



City of Bellevue

# Updates to Council rules and Board/Commission code provisions

## Study Session

Kathy Gerla | City Attorney  
Charmaine Arredondo | City Clerk  
July 24, 2023



# Direction

Direct staff to prepare amendments to the Council's rules of procedure and to the Bellevue City Code concerning remote participation and public participation, and Council order of business, for action at a future meeting.

# AGENDA



Remote participation



Public participation



Meeting order



# Remote Participation

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# City Council

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## Proposed Rule Changes

- Notice to City Clerk by noon on day of meeting
- Presiding officer must be in person
  - Process for selecting temporary Presiding Officer
- City business does not count toward annual remote participation limits
- Camera expectations

# Board and Commissions

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## Proposed Rule Changes

- Notice to Chair and staff liaison by noon on day before meeting
  - If more than 3, staff liaison decides

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# **Public Participation**

# City Council

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## Proposed changes to oral communications

- Must sign-up for yourself
- Prioritization to those speaking to items on agenda
- More than 30 minutes?
- Presiding Officer may give preference to:
  - those who have not spoken to council within past 30 days; and/or
  - are speaking to items anticipated to be on agenda in next 30 days
  - Extend oral comms
  - Add second oral comms item at end of meeting
  - Reduce length of individual comment to two minutes
- Topics must relate to City of Bellevue government



# City Council – Decorum

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- General prohibition for conduct that disrupts orderly conduct of Council meeting
- Specific disruptions listed, e.g.:
  - Supporting or opposing candidates or ballot measures
  - Causing purposeful delay
  - Noise: shouting, clapping, outbursts, audible speech/expression from audience
  - Standing and obstructing view of attendees
  - Approaching councilmembers or city staff during meeting
  - Affixing signs or using to endanger or obstruct others

# City Council – Decorum cont'd

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- Conduct not protected by First Amendment prohibited:
  - Engaging in true threats of violence
  - Use of obscene language or gestures
  - Assault or attempted assault

# City Council – Decorum cont'd

## Enforcement Options:

- Terminate comment period and direct microphone to be muted
- Direct security personnel to assist person to seat
- Order person to leave the room and have removed if they refuse
- Exclusion from future comment periods or meetings for repeated disruptions—up to 60 days
  - Process for issuing exclusion clarified

Council may overrule presiding officer's decision to exclude

Exclusion from future meetings can be appealed to City Council

# Board and Commissions

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Proposed changes to scope of public comment:

- Topics must relate to City of Bellevue government
- Topics must relate to subject matters within powers/duties of board or commission
- Option to limit comments to agenda items

# Board and Commissions - Decorum

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## Rules of Decorum and Enforcement

- Same as council rules

## Exceptions:

- Exclusion from future meetings may be overruled by City Council in addition to board/commission
- Appeal of exclusion from future meetings heard by City Council

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# Meeting Order

# City Council

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- “Written Reports” standing agenda topic for each regular meeting
  - Inserted as item 13 on the agenda
  - Topics such as:
    - Intergovernmental Affairs written updates
    - Quarterly updates on adopted plans (i.e. ESI, Economic Development)



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