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- Once stated by Speaker, the motion cannot be withdrawn without unanimous consent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

- Suspend a portion of standing orders
- Need 2/3 majority
- Non-debatable or non-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

What was I thinking?
Questions?