

January 25, 2021

From: David Freudmann, Town Council member
(davidf235@yahoo.com, 860-429-0763)

Topic: Town Council Rules of Procedure

Communication to: Personnel Committee, 1-25-2021 meeting, regarding
Item 3: Consent Agenda

AND ALSO

To Town Council: 1-25-2021 meeting, regarding
Item 9: Reports of Council Committees, Minority Report from Personnel Committee

The minority party strongly opposes the addition of a Consent Agenda to the Council's "regular order of business". (Ref. Town Council Rules of Procedure, Rule 3: Agenda of Council Meetings, paragraph 'b') We see it as a mechanism for preventing debate, the introduction of amendments, and proper votes on individual agenda items.

If, nevertheless, the Rules of Procedure are opened for the purpose of adding a Consent Agenda provision, I propose the following four changes:

1. Rule 3, paragraph 'b)', Add, prior to Old Business:
Consent Agenda, subject to paragraph 'g' below
2. Rule 3, add paragraph 'g)':
g) If any Council member requests that an item or item be moved from the Consent Agenda to Old or New Business, the moderator of the meeting shall so direct.
3. Rule 5 - Decorum, add:
If a participant is publicly accused by another participant of violating Rule 5, the accused may, upon request, get a hearing where he may confront the accuser and refute, evidence may be presented, and a ruling from the majority on the panel rendered.
4. Rule 8 – Debate, add paragraph 'e)':
e) if debate is to be limited, then equal time shall be allocated to each of the two major political parties.