



Council Standing Rules Amendment

RESOLUTION: 17(20)
SUBMITTED BY: Council Steering Committee
SUBJECT: Unanimous Consent Agenda

PURPOSE: Amends the Council Standing Rules to include all resolutions, except Bylaws resolutions, on a Unanimous Consent Agenda for disposition by the Council, including recommendations for amendment or substitution of the resolution. Contains a proviso that changes are effective after the 2020 Council meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT: Budgeted staff resources to update the Council Standing Rules.

1 WHEREAS, Use of the Unanimous Consent Agenda increases the efficiency of the Council; and

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3 WHEREAS, Use of the Unanimous Consent Agenda for Reference Committee recommendations has
4 increased over the past few years; and

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6 WHEREAS, Many councillors have suggested that the Unanimous Consent Agenda be used for all
7 resolutions, except for Bylaws resolutions, which require a two-thirds affirmative vote for adoption; and

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9 WHEREAS, A request for extraction of any resolution from the Unanimous Consent Agenda by any
10 credentialed councillor is in order at the beginning of the Reference Committee report; therefore be it

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12 RESOLVED, That the Council Standing Rules, “Unanimous Consent Agenda” section, be amended to read as
13 follows with the proviso that the changes will become effective after the 2020 Council meeting:

14 15 **Unanimous Consent Agenda**

16 A “Unanimous Consent Agenda” is a list of resolutions with a waiver of debate ~~and may include items that meet~~
17 ~~one of the following criteria as determined by the Reference Committee:~~

- 18 ~~1. Non-controversial in nature~~
- 19 ~~2. Generated little or no debate during the Reference Committee~~
- 20 ~~3. Clear consensus of opinion (either pro or con) was expressed at Reference Committee~~

21 **All resolutions assigned to a Reference Committee, except for** Bylaws resolutions, ~~and resolutions that require~~
22 ~~substantive amendments~~ shall ~~not~~ be placed on a Unanimous Consent Agenda.

23 **A The** Unanimous Consent Agenda will be listed at the beginning of the Reference Committee report along with
24 the committee’s recommendation for adoption, referral, **amendment, substitution,** or ~~defeat~~ **not for adoption** for
25 each resolution listed. A request for extraction of any resolution from **a the** Unanimous Consent Agenda by any
26 credentialed councillor is in order at the beginning of the Reference Committee report. Thereafter, the remaining
27 items on the Unanimous Consent Agenda will be approved unanimously en bloc without discussion. The Reference
28 Committee reports will then proceed in the usual manner with any extracted resolution(s) debated at an appropriate
29 time during that report.

Background

The resolution amends the Council Standing Rules to include all resolutions, except Bylaws resolutions, on a Unanimous Consent Agenda for disposition by the Council, with the proviso that the changes become effective after the 2020 Council meeting. The resolution further codifies that recommendations for amendment or substitution of the

resolution will be included on the Unanimous Consent Agenda, although amended and substitute resolutions have been included on the Unanimous Consent agenda in previous years.

Currently, the Unanimous Consent Agenda is used for resolutions that are non-controversial, or generated little/no debate, or had a clear consensus of opinion in favor, opposed, or for referral. If one person objects, then it is not unanimous, the item is removed from the Unanimous Consent Agenda, and the item is then debated and voted on by the Council. Use of the Unanimous Consent Agenda for Reference Committee recommendations has increased over the past few years with tremendous success in streamlining the Council meeting agenda. Many councillors have suggested that the Reference Committees place all resolutions on the Unanimous Consent Agenda, except for Bylaws resolutions since they require a 2/3 vote for adoption. There are multiple opportunities to provide feedback to the Reference Committee about a resolution whether through comments on the Council engagED platform, written testimony submitted in advance of the Council meeting, or in person testimony during the Reference Committee hearing.

The Steering Committee discussed use of the Unanimous Consent Agenda at their meetings in January and April 2020 and determined that a Council Standing Rules amendment should be submitted to the 2020 Council.

ACEP Strategic Plan Reference

None

Fiscal Impact

Budgeted staff resources to update the Council Standing Rules.

Prior Council Action

Resolution 14(17) Unanimous Consent not adopted. This resolution intended to amend the Council Standing Rules by placing all resolutions, except Bylaws amendments, on the Unanimous Consent Agenda with the Reference Committee's recommendation for adoption, not adoption, or referral for each resolution and requiring a second for extraction.

Resolution 3(16) Unanimous Consent not adopted. The resolution intended to amend the Council Standing Rules to require the requestor for extraction to provide up to a one-minute summary of the reason for extraction and, after reading the summary of the testimony from the Reference Committee report, a one-third affirmative vote of the councillors present and voting would be required to remove the item from consent.

Amended Resolution 30(05) Standing Rules Housekeeping Changes adopted. Revised several sections of the Standing Rules, including Unanimous Consent. The changes to this section were primarily editorial to provide clarity and also revised the section title from "Consent Calendar" to "Unanimous Consent Agenda."

Resolution 19(02) Consent Calendar adopted. The resolution removed the statement "At the speaker's discretion, without objection, such an item is extracted from the consent calendar." If any credentialed councillor can request an item to be removed from consent, it is not at the speaker's discretion.

Prior Board Action

Not applicable – the Board does not take action on Council Standing Rules resolutions.

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