

# A modest proposal: requiring training in Roberts' Rules of Order

The Bethlehem Gadfly City government, Modest proposals January 21, 2020

 Latest in a series of posts on City Government 

*“When a person becomes either a Council member or president of Council,  
are there any guidelines to their being mentored or coached to their learning  
the Roberts' Rules of Order?”  
Peg Church, January 6, 2020  
<https://youtu.be/ZZAyVg1F-Zc>*

Fair question from a reasonable resident.

And the answer is “No.”

Following Church's lead, Gadfly would like to make a modest proposal:

*that every Council member be required to attend a training seminar in Roberts' Rules of Order every year.*

- this new requirement could be coupled with the requirement of an annual ethics seminar
- this requirement would be for all council members, not just the officers
- though the Solicitor is usually thought of as the expert on Roberts' Rules and the arbiter of Roberts' Rules, knowledge of the rules empowers each council person
- of special emphasis in such a seminar would be the department of all members of a meeting
- such a seminar could usefully include examples of proper and improper meeting behavior
- one can even imagine members of the public interested in such a seminar

*to be continued . . .*