Background

- First edition by Henry Martyn Robert in 1876
- Guide for meetings of deliberative assemblies
- Puts basic rules in place to standardize meetings
- Standing Orders Vs. Roberts Rules
All business for Council must be brought up in the form of a motion:

- Member must obtain the floor before moving a motion
- Motions must be moved and seconded
- Once stated by Speaker, the motion cannot be withdrawn without unanimous consent
- Late Additions
- Moving a motion from the floor
General Information

- **Debate**
  - Limited to two speaking turns per member, 6 minutes each
    - The time cannot be transferred to another member or to the member’s second speaking turn
  - First speaking turn gets preference over second
  - Speaker try to alternate between debate for and against motion
  - Directed through the Speaker
  - Avoid:
    - Addressing members by name
    - Attacking motives of members
    - Comments that are not germane
General Information

• Voting
  – Typically done by show of hands
    • Exception for nominations or call for division
  – Member can change their vote until results are announced

• Good idea to abstain on matters of direct personal interest
  – May request to have abstention noted
  – Review Bylaw 100(19)

• Straw polls are not in order
Council Format

- Speaker’s Business
  - Attendance
  - Announcements, etc.

- Presentations
  - Written in Standing Orders
  - Restricted to 30 minutes including questions

- Executive and Committee reports
  - Limited to 2 minutes per report.
Council Format

• Question Period
  – 15 minutes
  – May be extended once if at least 5 members wish
  – May be extended again by 2/3 majority vote
  – Written questions take priority (and will get better answers!)

• Board and Committee business

• General Orders
Motions - Amend

- “modify the wording of a pending motion before the pending motion itself is acted upon”
- Can only have two layers (no amendment to an amendment of an amendment)
- Must be germane
- “friendly” if unanimous consent
Motions – Postpone Indefinitely

• “is a motion that the assembly decline to take a position on the main question”
• Disposes of a badly chosen main motion
• Can’t be amended
Motions – Call to question

- Ends debate and brings about a vote
- Can’t be debated or amended
- Needs a 2/3 vote to pass
Motions – Suspend the rules

-Suspends a portion of standing orders
-Need 2/3 majority
-Non-debatable or amendable
Motions – Division of a Motion

- Splits the main motion into a set of smaller motions
- Opposite of omnibus
- Non-debatable, but amendable
Motions – Division of the House

- Each member votes by saying for, against, or abstain in order
- Each vote goes on official minutes
- Happens if requested by any member
Motions – Appeal decision of Chair

- Used to reverse a ruling by the Speaker
- Debatable but non-amendable
- Requires only majority vote
Motions - Reconsider

- Reopens debate on a motion that has already been voted upon
- Can only be brought forward by someone previously on the winning side
- Can only be brought forward at the same meeting
• **Point of Order**
  – Used to correct breach of rules
  – Ruled upon by Speaker
  – Can be brought forward at any time

• **Point of Personal Privilege**
  – Used to register a complaint of a personal nature
  – Can also be used to register a complaint of privilege of the assembly as a whole
Points

• Point of Parliamentary Inquiry
  – Used to find any answers to questions not answered by the rest of the presentation

• Request for Information
  – Used to request information from a member of Council
  – Not to be used as a form of informal debate (e.g. “is the councilor aware...”)
Questions?