Basic Information On Motions

Source: A Guide to Parliamentary Procedure for Local Governments in Wisconsin by Larry E. Larmer, 1998

RANKING MOTIONS

PRINCIPLE CHARACTERISTICS

These motions are listed in order of rank. When Reconsidered any one of these motions is immediately pending, those above it are in order and those below are Can Be Debated not in order. Can Be Can PRIVILEGED MOTIONS 13. Fix Time to Which Adjourn..... yes yes maj yes no no 12. Adjourn..... yes no no maj no no 11. Recess..... mai ves no ves no no 10. Raise a Question of Privilege..... X* no no no no yes 9. Call for the Orders of the Day..... X* no no no no yes SUBSIDIARY MOTIONS 8. Lay on the Table..... yes no no maj no no 7. Previous Question (to close debate)..... 2/3 no no yes* no yes 6. Limit or Extend Limits of Debate..... ves 2/3 ves* no ves no 5. Postpone to a Certain Time..... yes yes yes maj yes no 4. Commit (or Refer)..... yes yes maj yes* no yes 3. Amend..... = yes* maj yes no yes 2. Postpone Indefinitely..... yes yes no maj no 1. Main Motion yes yes yes maj* yes no **NON-RANKING MOTIONS** Whether these motions are in order depends upon the business already under consideration and what purpose they may serve when introduced.

INCIDENTAL MOTIONS

yes	*	no	maj	yes	yes
yes	no	yes	2/3	no	no
yes	no	yes	maj	no	no
no	no	no	no	no	yes
yes	no	yes	maj	no	no
no	no	no	2/3	#	yes*
no	no	no	Chair	no	yes
no	no	no	Chair	no	yes
yes	no	yes	maj	#	no
yes	no	no	2/3*	no	no
no*	no	no	maj*	#	yes*
THE A	SSEMBLY				
yes	=	no	maj	no	no
yes	yes	yes	*	#	no
yes	no	no	maj	no	no
	yes yes no yes no no yes yes no* ETHE A yes	yes yes no yes no no no no no no no no no yes no yes no yes no yes no yes no no* no THE ASSEMBLY yes = yes yes	yes no yes yes no yes no no yes no no yes no no no no no no no no yes yes no no no* no no yes = no yes yes yes	yes no yes 2/3 yes no yes maj no no no no no no no yes maj no no no 2/3 no no no Chair yes no no Chair yes no no 2/3* no* no no maj* ETHE ASSEMBLY yes = no maj yes yes yes *	yes no yes 2/3 no yes no yes maj no yes no yes maj no no no no no no no no no 2/3 # no no no Chair no no no no Chair no yes no yes maj # yes no no maj* # ETHE ASSEMBLY yes = no maj no yes yes yes * #

- * See Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised for special rules
- X Usually no vote taken. Chair responds.
- + Only an affirmative vote may be reconsidered.
- # Only a negative vote may be reconsidered.
- = Debatable when applied to a debatable motion. See Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised.