

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE:	Resolution No. 296 Amending the Council Rules of Procedure
DEPARTMENT:	City Attorney/CMO/City Clerk
PRESENTED BY:	Bob Olander, City Manager

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT

At its dinner meeting of February 8, 2010, the City Council reviewed Council rules and procedures for public meetings conducted by the Council. Rule 7.16 states that if a member of the Council abstains or is silent on a vote, it shall be recorded as a neutral vote. This rule departs from Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (RONR) and can cause confusion during Council meetings. Staff proposes that Rule 7.16 be amended to better align with the principle of unanimous consent.

If a member wishes not to vote on a motion, they should voice an abstention following the dissenting vote, which will not be counted in the vote tally. The changes outlined in Resolution No. 296 (Attachment A) would clarify that silence on a vote shall be recorded as an affirmative vote.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Council adopt Resolution No. 296, amending Rule 7.16 of the Council Rules of Procedure.

Approved By: City Manager  City Attorney ____

ATTACHMENT A: Resolution No. 296

RESOLUTION NO. 296

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON, AMENDING COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE TO MAKE SILENCE AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE; AND AMENDING RULE 7.16.

WHEREAS, the City Council at its meeting of February 8, 2010 reviewed Council rules and procedures, including the presumption given to silence of a Councilmember on a Council vote; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that counting silence as an affirmative vote, while preserving the right to abstain, will allow expedited proceedings by allowing the Mayor to find consensus without a formal vote on routine actions; and

WHEREAS, amending rule 7.16 to count silence as an affirmative vote is consistent with Roberts Rules of Order; now therefore

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON, HEREBY RESOLVES:

That the Shoreline City Council Rules of Procedure Rule 7.16 is hereby amended as follows:

7.16 If a member of the Council ~~abstains or~~ is silent on a vote, it shall be recorded as an neutral affirmative vote. If a member of the Council abstains, it shall be recorded as an abstention and not included in the vote tally.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON FEBRUARY 22, 2010.

Keith A. McGlashan, Mayor

ATTEST:

Scott Passey, City Clerk