

## RULES

December 1, 2025

10 - 3 Garrett Ompbren Wilson

OFFERED BY: PRESIDENT SOMMERVILLE, VICE-PRESIDENT FUSCO & PRESIDENT PRO-TEM MCKITRICK

RESOLUTION NO. 404-2025 amending Resolution No. 373-2023 to implement, supplement, and/or amend Rules 1.4, 2.3, 2.12, 3.1, 3.7, 4.8, 4.16, 5.4, 5.9, 5.10, 6.5, 7.3, 7.7, 7.8, 8.1, 8.3 and 9.3 of the "Rules of Procedure for Akron City Council;" and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, periodic modifications to Akron City Council's Rules of Procedure are prudent and necessary to ensure that the business of Council is conducted properly, efficiently, and respectfully.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Akron:

Section 1. That Resolution No. 373-2023 is hereby amended to implement, supplement, and/or modify Rules 1.4, 2.3, 2.12, 3.1, 3.7, 4.8, 4.16, 5.4, 5.9, 5.10, 6.5, 7.3, 7.7, 7.8, 8.1, 8.3, and 9.3 of the "Rules of Procedure for Akron City Council."

Section 2. That "Rule 1.4 Virtual Meetings" is hereby amended and supplemented to read as follows:

### Rule 1.4. Virtual Meetings

Meetings of Council or its Committees may be held virtually by videoconference technology as determined by the President of Council. Notice of a virtual meeting shall be provided in accordance with the procedures set forth in Rule 1.3.

Any member that is connected to a meeting of Council or its Committees both visually and audibly through the videoconference is deemed present for purposes of attendance and deliberation and voting. Members shall deliberate and vote by oral "yea" or "nay." **For purposes of this Rule, the words "yes" and "aye" shall be given the same meaning as "yea" and the word "no" shall be interchangeable with "nay."**

Any person with an interest in an administrative proceeding coming before Council or its Committees may appear and participate virtually by electric videoconference connection.

**Any person virtually attending a meeting shall adhere to the terms of service of the subject videoconference technology platform, which includes refraining from driving or performing any other prohibited activity, while attending the meeting.**

Section 3. That "Rule 2.3 Election of Officers" is hereby amended and supplemented to read as follows:

### Rule 2.3 Election of Officers

The officers of Council shall be elected by a majority vote of all Council members. All nominations shall require a second and no member may nominate or second ~~his/her~~ **their** own candidacy for an officer position. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any member of Council may, once recognized by the presiding officer, express ~~his/her~~ **their** interest in serving in a particular position.

If after two separate votes for a particular position no member/candidate has been selected by the majority of Council, then the candidate (or candidates in the event of a tie) receiving the lowest total votes on the most recent ballot shall be removed from consideration and the other candidates shall remain for further voting on the position in question. This process shall continue until the officer is elected.

Section 4. That “Rule 2.12 Communications with the Administration” is hereby amended and supplemented to read as follows:

Rule 2.12 Communications with the Administration

Except for the purpose of inquiry, the Council and its members shall deal with the administration and City employees solely through the Mayor or ~~his designates~~ **their designees** and neither the Council nor any member thereof shall give orders to any of the subordinates of the Mayor either publicly or privately. (*Charter, Section 30*)

Section 5. That “Rule 3.1 Standing Committees” is hereby amended and supplement to read as follows:

Rule 3.1 Standing Committees

There shall be five (5) members on each standing committee. The ~~nine~~ **eight** standing committees shall be as follows:

- a. ~~Budget and Finance.~~ **Rules.**
- b. ~~Health & Social Services.~~ **Budget & Finance.**
- c. ~~Housing & Neighborhood Assistance.~~ **Planning & Economic Development.**
- d. ~~Parks & Recreation.~~ **Public Service, Public Utilities, & Green.**
- e. ~~Planning and Economic Development.~~ **Public Safety.**
- f. ~~Public Safety.~~ **Parks & Recreation.**
- g. ~~Public Service.~~ **Housing & Neighborhood Assistance.**
- h. ~~Public Utilities & Green.~~ **Health & Social Services.**
- i. ~~Rules.~~

