



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

February 10, 2009

Ordinance 16362

Proposed No. 2009-0085.2

Sponsors Constantine

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to council rules; and amending
2 Ordinance 11683, Section 2, as amended, and K.C.C.
3 1.24.015, Ordinance 11683, Section 4, as amended, and
4 K.C.C. 1.24.035, Ordinance 11683, Section 5, as amended,
5 and K.C.C. 1.24.045, Ordinance 11683, Section 6, as
6 amended, and K.C.C. 1.24.055, Ordinance 11683, Section
7 16, as amended, and K.C.C. 1.24.155 and Ordinance
8 11683, Section 31, as amended, and K.C.C. 1.24.305
9 adding a new section to K.C.C. chapter 1.24, and declaring
10 an emergency.

11

12 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

13 SECTION 1. Finding: The council finds that because it is reorganizing its
14 committees effective today, including eliminating some committees and establishing new
15 committees, this ordinance must be effective immediately to ensure that the regular
16 meeting times of the council and its committees are enacted and effective
17 contemporaneously with the reorganization of the council.

18 SECTION 2. Ordinance 11683, Section 2, as amended, and K.C.C. 1.24.015 are
19 each hereby amended to read as follows:

20 The chair of the council has the following powers and duties:

21 A. The chair shall:

22 1. Call the council to order at the hour appointed for meeting and, if a quorum is
23 present, shall cause the minutes of the previous meeting to be approved;

24 2. Proceed with the order of business; and

25 3. Adjourn the council upon a motion to adjourn approved by a majority of
26 members present;

27 B. The chair shall preserve order and decorum and in the interest of efficiency may
28 impose time and subject matter limits for testimony and comment given by the public and
29 members of the council;

30 C. The chair shall promote efficient operation of the council, which shall include
31 setting the agenda and expediting parliamentary debate or, if there is no objection from any
32 other member, expediting the passage of routine motions. The chair's act of adding to,
33 removing from or taking out of order an item on a distributed and posted agenda may be
34 appealed to the full body by any two members under Rule 5.~~(C)~~D, K.C.C.

35 1.24.045.~~(C)~~D. The chair shall discourage activities that are dilatory or disruptive. The
36 chair shall endeavor to facilitate the will of the majority of members present at all times;

37 D. The chair may speak to points of order, inquiry or information in preference to
38 other members. Upon a ruling of the chair on a point of order, the chair shall allow any
39 two members to immediately request that the decision be placed before the body. If a
40 majority of members present agree to the ruling of the chair, the business of the council

41 must proceed without further debate. If a majority of the members present do not support
42 the ruling of the chair, the chair shall immediately allow a procedural motion to dispense
43 with the issue in question, proceeding until a decision of the council is secured and the
44 business of the council is allowed to proceed;

45 E. The chair shall refer legislation to committees unless there is an objection to a
46 referral. If there is an objection by a member, the chair's referral will stand unless a
47 majority of the members present vote to support the objection. If the objection is sustained,
48 the chair shall refer the legislation to another committee, unless there is an objection to the
49 referral.

50 F. Any motion that proposes to censure a councilmember for violating the council's
51 antiharassment policy shall be referred to the employment and administration committee;

52 G. The chair shall introduce all legislation relating to land use appeals, road
53 vacations, plat applications, current use assessments and other similar land use decisions.
54 If recommended by action of the employment and administration committee, the chair shall
55 introduce any motion that proposes to censure a councilmember for violating the council's
56 antiharassment policy, unless the chair is the subject of the motion; and

57 H. The chair shall provide copies to all councilmembers of all official
58 communications and requests for council action addressed to the chair from the executive,
59 the sheriff, the assessor, the presiding judge of the district or superior court or the
60 prosecuting attorney.

61 SECTION 3. There is hereby added to K.C.C. chapter 1.24 a new section to read
62 as follows:

63 In the event of the inability of the council chair to serve in that capacity, the
64 following order of succession shall be observed:

65 A. Vice chair of policy;

66 B. Vice chair of administration and finance;

67 C. Remaining councilmembers in order of their seniority of service cumulatively
68 in county elective office and state legislative office.

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

71 A.1.a. The time of regular meetings of the council is 11:00 a.m. on Monday of each
72 week, or Tuesday if Monday is a state or county holiday or is a legislative branch furlough
73 day due to a county emergency budget crisis, unless otherwise ordered by the chair or a
74 majority of the council.

75 b. Each Wednesday from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. shall be reserved for special
76 standing committee meetings and each fourth and fifth Wednesday of each month from
77 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. shall be reserved for special regional committee meetings as needed.

78 In order to allow each member sufficient time to review legislation and to meet with
79 constituents, staff and officials of other jurisdictions, no special committee meeting may be
80 called for any other time without the prior written consent of the council chair or the
81 consent of a majority of the members of the committee. If a special meeting for more than
82 one committee is called for the same time and location, the meeting for which the agenda
83 was first filed with the council clerk shall have precedence for use of the meeting location.

84 2.a. All regular meetings of the King County council and the council's
85 committees, except for the employment and administration committee, shall be held in the

86 council chambers on the tenth floor of the King County Courthouse in Seattle, Washington.
87 All regular meetings of the employment and administration committee shall be held in the
88 southwest conference room on the twelfth floor of the King County Courthouse in Seattle,
89 Washington.

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

96 B. The times for regular committee meetings are as follows, unless the council ((~~or~~
97 ~~the committee of the whole~~)) is meeting at that time because the preceding Monday was a
98 state or county holiday:

99 1. Committee of the whole: Wednesday of each week at 9:30 a.m.;

100 2. Budget and fiscal management committee: the first and third Tuesdays of each
101 month at 1:30 p.m.;

102 3. Employment and administration committee: the first and third Mondays of
103 each month at 9:30 a.m.;

104 4. Government accountability and oversight committee: the first and third
105 Tuesdays of each month at 9:30 a, m.;

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

108 6. Physical environment committee: the second and fourth, and fifth if one
109 occurs, Tuesdays of each month at 9:30 a.m.;

110 7. Regional policy committee: the second Wednesday of each month at 3:00
111 p.m.;

112 8. Regional transit committee: the third Wednesday of each month at 3:00 p.m.;

113 and

114 9. Regional water quality committee: the first Wednesday of each month at 3:00
115 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

130 SECTION 5. Ordinance 11683, Section 5, as amended, and K.C.C. 1.24.045 are
131 each hereby amended to read as follows:

132 A. Council business must be disposed of in the following order, or in an order the
133 chair deems appropriate, subject to appeal as provided in Rule 5.~~((C))~~D, K.C.C.

134 1.24.045.~~((C))~~D:

135 1. Roll call;

136 2. Flag salute and Pledge of Allegiance, the leading of which must be offered by a
137 member of the council and which must rotate among all members of the council;

138 3. Approval of minutes;

139 4. Additions to the council agenda;

140 5. Special items;

141 ~~((5-))~~ 6. Reports from members serving on special and outside committees;

142 ~~((6-))~~ 7. Plat tracings;

143 ~~((7-))~~ Hearings and second reading of ordinances from standing committees and
144 regional committees;

145 ~~8.~~ First reading of and action on emergency ordinances without referral to
146 committee;

147 ~~9.~~ Motions, from standing committees and regional committees, for council
148 action;

149 ~~10.~~ First reading of and action on motions without referral to committee;

150 ~~11.~~ Consent agenda on reappointments to boards and commissions;

151 ~~12.~~ Consent agenda on reports and recommended actions from employment and
152 administration committee;

- 153 ~~13. Other reports and recommended actions from the employment and~~
154 ~~administration committee;~~
- 155 ~~14. Consent agenda on hearing examiner recommendations;~~
- 156 ~~15.)) 8. Motions, from standing committees and regional committees, for council~~
157 ~~action;~~
- 158 9. First reading of and action on motions without referral to committee;
- 159 10. Consent agenda on reappointments to boards and commissions;
- 160 11. Consent agenda on reports and recommended actions from the employment
161 and administration committee;
- 162 12. Other reports and recommended actions from the employment and
163 administration committee;
- 164 13. Consent agenda on hearing examiner recommendations;
- 165 14. First reading and referral of ordinances;
- 166 ~~((16.))~~ 15. First reading and referral of motions;
- 167 16. Recess;
- 168 17. Hearings and second reading of ordinances from standing committees and
169 regional committees;
- 170 18. First reading of and action on emergency ordinances without referral to
171 committee;
- 172 ~~((17.))~~ 19. Extra items;
- 173 ~~((18.))~~ 20. Messages from the county executive and other county officials, the
174 judiciary, the regional committees and other agencies;
- 175 ~~((19.))~~ 21. Other business; and

176 ((20.)) 22. Adjournment.

177 B. Required public hearings and second readings of ordinances on the council's
178 agenda shall begin at 1:30 p.m., unless notice of a different hearing time has been given;

179 C. Legislation or other items for placement on the council meeting agenda must be
180 submitted to the clerk of the council by 10:00 a.m. Thursday of the week before the next
181 scheduled meeting, except that:

182 1. If directed by the chair, the clerk may place an item on the council agenda with
183 a note that the item is contingent on being voted out of committee before the council
184 meeting;

185 ~~((2. Legislation or other items for referral to committee may be added at~~
186 ~~committee of the whole or regularly scheduled council meetings at the discretion of the~~
187 ~~chair of the council;)) and~~

188 ((3.)) 2. Legislation or other items needing action by the full council may be
189 added at the discretion of the chair of the council at ~~((committee of the whole or))~~ a
190 regularly scheduled council meeting((s)). The chair shall apply the following criteria for
191 the additions:

192 a. the legislation is particularly time-sensitive and delay in action either:

193 (1) might impair the effectiveness of the county's responses to emergencies
194 such as natural or human-made disasters, or other circumstances seriously affecting the
195 public health, safety or welfare or the support of county government and its existing public
196 institutions; or

197 (2) might impair timely performance under deadlines of a statute, ordinance,
198 contract, interlocal agreement, real property instrument or other provision requiring
199 immediate action;

200 b. legislation should be delivered to ~~(the chair and the)~~ clerk before the
201 beginning of the ~~((committee of the whole))~~ council meeting. ~~((An))~~ The original ~~((and~~
202 ~~twenty copies))~~ should be provided to the clerk, together with an introduction slip from the
203 sponsor; and

204 c. the sponsor should provide a brief written description to the chair of the reason
205 for the need to expedite the legislation without regular committee review.

206 ~~((C.))~~ D. The chair shall notify the members present of proposed changes to the
207 agenda. If two members object to a change, a majority of the members present shall decide
208 whether to change the agenda.

209 SECTION 6. Ordinance 11683, Section 6, as amended, and K.C.C. 1.24.055 are
210 each hereby amended to read as follows:

211 The standing committees shall operate as follows:

212 A. A majority of a committee constitutes a quorum except for a committee with an
213 even number of members, in which case one half of the committee constitutes a quorum. A
214 committee is considered to have a quorum present unless the question is raised by a
215 member of the committee. If a member objects to proceeding because of the lack of a
216 quorum, the committee may not conduct official business, except to conduct a hearing.
217 The appointment or use of alternate members is not allowed for a standing committee.

218 B. During its consideration of a vote on legislation, the deliberations of a
219 committee must be open to the public.

220 C. A vote to report legislation out of committee must be taken by the "ayes" and
221 "nos," with the committee clerk recording the names of the members voting for and against,
222 as well as the names of the members absent. On any matter, including but not limited to an
223 amendment, a vote must be taken by oral roll call if requested by a member of the
224 committee. A standing committee may not vote by secret ballot on an issue. Except for a
225 regional committee, legislation may be reported out of committee by less than a quorum of
226 the committee, subject to signature by a majority of the members of the committee, unless a
227 member present requests a vote on the recommendation by a quorum of the committee. If a
228 member so requests, the legislation may not be reported out of the committee at that
229 meeting without an affirmative vote by a majority of the quorum of the committee. The
230 committee's recommendation on legislation reported out of committee subject to signature
231 by a majority of the members of the committee is not effective unless signed by a majority
232 of the committee and delivered to the clerk by the close of the second business day after the
233 committee action. A vote in a committee must be recorded and the vote must be preserved
234 as prescribed by the clerk of the council.

235 D. ~~((With the exception of legislation referred to committee of the whole,~~
236 ~~l))~~ Legislation reported to the council from a standing committee must have a majority
237 recommendation report, which must be prepared upon a printed standing committee report
238 form and must be signed by a majority of the committee with one of the following
239 recommendations:

- 240 1. Do pass;
- 241 2. Do pass -- consent;
- 242 3. Do pass substitute;

243 4. Do pass substitute -- consent;

244 5. Do not pass;

245 6. Postpone indefinitely;

246 7. Pass out of committee with no recommendation; or

247 8. Refer to another committee.

248 E. The rules and procedures contained in this chapter must be observed, when
249 applicable, in all proceedings of a standing or special committee of the council.

250 F. The chair of the committee shall set the agenda for the committee, including
251 whether and when to include on a specific agenda for action proposed legislation referred
252 to the committee by the council chair. A change to the last distributed and posted agenda
253 made at a meeting must be announced by the chair and is subject to appeal to the full
254 committee present by any two members of the committee. A majority of the members
255 present shall decide an appeal under this subsection.

