formal process rules for amending legislation to make this procedure more efficient, transparent, and provide greater consistency.

ISSUE:

The Council does not have a standard process for amending legislation; consequently, ad hoc processes have been used over the years, which has resulted in confusion, surprises, lack of choices, inequitable resolutions, difficulty in arriving at compromises, and other issues.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Council can continue to use an ad hoc approach.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The proposed process should not create an additional fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Rules of Procedure of the Council should be amended to include a standard process for walking on amendments (or substitutions) to resolutions, ordinances, and motions. The process should include procedures requiring that the amendment (1) be in writing, (2) include a brief statement or analysis of the effect of the amendment, and (3) be provided to all Council Members, City Manager, City Clerk, and City Attorney a minimum of two (2) hours prior to the meeting in which it will be offered. Other best practices should also be considered by the Council Members. The process can be waived by a two-thirds majority of the Council present at the meeting the amendment is offered.