

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING RULE 4 AND 14 OF
THE COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE RELATED TO
RECESS AND ADJOURNMENT

WHEREAS, on May 9, 2013, Council adopted the Rules of Procedure of the City Council in Resolution No. 2013-65, to establish rules for the conduct of its proceedings; and

WHEREAS, Council has amended the Rules of Procedure from time to time to account for changes in practice or to clarify and conform to existing practice; and

WHEREAS, effective September 25, 2025, Council wishes to amend Rule No. 4, Council President to Serve as Presiding Officer, and Rule No. 14, Motions, to allow the Council President to call for a recess; and.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Fresno as follows:

1. Effective September 25, 2025, Rule No. 4, Council President to Serve as Presiding Officer, subdivision b, shall be revised as follows:

b. It shall be the duty of the Presiding Officer:

1. To open all meetings of the Council at the appointed hour by taking the chair and calling the Council to order.
2. To call for the approval of the minutes.
3. To maintain order and proper decorum.

4. To announce the business before the Council in the order prescribed by these rules.
5. To receive and submit all matters properly brought before the Council, to call for votes upon the same, and to announce the results.
6. To make known all Rules of Procedure when so requested, and to decide all questions of order and procedure; all rulings of the Presiding Officer are subject to an appeal of the Council, and may be overruled by majority vote.
7. To preside at all closed sessions of the Council.
8. To perform such other duties as may be required by law or as may pertain to such office.
9. To provide for health and safety measures at public meetings during times of declared viral emergency; such rules may consist of, but shall not be limited to:
 - (a) All City public meetings, including but not limited to Planning Commission and Council meetings, shall be conducted electronically (web and telephone). The City Information Services Department shall coordinate with the City Clerk and fully implement all feasible measures to allow for remote participation for City officials and the public.
 - (b) The Council chambers shall be closed. All City officials and employees may participate electronically.

(c) The Presiding Officer may provide any further direction before or during the meeting to minimize health and safety risks and accommodate participation.

(d) Public comment shall be limited to three minutes per person, subject to reduction as set forth in Rule 10, and City officials are encouraged to be brief and speak no more than once per topic, except Charter officials. To facilitate electronic access, no person shall speak until recognized by the Presiding Officer.

10. **[To call the Council to recess as needed in the Presiding Officer's determination, and to state the length of time of the recess. Presiding Officer may be overruled by a majority of Councilmembers present.]**

2. Effective September 25, 2025, Rule No. 14, Motions, subdivision d, shall be revised as follows:

d. The following common procedural motions shall be handled as follows:

1. Motion to adjourn. This motion, if passed, requires the Council to immediately adjourn to its next regularly scheduled meeting. It is not subject to debate and requires a majority vote. It is the highest priority motion.
2. **[Reserved.]** ~~Motion to recess. This motion, if passed, requires the Council to immediately recess. The Presiding Officer determines the length of the recess. It is not subject to debate and requires a majority vote.~~

3. Motion to fix the time to adjourn. This motion, if passed, requires the Council to adjourn the meeting at a specific time set in the motion. It is not subject to debate and requires a majority vote.
4. Motion to table. This motion, if passed, requires the discussion of the agenda item to be halted and the agenda item placed on hold. The motion can contain a specific time in which the item can come back to Council. If the motion does not contain a specific time for the return of the item, a motion to take the item off the table will have to be taken at a future meeting to bring it back to the Council. A motion to table or to bring it back to the Council requires a simple majority vote.
5. Motion to continue. This motion, if passed, requires the item to be withdrawn from the Agenda at that time and postponed either indefinitely or to a certain time and/or date, or to a time later in that meeting, as stated in the motion. A motion to continue is debatable and requires a simple majority vote.
6. "Friendly Amendment." This is a "request," rather than a formal motion. The speaker asks whether the maker of the main motion would agree to amend the motion, as suggested. If agreed, and if the member providing the second also agrees, or another second is offered, then the main motion is replaced with the amended motion. If an offer for a "friendly amendment" is rejected, then a formal motion to amend may be made.

3. The Council Rules shall be adopted as revised and attached as Exhibit A. The procedures are in addition to, and not in place of, applicable ordinances and statutes. In the event of conflict between any part of this resolution and applicable ordinances and statutes, the latter shall govern.

4. The changes above shall also be included in the Council Rules of Procedure to become effective January 1, 2026, adopted by Council on December 12, 2024.

5. This resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

* * * * *

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF FRESNO) ss.
CITY OF FRESNO)

I, TODD STERMER, City Clerk of the City of Fresno, certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Council of the City of Fresno, at a regular meeting held on the _____ day of _____ 2025.

AYES :
NOES :
ABSENT :
ABSTAIN :

TODD STERMER, MMC
City Clerk

By: _____ Date
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
ANDREW JANZ
City Attorney

By: _____ Date
Amanda B. Freeman
Special Assistant City Attorney

Attachment: Exhibit A