

Oak Harbor City Council Special Meeting
June 7, 2012
City Council Chambers
6:00 p.m.

IN ATTENDANCE

Mayor Scott Dudley
Six members of the City Council,
Danny Paggao, Mayor ProTem
Rick Almberg
James Campbell
Tara Hizon
Joel Servatius
Bob Severns

Staff:
Project Specialist Larry Cort
Interim City Attorney Grant Weed
Public Works Director Cathy Rosen
Police Chief Rick Wallace
Fire Chief Ray Merrill
Executive Assistant Renee Recker

Councilmember Munns was unable to attend.

Mayor Dudley called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Mayor Dudley advised Council and members of the audience there are three agenda items continued from April 17, 2012 before Council as follows:

1. Parliamentary Procedure and Rules
(Parliamentary Procedure was covered during City Council's May 30, 2012 Workshop with Ann Macfarlane). Items remaining from this agenda bill include:
 - A. Meeting Start and Ending Times
 - B. Public Comment Period
 - C. Deletion of Standing Committee Reports since they are video-taped.
2. City Council Voting Method
3. City Council Meeting Rule banning the wearing of Hats in the Council Chambers.

Mayor Dudley opened the meeting for public comment.

Billie Cook, Ed Johnson, Richard Everett, Kristie Jensen and Mel Vance addressed Council.

There being no further comment, the comment period was closed.

Councilmember Campbell made note of an email message that was left by Councilmember Munns regarding the topic items. He referenced the Council's Administration and Personnel Rules, Rule 4 which in part states "*No Councilmember may participate by electronic means.*" He suggested the message not be discussed.

Council discussion followed regarding the Rule.

MOTION: A motion was made by Councilmember Hizon to suspend Rule 4 and allow Councilmember Munns' email to be considered. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Servatius. The motion carried 5:1. Councilmember Campbell opposed.

Mayor Dudley asked Councilmember Alberg to address his April 3, 2012 motions.

Councilmember Alberg noted the May 30, 2012 workshop regarding Parliamentary Procedures and that portion of his original motion had been covered. He reviewed the intent of his motion regarding meeting start and ending times.

MOTION: Councilmember Alberg reiterated his original motion to begin City Council meetings at 6:00 p.m. and set a mandatory stop time of 9:00 p.m. unless extended by the majority vote of the Council. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Servatius. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Alberg reviewed the intent of his motion regarding the deletion of Standing Committee Reports from the Councilmember's comments at the end of each regular meeting.

MOTION: Councilmember Alberg reiterated his original motion to delete the Council's Standing Committee reports. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hizon. The motion carried unanimously.

With regard to public comment, Councilmember Alberg noted his original motion was to schedule the public comment period at the end of Council meeting.

MOTION: Councilmember Alberg made a motion to maintain the public comment period at the beginning of the meeting in accordance with Council Rule No. 6 and to request the Mayor to enforce the three minute per speaker portion of the rule. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Servatius.

Discussion followed regarding the need to enforce the rule as written, the possibility of amending the rule to extend the total time to 30 minutes instead of 15 and the possibility of suspending the rule, if needed, to allow for additional comments due to the number of people in the audience. Councilmember Munns' comments were included in the discussion.

The motion carried 5:1. Councilmember Campbell abstained.

MOTION: Councilmember Hizon made a motion to direct staff to bring back no later than August, what the Council rules would like based upon the recommendations made by Professional Parliamentarian, Ann Macfarlane, at the recent Council Workshop. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Almberg and carried unanimously.

Mayor Dudley asked Councilmember Servatius to address his April 3, 2012 motions.

Councilmember Servatius reviewed the intent of his motion regarding the show of hands in addition to a verbal vote.

MOTION: Councilmember Servatius reiterated his motion to amend the Council's voting rule (Rule No. 17) to include a show of hands with each vote. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hizon and carried unanimously.

Councilmember Servatius reviewed the intent of his motion regarding a policy or procedure to ban the wearing of hats in Council Chambers out of respect for the City, Mayor, and Council.

MOTION: Councilmember Servatius reiterated his motion to amend the Administrative and Policy Rules to include a policy to ban the wearing of hats in the City Council Chambers. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Almberg.

Discussion followed regarding respect, free speech, common courtesy, possible safety concerns and the need to remind members of the public Council meetings are a formal setting in which to conduct the City's business.

Councilmember Campbell called for the question.

Further discussion was held regarding personnel expression, court rulings on similar subjects, headwear as an expression of religious belief and enforcement of the ban if passed.

The motion failed on a 2:4 vote (Councilmembers Servatius and Almberg voted yes, Councilmembers Hizon, Campbell, Severns and Paggao voted no).

MOTION: Councilmember Almberg made a motion that it be a Council rule that all persons other than those expressing religious freedom remove their hats during Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Servatius.

Councilmember Hizon amended the motion to simply ask the Mayor to ask audience members to remove their hats during the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Dudley advised Councilmember Hizon she didn't have to make a motion as she is just asking the Mayor to do something.

Councilmember Servatius asked to withdraw his second and stated he is thankful to have had the discussion.

MOTION: Councilmember Servatius made a motion to withdraw his second, which was seconded by Councilmember Hizon and carried unanimously.

The original motion died due to lack of a second.

MOTION: Councilmember Hizon made a motion to direct Mayor Dudley to use the Round Robin method of discussion for Council meetings. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Almberg.

Councilmember Hizon distributed handouts regarding round robin discussion and public comment sessions that were previously provided to the Council by Parliamentarian Ann Macfarlane at the recent City Council Workshop. She noted in round robin, each member of the body is given an opportunity to speak once before anyone may speak a second time.

Discussion followed regarding the need for additional review of the method before voting on the item.

The motion tied 3:3 (Councilmembers Servatius, Almberg and Hizon voted in favor of the motion. Councilmembers Campbell, Paggao and Severns voted no).

As the vote was tied, Mayor Dudley noted it has been his observation Council meetings are longer if each Councilmember feels compelled to make a comment so he looks for hands to expedite the meeting.

Mayor Dudley voted no on the motion. The motion failed.

Upon motion of Councilmember Hizon and second by Councilmember Campbell the meeting was adjourned at 7:40.



Karen Crouch, Executive Assistant