

1 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2-5 OF THE CITY CODE RELATING
2 TO PROCEDURES FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS AND COUNCIL
3 COMMITTEES.

4 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

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6 **PART 1.** Subsection (A) of City Code Section 2-5-29 (*Speaker Registration and*
7 *Speaking Time*) is amended to read:

8 (A) For an item that has been considered by a council committee, public comment
9 shall be taken in the same manner as for an item that has not been considered by a
10 council committee [up to eight speakers shall be allowed to speak for two minutes
11 each, with four speaking slots allowed for speakers in favor and four speaking
12 slots allotted for speakers against the item to be assigned on a first come, first
13 serve basis. A speaker signed up as neutral counts toward the total of eight
14 speakers allowed. Each neutral speaker is counted on an alternating basis toward
15 the four speakers allowed in favor and the four speakers allowed against.
16 Separately, any further public comment shall be taken at the request of four
17 council members. The method in which this comment will be taken is at the
18 discretion of the council. The remainder of this section applies only to an agenda
19 item that has not been considered by a council committee].

20 **PART 2.** Subsection (D) of City Code Section 2-5-29 (*Speaker Registration and*
21 *Speaking Time*) is amended to read:

22 (D) The presiding officer should grant the first 20 speakers on an agenda item three
23 minutes each, and each subsequent speaker on the agenda item one minute, [a
24 person three minutes] to address the council, unless:

- 25 (1) the council rules otherwise;
- 26 (2) the presiding officer exercises the officer's authority under Section 2-5-23
27 (Rules of Order) to limit or reduce the speaker's time.

28 **PART 3.** City Code Section 2-5-29 (*Speaker Registration and Speaking Time*) is
29 amended by adding a new subsection (I) to read:

30 (I) The total time for public comment on an agenda item may not exceed 90 minutes
31 unless the council votes to extend the time for comment on the item. This
32 subsection does not apply to:

- 1 (1) a public hearing subject to Article 3 of this chapter (*Procedures for Public*
2 *Hearings and Appeals*);
- 3 (2) a public hearing subject to Chapter 25-1, Article 6, Division 2 (*Public Hearing*
4 *Procedures*); or
- 5 (3) a public hearing required by state or federal law.

6 **PART 4.** Subsection (C) of City Code Section 2-5-107 (*Citizen Participation*) is
7 amended to read:

- 8 (C) Unless the committee votes otherwise, the chair should grant the first 20 speakers
9 on an agenda item 3 minutes each, and each subsequent speaker on the agenda
10 item 1 minute, to address the committee. [The chair should grant a person three
11 minutes to address the committee unless the committee rules otherwise.]

12 **PART 5.** City Code Section 2-5-107 (*Citizen Participation*) is amended by adding new
13 subsections (J) and (K) to read:

- 14 (J) The total time for public comment on an agenda item may not exceed 90 minutes
15 unless the committee votes to extend the time for comment on the item. This
16 subsection does not apply to:

- 17 (1) a public hearing subject to Article 3 of this chapter (*Procedures for Public*
18 *Hearings and Appeals*);
- 19 (2) a public hearing subject to Chapter 25-1, Article 6, Division 2 (*Public Hearing*
20 *Procedures*); or
- 21 (3) public hearing required by state or federal law.

- 22 (K) A person may not register to speak on an item posted as a briefing.

23 **PART 6.** This ordinance takes effect on _____, 2016.

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PASSED AND APPROVED

_____, 2016

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Steve Adler
Mayor

APPROVED: _____
Anne L. Morgan
City Attorney

ATTEST: _____
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk