

1 Introduced by Council Member Boylan:
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4 **ORDINANCE 2026-137**

5 AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE COUNCIL RULES;
6 AMENDING COUNCIL RULES 2.202 (ATTENDANCE;
7 VOTING) AND 2.210 (RULES IN COMMITTEE), PART 2
8 (COMMITTEE PROCEDURE), CHAPTER 2 (COMMITTEES),
9 *COUNCIL RULES*, TO ADDRESS COUNCIL MEMBER
10 ATTENDANCE AND AUTHORIZED ABSENCES FOR STANDING
11 COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND THE REQUIRED QUORUM FOR
12 COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEES; AMENDING COUNCIL
13 RULE 4.106 (QUORUM), PART 1 (MEETINGS; QUORUM),
14 CHAPTER 4 (PROCEDURES), *COUNCIL RULES*, TO
15 ADDRESS COUNCIL MEMBER ATTENDANCE AND AUTHORIZED
16 ABSENCES FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS; ESTABLISHING A
17 PROSPECTIVE DATE OF JULY 1, 2026, FOR THE
18 COUNCIL RULE AMENDMENTS PROVIDED HEREIN TO
19 BECOME EFFECTIVE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
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21 **WHEREAS**, the City Council serves as the legislative body of the
22 City of Jacksonville and is responsible for making policy decisions
23 that affect and govern the way of life in the City of Jacksonville
24 and Duval County; and

25 **WHEREAS**, each Council Member is duly elected by the constituents
26 within their respective Council Districts or At-Large areas to
27 represent the unique needs and challenges affecting those
28 communities; and

29 **WHEREAS**, tantamount to a Council Member's fulfillment of his or
30 her responsibility to the electorate is ensuring their consistent and
31 meaningful presence and participation in the City's legislative

1 process; and

2 **WHEREAS**, the times and dates for Council meetings and Council
3 standing Committee meetings are known well in advance, allowing
4 Council Members more than sufficient opportunity to arrange their
5 schedules to ensure their presence at these meetings; and

6 **WHEREAS**, when multiple Council Members are absent from a City
7 Council or Council Committee meeting, this can become disruptive to
8 the legislative process, at times making it a challenge for those
9 present to ensure the business of the Council is efficiently and
10 thoroughly carried out; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the Council therefore desires to amend the Council
12 Rules to address absences and attendance at City Council and Council
13 standing Committee meetings and the quorum requirement for Council
14 standing Committee meetings; now therefore

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

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

22 **CHAPTER 2. COMMITTEES**

23 * * *

24 **PART 2. COMMITTEE PROCEDURE**

25 * * *

26 **RULE 2.202 ATTENDANCE; VOTING**

27 (a) Attendance. Each Council Member shall attend every regular
28 or special meeting of each standing, special or select committee to
29 which he/she is appointed, unless excused by the committee chair
30 following the submission of a written request from the Council Member.
31 No more than one Council Member may be excused from a regular meeting

1 of a standing committee with the exception that additional absences
2 may be authorized for a medical reason for either the Council Member
3 or a relative of the Council Member. For the purposes of this Rule,
4 a "relative" shall be as defined in Section 112.3143, Florida
5 Statutes. In addition, any ~~Any~~ member who is ordered into military
6 service pursuant to state or federal law, and who provides notice to
7 the Council Secretary or the Chief of Legislative Services upon
8 receiving such order, shall be excused from all meetings during the
9 period of such military service and shall not be required to provide
10 any additional notice of absence. Failure to attend three ~~consecutive~~
11 regular meetings of a standing committee ~~7~~ or three consecutive
12 meetings of a special or select committee without the approval of the
13 committee chair during a given Council year shall ~~excuse may, upon~~
14 ~~recommendation by the chair to the President,~~ constitute automatic
15 withdrawal from the committee and create a vacancy ~~7~~ which shall be
16 filled by appointment by the President. Every Council Member may
17 attend any meeting of any committee of which he/she is not a member
18 and there participate in interviewing of witnesses and offer his/her
19 comments and observations, but he/she may not vote on any question,
20 except the President or Vice President (when acting in an ex officio
21 capacity) as provided in Rule 2.211. At the outset of each Council
22 year, each committee chair shall announce how he/she intends to
23 address absences and excusals in accordance herewith.

24 * * *

25 **RULE 2.210 RULES IN COMMITTEE**

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

28 (1) A quorum of a standing committee shall be five members
29 and a quorum of a special or select committee or subcommittee of any
30 standing, special or select committee shall be a majority of its
31 members, except as modified by Rule 2.211; and except that following

1 the transaction of official business, a committee or subcommittee may
2 remain in session without a quorum to receive or exchange additional
3 comments from the public.

4 * * *

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

9 **CHAPTER 4. PROCEDURES**

10 **PART 1. MEETINGS; QUORUM**

11 * * *

12 **RULE 4.106 QUORUM; ABSENCES**

13 * * *

14 (e) Upon receiving a written excusal request from the Council
15 Member, the Council President is limited to allowing no more than two
16 excused absences for any regular meeting of the Council, with the
17 exception that additional absences may be authorized for a medical
18 reason for either the Council Member or a relative of the Council
19 Member or when a Council Member is ordered into military service
20 pursuant to state or federal law and has provided notice to the
21 Council Secretary or the Chief of Legislative Services upon receiving
22 such order. Any unexcused absences will be announced for the record
23 at the beginning of each Council meeting. At the outset of each
24 Council year, the Council President shall announce how he/she intends
25 to address absences and excusals in accordance herewith. For the
26 purposes of this Rule, a "relative" shall be as defined in Section
27 112.3143, Florida Statutes.

28 **Section 3. Establishing a Prospective Date of July 1, 2026,**
29 **for the Council Rule Amendments Contained in this Ordinance to Become**
30 **Effective.** The amendments to the Council Rules contained in this
31 Ordinance shall not become effective until July 1, 2026.

1 **Section 4. Effective Date.** The enactment of this Ordinance
2 is deemed to constitute an internal affair of the City Council
3 pursuant to Section 6.05(e) of the City Charter and shall become
4 effective upon signature by the Council President and Council
5 Secretary.

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7 Form Approved:

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9 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

10 Office of General Counsel

11 Legislation Prepared By: Mary E. Staffopoulos

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