Robert's and Rosenberg's Rules Comparison Table

Table A: Main Motions (These motions are listed in order of precedence from left to right. A motion can be introduced only if it is higher on the chart than the pending motion. Motions introduced out of precedence must be ruled as "Out of Order" by the chair.)

	To adjourn a meeting	To recess	To complain about noise, room temp., etc.	To resume the Orders of the Day	To suspend	To end debate	To postpone	To refer to a committee	To amend a motion	To make a motion	To approve consent calendar	To limit debate
Robert's	"I move that we adjourn" Cannot interrupt speaker Need a 2nd Not debatable Not amendable Majority vote needed	"I move that we recess until…" Cannot interrupt speaker Need a 2nd Not debatable Not amendable Majority vote needed	"Point of privilege" Can interrupt speaker Does not need a 2nd Not debatable Not amendable Chair decides	"Move to resume agenda" Can interrupt speaker Does not need a 2nd Not debatable Not amendable No votes needed	"I move that we table it" Cannot interrupt speaker Does need a 2nd Not debatable Not amendable Majority of votes needed	"I move the previous question" Cannot interrupt speaker Does need a 2nd Not debatable Not amendable Needs 2/3 vote	"I move we postpone this matter until…" Cannot interrupt speaker Does need a 2nd Is debatable Is amendable Majority of votes needed	"I move that the question be referred to a committee made up of members…" Cannot interrupt speaker Does need a 2nd Is debatable Is amendable Majority of votes needed	"I move that this motion be amended by…" Cannot interrupt speaker Does need a 2nd Is debatable Is amendable Majority of votes needed	"I move that…" Cannot interrupt speaker Does need a 2nd Is debatable Is amendable Majority of votes needed	"I move to approve items 5 through 10 of the Consent Calendar….." Cannot interrupt speaker Does need a 2nd Is debatable Is amendable Majority of votes needed	"I move we limit debate on this agenda item to 15 minutes." Cannot interrupt speaker Does need a 2nd Is not debatable Is not amendable Needs 2/3 vote
Rosenberg's	"I move that we adjourn" Cannot interrupt speaker Need a 2nd Not debatable Not amendable Majority vote needed	"I move that we recess until…" Cannot interrupt speaker Need a 2nd Not debatable Not amendable Majority vote needed	"Point of privilege" Can interrupt speaker Does not need a 2nd Not debatable Not amendable Chair decides	"Move to resume agenda" Can interrupt speaker Does not need a 2nd Not debatable Not amendable No votes needed	"I move that we table it" Cannot interrupt speaker Does need a 2nd Not debatable Not amendable Majority of votes needed	"I move the previous question" Cannot interrupt speaker Does need a 2nd Not debatable Not amendable Needs 2/3 vote	"I move we postpone this matter until…" Cannot interrupt speaker Does need a 2nd Is debatable Is amendable Majority of votes needed	"I move that the question be referred to a committee made up of members…" Cannot interrupt speaker Does need a 2nd Is debatable Is amendable Majority of votes needed	"I move that this motion be amended by…" Cannot interrupt speaker Does need a 2nd Is debatable Is amendable Majority of votes needed	"I move that…" Cannot interrupt speaker Does need a 2nd Is debatable Is amendable Majority of votes needed	Rosenberg's says nothing about a consent calendar; A supplemental rule could be added if adopting Rosenberg's."	"I move we limit debate on this agenda item to 15 minutes." Cannot interrupt speaker Does need a 2nd Is not debatable Is not amendable Needs 2/3 vote
Current Practice	Once agenda items have been completed the Mayor will adjourn without a motion. "This meeting is adjourned until…" Cannot interrupt speaker Need a 2nd Not debatable Not amendable Only Mayor's vote needed	Mayor will set a recess without a motion. "We will take a recess until …" Cannot interrupt speaker Need a 2nd Not debatable Not amendable Only Mayor's vote needed	Less formal i.e. announce or call on video dept. over microphone or inform Clerk. Can interrupt speaker Does not need a 2nd Not debatable Not amendable Chair decides	Used when the body is off topic. "Move to resume agenda" Can interrupt speaker Does not need a 2nd Not debatable Not amendable No votes needed	"I move that we table it" Cannot interrupt speaker Does need a 2nd Not debatable Not amendable Majority of votes needed	"Let's vote" Cannot interrupt speaker Does need a 2nd Not debatable Not amendable Needs 2/3 vote	"I move we postpone this matter until…" Cannot interrupt speaker Does need a 2nd Is debatable Is amendable Majority of votes needed	"I move that the question be referred to a committee made up of members…" Cannot interrupt speaker Does need a 2nd Is debatable Is amendable Majority of votes needed	"I'd like to make a friendly amendment." Must be accepted by mover and seconder. Council does this without a vote. Cannot interrupt speaker Does need a 2nd Is debatable Is amendable No vote needed for friendly amendment	Note: Only agendized items. No new business can be added by motion due to the Brown Act. "I move that…" Cannot interrupt speaker Does need a 2nd Is debatable Is amendable Majority of votes needed	"I move to approve items 5 through 10 of the Consent Calendar….." Cannot interrupt speaker Does need a 2nd Is debatable Is amendable Majority of votes needed	"I move we limit debate on this agenda item to 15 minutes." Note: Council may limit discussion on any presentation or discussion item. The Mayor generally does this without a motion (Muni Code 2.08.090 Order of Business). Cannot interrupt speaker Does need a 2nd Is not debatable Is not amendable Needs 2/3 vote

Table B: Incidental Motions (These motions have no order of precedence. They arise incidentally and are decided immediately)

	To object to procedure or personal affront	To divide the question	To request information	To ask for a physical vote	To object to consider something undiplomatic or improper	To take up matter previously tabled	To reconsider something already disposed of	To consider something out of order	To vote on a ruling by the chair
Robert's	"Point of order" Can interrupt speaker Does not need a 2nd Not debatable Not amendable Chair decides	"I move to divide the question" Cannot interrupt speaker Does need a 2nd Not debatable Is amendable Majority vote needed	"Point of information" Can interrupt speaker Does not need a 2nd Not debatable Not amendable No votes needed	"I call for the division of the house" (where you stand or move to one side of the room to vote aye. Must be done before new motion Does not need a 2nd Not debatable Not amendable No votes needed unless someone objects	"I object to the consideration of this question" Can interrupt speaker Does need a 2nd Not debatable Not amendable Needs 2/3 vote	"I move we take from the table" Can interrupt speaker Does need a 2nd Not debatable Not amendable Majority of votes needed	"I move we now (or later) reconsider our action relative to..." Can interrupt speaker Does need a 2nd Is debatable only if original motion was debatable Not amendable Majority of votes needed	"I move we suspend the rules and consider..." Cannot interrupt speaker Does need a 2nd Not debatable Not amendable Needs 2/3 vote	"I appeal the Chair's decision" Can interrupt speaker Does need a 2nd Is debatable Not amendable Majority of votes needed
Rosenberg's	"Point of order" Can interrupt speaker Does not need a 2nd Not debatable Not amendable Chair decides	"I move to divide the question" Cannot interrupt speaker Does need a 2nd Not debatable Is amendable Majority vote needed	"Point of information" Can interrupt speaker Does not need a 2nd Not debatable Not amendable No votes needed	"I call for the division of the house" (where you stand or move to one side of the room to vote aye. Must be done before new motion Does not need a 2nd Not debatable Not amendable No votes needed unless someone objects	"I object to the consideration of this question" Can interrupt speaker Does need a 2nd Not debatable Not amendable Needs 2/3 vote	"I move we take from the table" Can interrupt speaker Does need a 2nd Not debatable Not amendable Majority of votes needed	"I move we now (or later) reconsider our action relative to..." Can interrupt speaker Does need a 2nd Is debatable only if original motion was debatable Not amendable Majority of votes needed	"I move we suspend the rules and consider..." Cannot interrupt speaker Does need a 2nd Not debatable Not amendable Needs 2/3 vote	"I appeal the Chair's decision" Can interrupt speaker Does need a 2nd Is debatable Not amendable Majority of votes needed
Current Practice	Not used, but should be raised at time the rules are broken, or else it's too late. Can interrupt speaker Does not need a 2nd Not debatable Not amendable No votes needed	"I would like to divide the motions by paragraph." Council does this without a vote. Cannot interrupt speaker Does need a 2nd Not debatable Is amendable Consensus needed	Not used	Not used	Less formal i.e. Attorney cautions member to follow the agenda order of business. This would mostly be used if someone is making a motion that would violate the Brown Act or is irrelevant to the agendized topics.	You can't do this unless the item is agendized in which case this motion is not needed Not used	"I move we now (or later) reconsider our action relative to..." Note: Only a member of the prevailing majority can make a motion to reconsider (Muni Code 2.08.095 Reconsideration) Can interrupt speaker Does need a 2nd Is debatable only if original motion was debatable Not amendable Majority of votes needed	Council can do this without a vote. The Mayor will ask for consensus to "reorder the agenda to hear Item _ first.." (Muni Code 2.08.090 Order of Business)	Not used

Table C: General matters occurring in a meeting

	To obtain the floor	Public Comment	To add items to future agendas
Robert's	A member stands when no on else has the floor and is recognized by the chair	The chair may limit the time of public speakers	"I move to add this item to a future agenda." Majority vote required.
Rosenberg's	A member raises hand when no on else has the floor and is recognized by the chair	The chair may limit the time of public speakers	Rosenberg's does not mention how agenda items are placed on an agenda. However, if a motion is made to place an item on a future agenda, it requires a majority.
Current Practice	A member remains seated and speaks to be recognized. Staff presentation, public comment, and Council discussion can occur without a motion on the floor.	The Mayor sets time limits for public testimony and individual speakers. Council does this without a vote. See Muni Code 2.08.105 Oral Communications	"I would like to add this item to a future agenda." The Mayor or two Councilmembers may add future agenda items. Council does this without a vote.