



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**January 31, 2012**

**Ordinance 17261**

**Proposed No. 2012-0063.1**

**Sponsors Gossett**

1           AN ORDINANCE relating to council rules and order of  
2           business; and amending Ordinance 11683, Section 4, as  
3           amended, and K.C.C. 1.24.035; and declaring an  
4           emergency.

5           BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY

6           SECTION 1. Findings:

- 7           A. King County Charter Section 220.40 requires the council to adopt by  
8           ordinance rules of procedure governing the time, place and conduct of its meetings.
- 9           B. Consistent with the county charter, the council adopted by ordinance rules of  
10          procedure, which are codified in K.C.C. chapter 1.24, and passed motions related to the  
11          organization and administration of the council.
- 12          C. The rules ordinance and the organizational motion have been amended from  
13          time to time to reflect desired changes in the council's rules of procedure and  
14          organization.
- 15          D. Because the council is reorganizing its committees by motion effective today,  
16          including modifying committee names, duties, and committee and council meeting times,  
17          this ordinance must be effective immediately to ensure that the regular meeting times of  
18          the council and its committees are enacted and effective contemporaneously with the  
19          reorganization of the council.

20            SECTION 2. Ordinance 11683, Section 4, as amended, and K.C.C. 1.24.035 are  
21 each hereby amended to read as follows:

22            **Rule 4: Meetings.**

23            A.1.a. The time of regular meetings of the council is 1:30 p.m. on Monday of  
24 each week, or Tuesday if Monday is a state or county holiday or is a legislative branch  
25 furlough day due to a county emergency budget crisis, unless otherwise ordered by the  
26 chair or a majority of the council. However, the regular meetings of the council shall not  
27 take place on the first and second Mondays in August and the third and fourth Mondays  
28 in December. All regular or special meetings of council committees shall be regular or  
29 special council meetings, pursuant to council rule 4.F.

30            b. Each Wednesday from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. shall be reserved for special  
31 standing committee meetings and each fourth and fifth Wednesdays of each month from  
32 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. shall be reserved for special regional committee meetings as  
33 needed. In order to allow each member sufficient time to review legislation and to meet  
34 with constituents, staff and officials of other jurisdictions, no special committee meeting  
35 may be called for any other time without the prior written consent of the council chair or  
36 the consent of a majority of the members of the committee. If a special meeting for more  
37 than one committee is called for the same time and location, the meeting for which the  
38 agenda was first filed with the council clerk shall have precedence for use of the meeting  
39 location. This subsection A.1.b. does not apply to special meetings of the budget and  
40 fiscal management committee for purposes of considering the county executive's 2012  
41 budget proposal, which shall be called by the chair of the budget and fiscal management  
42 committee.

43           2.a. All regular meetings of the King County council and the council's  
44 committees, except for the employment and administration committee, shall be held in  
45 the council chambers on the tenth floor of the King County Courthouse in Seattle,  
46 Washington. All regular meetings of the employment and administration committee shall  
47 be held in the southwest conference room on the twelfth floor of the King County  
48 Courthouse in Seattle, Washington.

49           b. Whenever, due to an emergency, as defined in K.C.C. 12.52.010, it is  
50 imprudent, inexpedient or impossible to conduct the affairs of the council at the regular  
51 or usual place or places, the council may meet at any place within or without the  
52 territorial limits of the county on the call of the chair or any two members of the council.  
53 After an emergency relocation, the affairs of the council shall be lawfully conducted at  
54 the emergency location for the duration of the emergency.

55           B.1. Except as provided in subsection B.2. of this rule, the times for regular  
56 committee meetings are as follows, unless the council is meeting at that time because the  
57 preceding Monday was a state or county holiday:

58           a. Committee of the whole: the first and third Mondays of each month at 9:30  
59 a.m. or Tuesday if Monday is a state or county holiday or is a legislative branch furlough  
60 day due to a county emergency budget crisis, unless otherwise ordered by the chair or a  
61 majority of the council January 1 through September 16; thereafter through December 31,  
62 Monday of each week at 9:30 a.m.;

63           b. Budget and fiscal management committee: the first and third Tuesdays of  
64 each month at 1:30 p.m.;

65 c. Employment and administration committee: the second and fourth Mondays  
66 of each month at 9:30 a.m. January 1 through September 7; thereafter through December  
67 31 on the first and third Mondays of each month at 3:00 p.m.;

68 d. ~~((Government accountability and oversight))~~ Government accountability,  
69 oversight and financial performance committee: the ~~((first and third))~~ second and fourth  
70 Tuesdays of each month at 9:30 a.m.;

71 e. Law, justice, health and human services committee: the second and fourth,  
72 and fifth if one occurs, Tuesdays of each month at 1:30 p.m.;

73 f. Transportation, economy and environment committee: the ~~((second and~~  
74 ~~fourth,))~~ first and third, and fifth if one occurs, Tuesdays of each month at 9:30 a.m, and  
75 the last Wednesday of the month at 9:30 a.m.;

76 g. Regional policy committee: the second Wednesday of each month at 3:00  
77 p.m.;

78 h. Regional transit committee: the third Wednesday of each month at 3:00  
79 p.m.; and

80 i. Regional water quality committee: the first Wednesday of each month at  
81 3:00 p.m.

82 2. The regular meetings of the committees shall not take place during the first  
83 and second weeks in August and the third and fourth weeks in December.

84 C. Council and committee meetings must be held in accordance with the Open  
85 Public Meetings Act of 1971, chapter 42.30 RCW.

86 D. A meeting may be continued, in accordance with chapter 42.30 RCW, to  
87 another date and does not conclude until adjourned in accordance with these rules.

88 E.1. An executive session may be held during a council or committee meeting if  
89 one of the specific grounds under chapter 42.30 RCW for an executive session exists.

90 2. Before convening in executive session, the chair of the council or committee  
91 shall publicly announce the purpose for excluding the public from the meeting place and  
92 the time when the executive session will be concluded. The executive session may be  
93 extended to a stated later time by announcement of the chair.

94 3. Only members of the council or committee, special invitees and those  
95 employees or staff members the council or committee determines to be necessary are  
96 allowed to remain in the room. Persons attending an executive session shall maintain the  
97 confidentiality of the proceedings.

98 F.1 A legal analysis of the Open Public Meetings Act by the office of the  
99 Attorney General, 2010 AGO No. 9, has advised that when a committee meeting is  
100 attended by a quorum of the governing body it must be noticed not only as a committee  
101 meeting but also as a meeting of the governing body. For this reason, all meetings of  
102 council committees shall be noticed both as committee meetings and as council meetings  
103 whose agenda is limited to the committee business.

104 2. In all committee meetings, which are council meetings in accordance with  
105 subsection F.1. of this rule, only the rules and procedures applicable to committees apply,  
106 and not those rules and procedures applicable to full council meetings. This includes, but  
107 is not limited to:

108 a. only those members who serve on the committee have the right to exercise  
109 parliamentary rights in the meeting, including, but not limited to, raising points of order,  
110 making motions and voting;

111           b. attendance shall be recorded only for members serving on the committee,  
112 and the quorum for the meeting shall be the committee quorum; and

113           c. committee meetings shall be chaired by the committee chair.

114           SECTION 3. The county council finds as a fact and declares that an emergency

115 exists and that this ordinance is necessary for the immediate preservation of public peace,  
116 health or safety or for the support of county government and its existing public  
117 institutions.  
118

Ordinance 17261 was introduced on 1/30/2012 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 1/30/2012, by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague, Ms. Patterson, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Ferguson and Mr. McDermott  
No: 0  
Excused: 2 - Mr. von Reichbauer and Mr. Dunn

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Gossett, Chair

ATTEST:



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Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments:** None