256 G. Notice of a special meeting must be made in compliance with the Open Public
257 Meetings Act of 1971, chapter 42.30 RCW. The committee chair may call up to six special
258 meetings per calendar year. An additional special meeting may be called only upon the
259 request of the chair and the written consent of either the vice-chair of the committee or the
260 chair of the council before the meeting. A special meeting may be called only when:

261 1. There is time-sensitive legislation or information that cannot be presented and
262 considered in the ordinary committee meeting schedule;

263 2. A joint meeting of two or more committees is necessary to consider a matter; or

264 3. An unusual and extreme workload of a committee does not allow its full
265 consideration during the ordinary committee meeting schedule.

266 H. A committee may not recess a meeting for longer than eight hours unless
267 consent is given consistent with Rule 6.G, K.C.C. 1.24.055.G. Such a recess constitutes a
268 special meeting solely for the purpose of counting the six discretionary special meetings
269 provided for in this rule. If recess is until the next day but less than twenty-four hours, then
270 the maximum possible notice must be given. If recess is for greater than twenty-four hours,
271 then at least twenty-four hours' notice must be given.

272 SECTION 7. Ordinance 11683, Section 16, as amended, and K.C.C. 1.24.155 are
273 each hereby amended to read as follows:

274 A member may offer amendments to proposed legislation for consideration by the
275 council or a standing committee, in accordance with the following:

276 A. The clerk of the council shall establish the proper form for an amendment.

277 Except as provided in subsection F of this rule, an amendment must:

278 1. Be in writing;

279 2. Bear the ~~((name))~~ signature of the member who offers it as well as the page and
280 line number of the proposed legislation to be amended; and

281 3. Be distributed to each member at the time the legislation is before the council
282 or standing committee.

283 B. As a courtesy to the clerk, amendments should be filed one-half hour before the
284 beginning of the county meeting.

285 C. An amendment to proposed legislation may not change the scope and object of
286 the proposed legislation. An amendment must be germane and must embrace the single
287 subject contained within the proposed legislation.

288 ~~((C.))~~ D.1. For the purposes of this subsection ~~((C.))~~ D:

289 a. "line amendment" means an amendment that either adds or deletes, or both,
290 material in a specified portion of legislation. A "specified portion of legislation" includes
291 either or both the legislation's body and any substantive attachment incorporated as part of
292 the legislation; and

293 b. "striking amendment" means an amendment that deletes the entire text of
294 legislation and inserts new language.

295 2. Striking amendments should be considered before any line amendments. If a
296 striking amendment is moved, all line amendments to the striking amendment, including
297 amendments to the attachment, must be approved or rejected before the striking
298 amendment is approved or rejected.

299 3. Line amendments should be considered section by section with perfecting
300 amendments considered first.

301 4. Only one amendment and one amendment to the amendment are permitted at a
302 time, but any number of each may be offered in succession if a question already decided is
303 not raised again.

304 5. Title amendments must be considered after the amendments to the proposed
305 legislation.

306 ~~(D:)~~ E.1. Substitute legislation may only come before the council after
307 consideration by a standing committee. A member may demand a vote on the question of
308 whether the committee substitute is to be substituted for the original proposed legislation.
309 A substitute ordinance must be within the scope and object of the original proposed
310 ordinance.

311 2. A member may offer proposed substitute legislation for a standing committee's
312 consideration, but a member may demand a vote on the question of whether the standing
313 committee is to consider the original legislation rather than the proposed substitute
314 legislation. A proposed substitute ordinance must be within the scope and object of the
315 original proposed ordinance.

316 ~~((E.))~~ F. In accordance with Rule 14.A, K.C.C. 1.24.135.A, proposed legislation on
317 the consent agenda is not subject to amendment except as recommended in the committee
318 report.

319 ~~((F.))~~ G. To promote efficiency, the council chair, or the chair of a standing
320 committee at the committee's meeting, may accept for consideration an oral amendment
321 that is easily understood.

322 SECTION 8. Ordinance 11683, Section 31, as amended, and K.C.C. 1.24.305 are
323 each hereby amended to read as follows:

324 An official document issued by order of the council must be signed by the chair or in
325 his or her absence the vice-chairs as provided in Rule 3, K.C.C. 1.24.025, and attested by
326 the clerk of the council or acting clerk of the council, except as otherwise provided by the
327 King County Charter.

328 SECTION 9. The county council finds as a fact and declares that an emergency
329

330 exists and that this ordinance is necessary for the support of county government and its
331 existing public institutions.

332

Ordinance 16362 was introduced on 2/2/2009 and passed as amended by the
Metropolitan King County Council on 2/9/2009, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Mr. Constantine, Mr. Ferguson, Ms. Hague, Ms. Lambert, Mr. von
Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Mr. Phillips and Ms. Patterson

No: 0

Excused: 1 - Mr. Dunn

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Dow Constantine, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments None