

1st Rdy 11/28

COUNCIL COPY

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

11-0649R

RESOLUTION AMENDING THE STANDING RULES ADDING A NEW RULE
18 - USE OF THE INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS.

BY PRESIDENT GARDNER, COUNCILOR HARTMAN AND COUNCILOR HALBERG:

WHEREAS, certain use of the internet and electronic communications during council meetings by city councilors could violate the Minnesota Open Meeting Law; and

WHEREAS, while the council recognizes the benefits that this technology provides, the council desires to provide usage guidelines for this technology to prevent misuse, promote transparency and the public nature of these meetings;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the council hereby establishes guidelines for internet usage and electronic communications by councilors during council meetings by amending the Standing Rules of the Duluth City Council adding a new Rule 18 as follows:

Rule 18. USE OF THE INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

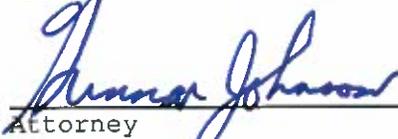
(a) The council recognizes that any information being viewed or generated using city owned computers and computer equipment, unless designated otherwise, is considered public data subject to the provisions of the Minnesota Data Practices Act (Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13, as amended, or its successor).

(b) For purposes of these Standing Rules, electronic communications shall mean electronic mail, instant messaging, chatrooms, social media, microblogs, text messaging and related electronic conversation.

(c) Councilors shall be permitted to access the internet and participate in electronic communications during council meetings using city-owned equipment.

(d) Any and all electronic communications sent, received or viewed by a councilor and any and all webpages opened and viewed by a councilor during the course of a council meeting and which are used as part of a council debate shall be verbally publicly disclosed during the debate.

Approved as to form:



Attorney

CCREQ/ATTY GBJ:cjk 11/22/2011

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: This resolution amends the Standing Rules of the Duluth City Council by adding a new Rule 18 to address councilor use of the internet and electronic communications during council meetings. This resolution requires two readings and a 2/3 vote by the council for approval.