

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
RULES COMMITTEE
Town Hall Council Chambers
February 5, 2007**

Present: Thomas J. Lacey, Vice Chairperson
Arthur E. Mathews
Michael Smart

Not Present: Kevin Whitaker
Greg Shanahan

Also Present: Sue Kay
Michael Molisse

Recording Secretary: Janet Murray

Vice Chairman Lacey called the Rules Committee Meeting to order at 7:15pm.

07 003 - Proposed rule - Hat removal in Chambers

Councilor Lacey stated that this is a request for a simple rule to establish a protocol for the removal of hats while in the Council Chambers. He noted that there would be exemptions for a number of reasons.

President Smart asked about enforcement. He asked if the Council President would be required to address this situation. President Smart stated that he has thought about this and believes that this proposed rule is elitist. He noted that woman may wear hats as part of their outfit and that many people are uncomfortable without their hat.

Councilor Lacey stated that enforcement would be through a courtesy announcement to the public by the President of the Council or the Chair of any Committee. He stated that he sees this as a sign of respect.

President Smart stated that people have many reasons for wearing hats. He noted that there may be medical conditions that make people uncomfortable taking their hats off in public. He expressed concern regarding how it would be handled if someone did not remove their hat.

Councilor Mathews questioned the placement of this proposal within the text of the current Rules and Regulations.

Councilor Kay noted that she sees enforcement as difficult. She stated that a compromise could be for a request to be made at the beginning of each meeting, prior to saluting the flag, for hats to be removed.

Councilor Kay stated that the rules of the Council were intended for the Council itself- not for the public.

President Smart asked about the intent of the rule as to when the hat is to be removed.

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Councilor Lacey stated that the intent was for anyone entering the Council Chambers to remove his/her hat prior to entrance into the Chambers.

Councilor Mathews noted that two Councilors on this Committee are not present this evening and he would like to see additional discussion on the issue.

Councilor Mathews made a MOTION to CONTINUE item number 07 003 and was seconded by Councilor Smart and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

At 7:30pm, there being no further business, A MOTION was made by Councilor Mathews to ADJOURN and was seconded by Councilor Smart and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Approved by: _____
Thomas J. Lacey, Vice-Chairperson