Section 6. That “Rule 3.7 Committee Meetings” is hereby amended and supplemented to read as follows:

Rule 3.7 Committee Meetings

The committees shall meet only when legislation is pending before that committee **or upon authorization of the President of Council** and in the Council Chambers, Committee Rooms, virtually by electronic videoconference technology as determined by the President of Council, and/or other places announced in compliance with Rule 1.3 above at such a time designated by the Committee Chairperson.

Section 7. That “Rule 4.8 Previous Question (Demand of a Vote)” is hereby amended and supplemented to read as follows:

#### Rule 4.8 Previous Question (Demand for a Vote)

The motion calling the previous question is a motion made by a Council member who has the floor that – if passed— closes debate, stops further amendments to the last motion and brings the underlying motion to an immediate vote. A motion calling the previous question must be passed by a vote of the majority of the members of Council.

The motion calling the previous question applies only to the last motion made and cannot be amended or debated. It is not in order for a member of Council to move the previous question immediately after making a main motion, or speaking to the substance of the main motion under consideration. It is out of order for a member of Council to move the previous question if ~~he/she~~ **they** does not have the floor.

Section 8. That “Rule 4.16 Privilege of the President” is hereby amended and supplemented to read as follows:

#### Rule 4.16 Privilege of the President

The President may participate in debate as a member of Council.

In ~~his or her~~ **their** sole discretion, the President may recess during any meeting over which ~~he/she~~ **is they** are the Presiding Officer, for a reasonable period of time. This is a privilege of the President and does not require Council’s consent or a vote.

Section 9. That “Rule 5.4 Leaving Council Chambers” is hereby amended and supplemented to read as follows:

#### Rule 5.4 Leaving Council Chambers

No member shall leave the Council floor while a meeting is in session without the permission of the Presiding Officer. When a vote is taken, the vote of any Council member not in ~~his or her~~ **their** seat at the time of the vote shall be recorded as “did not vote.” Any member leaving without permission may be subject to discipline.

Section 10. That “Rule 5.9 Absence” is hereby amended and supplement to read as follows:

#### Rule 5.9 Absence

Members of Council shall use their best efforts to attend all meetings of Council, including meetings of committees on which they serve, and shall avoid extended and/or multiple unexcused absences. If a member of Council anticipates missing a regular meeting, ~~he or she~~ **they** will notify the Clerk of Council or the President of the impending absence, and the reason for the same. Upon consideration of the reason stated, the President, in ~~his or her~~ **their** sole discretion, shall determine whether or not to excuse the individual Council member’s absence.

Members who take unexcused absences may be subject to discipline as set forth in Section IX, and in the case of extended absences, that member’s seat on a committee may be considered vacant as set forth in Rule 3.6.

Section 11. That “Rule 5.10 Official Title” is hereby implemented and reads as follows:

### Rule 5.10 Official Title

So as to create uniformity and increase the public's confidence that they are interacting with official members of Akron City Council, Members of Council, excluding Council Leadership, shall officially and exclusively be referred to as any one or more of the following: Council Representative, Council Member, Councilperson, Councilman, and/or Councilwoman. Members shall refrain from utilizing any title other than those appearing in this Rule 5.10 when conducting official Council-related business. Council Leadership may adopt and use additional titles denoting their leadership positions.

