



Adopted: June 19th, 2018

**CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER, MARYLAND
RESOLUTION NO. 04-2018**

**Updating the Council Rules and Procedures to include a
Legislative Transparency Agreement**

Summary--This amendment to the Mount Rainier Council Rules of Procedure creates a new rule that allows constituents an opportunity to be aware of significant last-minute changes to legislation or Mayor and Council decisions that will have a significant impact on City operations, thereby allowing them the opportunity to provide comment(s) before a final vote is taken.

Whereas, the City Charter permits the Mayor and Council to make changes to legislation moments prior to a final vote on a proposal;

Whereas, the Mayor and Council from time to time have made significant changes to legislation moments prior to a final vote on the proposal;

Whereas, the Mayor and Council desire to inform constituents of proposed changes to legislation;

Whereas, constituents have the right to be informed and provide comment on proposed legislative changes;

Whereas, this legislation removes the element of surprise that can be upsetting to members of the council, city staff, and taxpayers;

Whereas, this rule can only be suspended by a supermajority vote (four votes) of Mayor and Council when a deadline must be met, or there is an emergency need that requires an immediate change and vote at the same meeting;

Whereas, Title IV of the Mount Rainier Council Rules and Procedures requires a resolution with two readings in order to amend the rules;

Therefore, be it resolved that the "Legislative Transparency Agreement" be added to the "Mount Rainier Council Rules and Procedures" as last amended and adopted Oct. 3, 2017, as Section XI.N.

N. Legislative Transparency Agreement

(1) The fiscal year budget shall not be adopted at a meeting where it is revised by a total of \$20,000 by way of transfer between line items, departments, reserves, or changes in staffing levels. If such changes are made to the proposed budget, a final vote cannot occur within the following two weeks. The public must be notified of the proposed changes and allowed the opportunity to weigh in on the proposed changes.

(2) The tax rate cannot be changed at the same meeting where it will be voted on. This rule can be suspended by a supermajority vote of the Mayor and Council. In cases where a supermajority

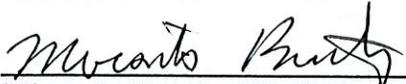
suspends the rule, the public shall be notified of the changes, a detailed explanation of the amendments must be published in the next City newsletter, and the various City media within 24 hours of the action taken

(3) No ordinance shall be adopted at a meeting where its language is revised beyond typographical errors. If a change is made to the proposed ordinance language, a final vote cannot occur within the following two weeks, and the public must be notified of the proposed changes. This rule can be suspended by a supermajority vote of the Mayor and Council. However, in the case where a supermajority suspends the rule, in order to inform the public of the changes, a detailed explanation of the amendments must be published in the next city newsletter and publicized on social media the following day.

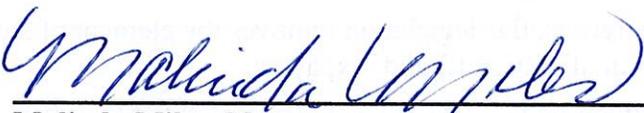
(4) No charter amendment shall be adopted at a meeting where its language is revised beyond typographical errors. If a change is made to the proposed charter amendment, a final vote cannot occur within the following seven days, and the public must be made aware of the changes. This rule can be suspended by a supermajority vote of the Mayor and Council during the public meeting. If such a suspension occurs, a typed version of the document with the proposed changes must be printed and distributed to the Mayor and Council, and audience prior to the final vote being taken.

THIS RESOLUTION IS ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER THIS 19th DAY OF June , 2018.

Attest:

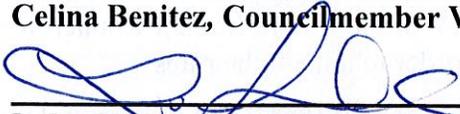


Miranda Braatz, City Manager

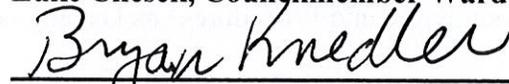


Malinda Miles, Mayor

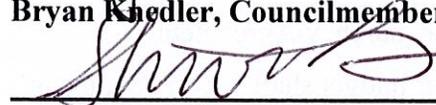
Celina Benitez, Councilmember Ward 1



Luke Chesek, Councilmember Ward 1



Bryan Knedler, Councilmember Ward 2



Shivali Shah, Councilmember Ward 2