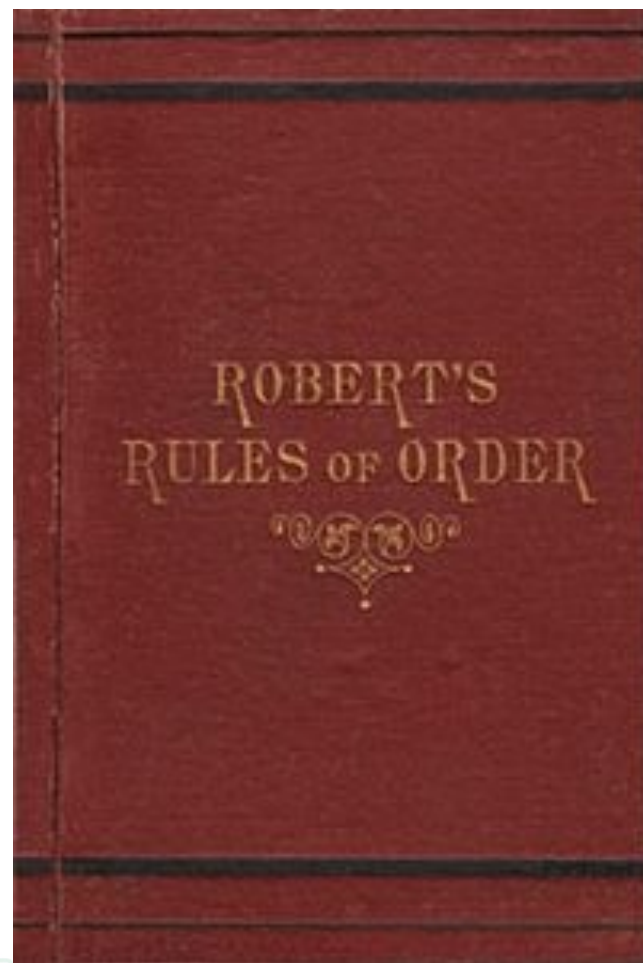


Background

- 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



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 & Open Forum
 - 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!)
 - Ask one question at a time
- Board and Committee business
- General Orders



General Information

- Debate
 - Limited to two speaking turns per member, 4 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; refer to them by position
 - Attacking motives of members
 - Comments that are not germane

General Information

- 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 - Once stated by Speaker, the motion cannot be withdrawn without unanimous consent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

- Voting
 - Done using the voting system in Council Chambers
 - Exception for nominations and 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
- Straw polls are not in order



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 – 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



Points

- 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
- Point of Order
 - Used to correct breach of rules
 - Ruled upon by Speaker
 - Can be brought forward at any time



Points

- Point of Parliamentary Inquiry
 - Used to find any answers to questions not answered by the rest of this 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...”)



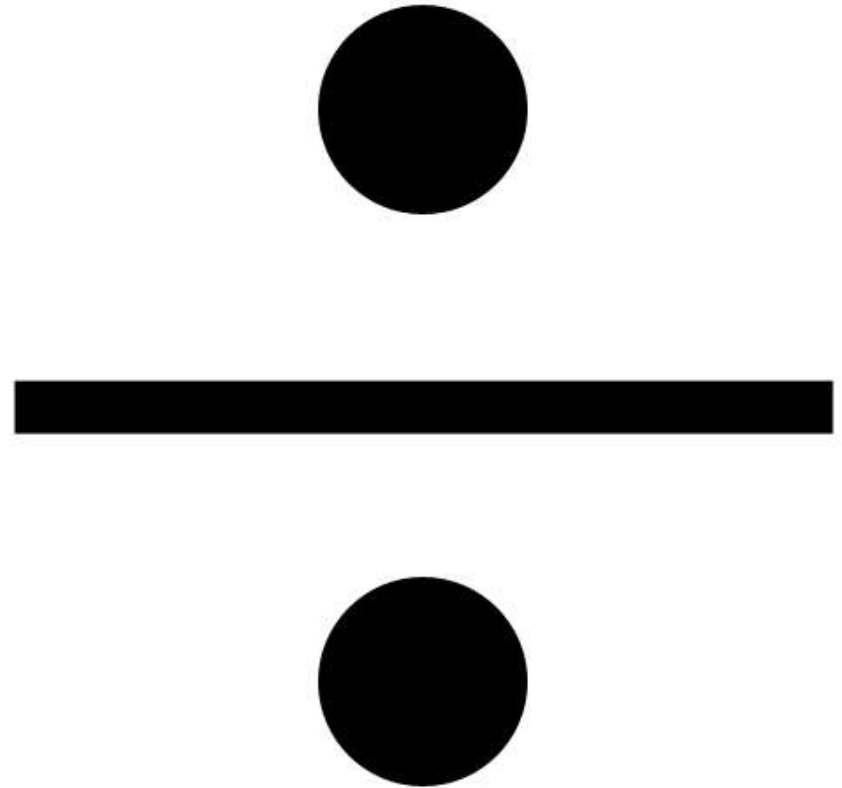
Motions – Postpone Indefinitely

- “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 – Division of a Motion

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



Motions – Call for Division



- Each member votes by saying for, against, or abstain in order
- Each vote goes on official minutes
- Happens if requested by any member



Motions – Challenge the 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





Questions?