Section 12. That "Rule 6.5 Voting Procedures" is hereby amended and supplement to read as follows:

#### Rule 6.5 Voting Procedures

The vote for the passage of all ordinances and resolutions shall be taken by "Yea" and "Nay." **For purposes of this Rule, the words "yes" and "aye" shall be given the same meaning as "yea" and the word "no" shall be interchangeable with "nay."** The vote of any Council member present at a meeting, but not in chambers or seated at the time of the vote shall be recorded as "did not vote." All votes shall be recorded in the minutes. (*Charter, Section 34*)

Section 13. That "Rule 7.3 Requests to Become a Candidate" is hereby amended and supplemented to read as follows:

#### Rule 7.3 Requests to Become a Candidate

Those wishing to be considered as a candidate for the vacancy shall apply in writing. The deadline for accepting these written notices of applications shall be ~~seven (7) days before the day of the election.~~ **shall be determined by the President.**

Section 14. That "Rule 7.7 Balloting Procedures" is hereby amended and supplemented to read as follows:

#### Rule 7.7 Balloting Procedures

The Clerk of Council shall provide each member with a ballot. The Clerk shall collect the marked ballots from each Council member. ~~The Council member shall place the ballot in a box which the Clerk shall provide.~~ This procedure shall be followed each time a separate vote is taken.

Section 15. That "Rule 7.8 Appointing Judges" is hereby amended and supplemented to read as follows:

#### Rule 7.8 Appointing Judges

Before continuing and tabulating the ballots, the Presiding Officer shall appoint ~~three~~ **two** Council members to act as judges. ~~When possible, not more than two of the judges shall be members of the same political party.~~

Section 16. That “Rule 8.1 Use of Council Chamber, Council Lounge and Conference Rooms” is hereby amended and supplemented to read as follows:

Rule 8.1 Use of Council Chamber, Council Lounge and Conference Rooms

The Council Chamber, Council lounge and conference rooms shall be for the exclusive use of Council or its committees. The President and in ~~his/her~~ **their** absence the Clerk of Council, may grant requests for any other use. In the event of an emergency, the Service Director may grant special authority for the use of the Council Chamber when the Chamber is not being used by Council.

Section 17. That “Rule 8.3 Use of the Akron City Council Logo” is hereby implemented and reads as follows:

Rule 8.3 Use of the Akron City Council Logo

**Except as expressly permitted under this Rule, no individual member of Council shall use the Akron City Council Logo unless the use has been previously approved, in writing, by the Council President.**

**Permitted uses shall include:**

- **Official Council business reflecting the consensus of the majority of City Council;**
- **The issuance of public notices and publications by Council staff;**
- **Letters of recommendation;**
- **Ward meeting announcements; and**
- **Proclamations.**

**Members are prohibited from using the City Council Logo to:**

- **Solicit funding and/or support, endorse, oppose, or electioneer, or otherwise participate in activities related to an election campaign or ballot issue;**
- **Endorse statements that express the opinions or views of an individual member of Council; and**
- **Misrepresent positions of the Council or Council Leadership.**

Section 18. That “Rule 9.3 “Maintaining Order during Council Meetings” is hereby amended and supplemented to read as follows:

Rule 9.3 Maintaining Order during Council Meetings

*Call to Order.* If after a warning from the Presiding Officer, any member remains or subsequently becomes out of order, that member may be “called to order,” meaning that ~~he or she~~ **they** will be formally declared out of order and asked to be seated and remain silent. Any member may be called to order by the Presiding Officer without a formal vote by Council.

*Expulsion.* After a warning and for cause, and upon a vote of a majority of the members of Council, any member of Council may be expelled for the duration of a Council meeting.

Section 19. That all other Rules of Procedure for Akron City Council set forth in Resolution No. 373-2023 remain in full force and effect.

Section 20. That this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of public peace, health, safety, and welfare and for the reason that this resolution will supplement, implement, and/or amend the "Rules of Procedure for Akron City Council" to ensure the proper conduct of Council, which will enhance the overall decorum of City Council, and provided this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members elected or appointed to Council, the resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force at the earliest time allowed by law.

Passed December 15, 2025

Donna R. Biriano  
Clerk of Council

Paul J. Hammill  
President of Council

Approved December 17, 2025

[Signature]  
MAYOR

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