



Text File

Introduced: 1/21/2025

Bill No: 2025-1423, Version: 1

Committee: Committee on Public Safety and  
Wellness

Status: Passed Finally

Resolution amending and supplementing the Rules of Council, by adding Rule XIII, "Hearings for Appointments of Heads of Administrative Units."

Be it resolved by the Council of the City of Pittsburgh as follows:

Section 1. The Rules of the Council of the City of Pittsburgh are hereby amended and supplemented as set forth below:

RULES OF COUNCIL

XIII. HEARINGS FOR APPOINTMENTS OF HEADS OF ADMINISTRATIVE  
UNITS

Notwithstanding any contrary rule or procedure in these Rules of Council:

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY.

Council is invested, pursuant to § 209 of the Home Rule Charter, with the authority to approve nominations of individuals to serve as head (director, chief or manager) of major administrative units, as set forth in § 111.01(a) of the Pittsburgh Code of Ordinances, excepting the Office of City Controller; and Council, pursuant to § 808 of the Home Rule Charter, is invested of the authority to compel the sworn testimony of individuals in hearings;

SECTION 2. PROCEDURE FOR INTERVIEWS.

Whenever the Mayor, pursuant to § 209 of the Charter, submits for the approval of Council, appointments of individuals to serve as heads of administrative units as set forth in § 111.01(a) of the City Code, Council shall proceed in the following manner:

- a. Upon the introduction of a resolution appointing any individual to head an administrative unit set forth in Rule XIII, Section 1, the resolution shall be deemed held for interview unless three-fourths (3/4) of Councilmembers elected shall suspend these Rules for the purpose of approving the nomination;
- b. The President of Council shall schedule, notice and advertise a televised and broadcast interview hearing pursuant to applicable laws for the purpose of conducting Council's interview for a date not sooner than fourteen (14) days following the notice and advertisement;
- c. The President of Council shall immediately notify Councilmembers, the Mayor and the nominee of the date and time of the hearing;
- d. The President shall request that any Councilmember with questions they would like answered by the nominee in writing, prior to the hearing, to submit those questions to the Clerk within three (3) days of the notification of the hearing, and the Clerk shall immediately transmit those questions to the Mayor and the nominee, with instructions to return responses to the Clerk within seven days of receipt, but in no case later than three (3) days prior to the interview hearing;
- e. The President of Council, or in their absence, the President Pro-Tempore of Council, shall preside at the interview hearing;
- f. The presiding officer shall administer oaths to the nominee at the start of the interview hearing;
- g. Following the administration of the oath, the nominee shall be provided the opportunity to give an opening statement;
- h. The Chairperson of the Standing Committee of Council with jurisdiction over the administrative unit, pursuant to Rule IV, which is the subject of the nomination shall begin the questioning of the nominee, and in their absence, the presiding officer shall choose the member who shall begin the questioning;
- i. It shall be the duty of the presiding officer, upon the motion of any member including the presiding officer, to decide all issues of germaneness of the questions asked of nominees, subject to the right of any member of Council to appeal the ruling of the presiding officer pursuant to Rule IX(2)(C).
- j. Once Council has exhausted its questions, the nominee shall be provided the opportunity to give a closing statement;
- k. Should any member request answers to follow-up questions to be submitted in writing after the

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interview hearing, Council shall not take final action on the nomination until it receives said written response(s).

**Section 2.** Any Resolutions or Ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this Resolution are hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict or inconsistency.