

Introduced by Council Member Carrico:

ORDINANCE 2026-589

AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE COUNCIL RULES;
AMENDING COUNCIL RULES 2.202 (ATTENDANCE;
VOTING) AND 2.210 (RULES IN COMMITTEE), PART 2
(COMMITTEE PROCEDURE), CHAPTER 2 (COMMITTEES),
COUNCIL RULES, TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL LIMITED
EXCEPTION FOR EXCUSED ABSENCES FROM STANDING
COMMITTEE MEETINGS RELATED TO OBLIGATIONS
IMPOSED BY A COUNCIL MEMBER'S NON-CITY
EMPLOYER(S); AMENDING COUNCIL RULE 4.106
(QUORUM; ABSENCES), PART 1 (MEETINGS; QUORUM),
CHAPTER 4 (PROCEDURES), *COUNCIL RULES*, TO
PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL LIMITED EXCEPTION FOR
EXCUSED ABSENCES FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS RELATED TO
OBLIGATIONS IMPOSED BY A COUNCIL MEMBER'S NON-
CITY EMPLOYER(S); PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Council recently enacted Ordinance 2026-137-
E to, in part, revise the Council Rules pertaining to Council Member
absences and attendance at standing Committee and regular City Council
meetings; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ordinance 2026-137-E, Council Rule 2.202
now provides that the Chairs of the respective standing Committees
may authorize one excused absence for each standing Committee meeting
with the limited exception that additional excused absences may be
authorized for a medical issue involving the Council Member or a
relative of the Council Member or when a Council Member is ordered
into military service pursuant to state or federal law and has

1 provided appropriate notice pursuant to the Council Rules; and

2 **WHEREAS**, Ordinance 2026-137-E also amended Council Rule 4.106
3 which now provides that the Council President is limited to allowing
4 no more than two excused absences for any regular meeting of the City
5 Council, subject to the same limited exceptions for additional excused
6 absences as outlined in Council Rule 2.202 for medical issues and
7 military service as described above; and

8 **WHEREAS**, many Council Members maintain full-time employment to
9 support their families while also serving on the City Council and
10 there are, at times, instances where a Council Member's obligations
11 to their non-City employer(s) may conflict with the business of the
12 City Council; and

13 **WHEREAS**, in light of the above, the City Council desires to
14 further revise the Council Rules to provide an additional limited
15 exception for excused absences when a Council Member has an obligation
16 to attend to matters required by their non-City employer(s) that
17 cannot be rescheduled; now therefore

18 **BE IT ORDAINED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

19 **Section 1. Amending Council Rules 2.202 (Attendance;**
20 **Voting) and 2.210 (Rules in Committee), Part 2 (Committee Procedure),**
21 **Chapter 2 (Committees), Council Rules.** Council Rules 2.202
22 (Attendance; Voting) and 2.210 (Rules in Committee), Part 2 (Committee
23 Procedure), Chapter 2 (Committees), *Council Rules*, are hereby amended
24 to read as follows:

25 **CHAPTER 2. COMMITTEES**

26 * * *

27 **PART 2. COMMITTEE PROCEDURE**

28 * * *

29 **RULE 2.202 ATTENDANCE; VOTING**

30 (a) Attendance. Each Council Member shall attend every regular
31 or special meeting of each standing, special or select committee to

1 which he/she is appointed, unless excused by the committee chair
2 following the submission of a written request from the Council Member.
3 No more than one Council Member may be excused from a regular meeting
4 of a standing committee with the exception that additional absences
5 may be authorized for instances where a Council Member has an
6 obligation to attend to matters required by his or her non-City
7 employer(s) that cannot be rescheduled or a medical reason for either
8 the Council Member or a relative of the Council Member. For the
9 purposes of this Rule, a "relative" shall be as defined in Section
10 112.3143, *Florida Statutes*. In addition, any member who is ordered
11 into military service pursuant to state or federal law, and who
12 provides notice to the Council Secretary or the Chief of Legislative
13 Services upon receiving such order, shall be excused from all meetings
14 during the period of such military service and shall not be required
15 to provide any additional notice of absence. A Council Member
16 receiving an excused absence from a standing Committee meeting to
17 attend to matters required by his or her non-City employer(s) is
18 limited to four excusals in total from standing Committee meetings
19 for this reason during a given Council year. Failure to attend three
20 regular meetings of a standing committee or three consecutive meetings
21 of a special or select committee without the approval of the committee
22 chair during a given Council year shall constitute automatic
23 withdrawal from the committee and create a vacancy which shall be
24 filled by appointment by the President. Every Council Member may
25 attend any meeting of any committee of which he/she is not a member
26 and there participate in interviewing of witnesses and offer his/her
27 comments and observations, but he/she may not vote on any question,
28 except the President or Vice President (when acting in an *ex officio*
29 capacity) as provided in Rule 2.211. At the outset of each Council
30 year, each committee chair shall announce how he/she intends to
31 address absences and excusals in accordance herewith.

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(a) All committees, and subcommittees, thereof, shall follow the following procedural rules:

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Section 2. Amending Council Rule 4.106 (Quorum; Absences), Part 1 (Meetings; Quorum), Chapter 4 (Procedures), *Council Rules*. Council Rule 4.106 (Quorum; Absences), Part 1 (Meetings; Quorum), Chapter 4 (Procedures), *Council Rules*, is hereby amended to read as follows:

PART 1. MEETINGS; QUORUM

* * *

(e) Upon receiving a written excusal request from the Council Member, the Council President is limited to allowing no more than two excused absences for any regular meeting of the Council, with the exception that additional absences may be authorized for instances where a Council Member has an obligation to attend to matters required by his or her non-City employer(s) that cannot be rescheduled, a medical reason for either the Council Member or a relative of the

1 Council Member, or when a Council Member is ordered into military
2 service pursuant to state or federal law and has provided notice to
3 the Council Secretary or the Chief of Legislative Services upon
4 receiving such order. A Council Member receiving an excused absence
5 from a regular meeting of the Council to attend to matters required
6 by his or her non-City employer(s) is limited to three excusals in
7 total for this reason during a given Council year. Any unexcused
8 absences will be announced for the record at the beginning of each
9 Council meeting. At the outset of each Council year, the Council
10 President shall announce how he/she intends to address absences and
11 excusals in accordance herewith. For the purposes of this Rule, a
12 "relative" shall be as defined in Section 112.3143, *Florida Statutes*.

13 **Section 3. Effective Date.** The enactment of this Ordinance
14 is deemed to constitute an internal affair of the City Council
15 pursuant to Section 6.05(e) of the City Charter and shall become
16 effective upon signature by the Council President and Council
17 Secretary.

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19 Form Approved:

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21 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

22 Office of General Counsel

23 Legislation Prepared By: Mary E. Staffopoulos

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