

**MOTION OF THE COUNCIL OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY**

Amending the Rules of Council, Article I, §E.2., Article II, §B.3. and Article IV, §C.9., in order to provide for a uniform structure for consideration of legislative matters by committees of Council.

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the current Rules of Allegheny County Council, the Council President may establish Standing Committees, Special Committees, or Advisory Committees; and

**WHEREAS**, historically, the vast majority of the committees of Council have been established as Standing Committees in which the members conduct deliberations on pending legislative matters, engage in discussion and debate, and amend legislative matters and/or refer them to the full Council for final action based on the votes of a majority of the committee members; and

**WHEREAS**, Special Committees have been created much more rarely, and process legislative matters with different procedural rules under which no votes are permitted (which renders amendment of any bills while they are under consideration by a special committee impossible), and the committee chair exercises individual control over referring legislative items to the full Council for a final vote; and

**WHEREAS**, the rarest of the committee types, Advisory Committees, are not established to consider legislative matters directly but, rather, to inform Council's decision-making process, and thus do not have any procedural impact upon legislative matters; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the desire of Council to establish a single procedure by which legislative items are evaluated during the committee process, rather than having the procedure vary significantly depending upon whether a bill is referred to a Standing Committee or a Special Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, it is accordingly the judgment of Council that the voting and amendment procedures followed by the Standing Committees are preferable, to the extent that they allow for greater flexibility regarding amending legislative items and allow for greater latitude during debate and discussion;

## **NOW THEREFORE, IT IS MOVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY**

The Rules of Council, Article I, §E.2., Article II, §B.3. and Article IV, §C.9. are hereby amended as follows, effective immediately upon final approval of this Motion:

### **I. Organization of Council**

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#### **E. Committees of Council**

Committees are established to consider, investigate, or take action in regard to matters or subjects brought before Council and shall be organized and led by a Chair who shall be named by the President. The Committee Chair may convene a public forum to elicit public comment or input on issues under consideration by the committee. Committees shall present their findings to Council in either a formal or informal manner. The President is an ex officio member of each committee. Each committee shall be established to function during the term of each President. Unless re-established under the successive President, they shall cease to exist. Nothing shall prevent the President from dissolving a committee prior to the end of his or her term. No committee shall meet or be staffed unless called by the Chair of the committee according to these Rules.

**1. Standing Committees** – The President, upon election, shall establish the standing committees of Council and appoint the members and the chair of each committee. Standing committees shall meet Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays beginning no earlier than 4:00 p.m. When unable to attend a scheduled committee meeting, the chair of each committee may appoint a member of the committee to act as presiding officer. The number and scope of each committee shall be at the discretion of the President, except that the following shall always be established as standing committees:

**i. Executive Committee** – The Executive Committee shall make recommendations designed to improve and expedite the business and procedures of Council and its committees and to propose any amendments to the Rules deemed necessary. The Executive Committee shall also be charged with making recommendations and approving actions regarding personnel matters.

**ii. Budget & Finance Committee** – The Budget & Finance Committee shall have the responsibility of reviewing and making recommendations regarding taxation, appropriations, and the pursuit of other revenues used for County operations, specifically those pertaining to the County's Capital Budget, Operating Budget, and Grants and Special Accounts Budget.

2. **Special Committee** – The President may appoint a special committee at his or her discretion. It shall address only items of business that relate to a single topic that is clearly defined when the committee is created and shall automatically be dissolved when its final report is accepted by Council. ~~A special committee shall not vote.~~ Special committees shall follow the same procedural rules established for standing committees in Article II, §F of these Rules, unless otherwise provided for within this Subsection. The item of business, or anything involving essentially the same issue, may not be considered by Council or any other committee until the special committee makes its report, unless specifically requested by the Chair with the consent of the President. Reports of the committee shall be presented at a time designated by the President or upon completion of its charge and shall list the names of all the members of the committee. A minority report may also be presented. Upon presentation of the report, Council shall make a motion to accept the report at which time the committee will be discharged. A special committee may also be dissolved by vote of a majority of the seated members of Council.
3. **Advisory Committee** – The President may appoint advisory committees to Council, or at the request of a chair, to one of the committees of Council to augment the deliberations of council members with a body of expertise to improve their decision making process. Advisory committees shall not vote. Advisory committees will submit their recommendations to the President or Chair as the situation warrants. Such recommendations may be shared with Council either formally or informally.

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***PRIMARY SPONSOR: COUNCIL MEMBER MEANS***

***CO-SPONSORS:***

Enacted in Council, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019,

Council Agenda No. \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**John DeFazio**  
**President of Council**

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Jared Barker**  
**Chief Clerk**