

ORDINANCE NO. 20160414-006

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

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

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

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

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

- (D) The presiding officer should grant the first 20 speakers on an agenda item three minutes each, and each subsequent speaker on the agenda item one minute, ~~[a person three minutes]~~ to address the council, unless:
- (1) the council rules otherwise;
 - (2) the presiding officer exercises the officer's authority under Section 2-5-23 (Rules of Order) to limit or reduce the speaker's time.

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

- (I) The total time for public comment on an agenda item may not exceed 90 minutes unless the council votes to extend the time for comment on the item. This subsection does not apply to:
 - (1) a public hearing subject to Article 3 of this chapter (*Procedures for Public Hearings and Appeals*);
 - (2) a public hearing subject to Chapter 25-1, Article 6, Division 2 (*Public Hearing Procedures*); or
 - (3) a public hearing required by state or federal law.

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

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

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

- (J) The total time for public comment on an agenda item may not exceed 90 minutes unless the committee votes to extend the time for comment on the item. This subsection does not apply to:
 - (1) a public hearing subject to Article 3 of this chapter (*Procedures for Public Hearings and Appeals*);
 - (2) a public hearing subject to Chapter 25-1, Article 6, Division 2 (*Public Hearing Procedures*); or
 - (3) public hearing required by state or federal law.
- (K) A person may not register to speak on an item posted as a briefing.

PART 6. This ordinance takes effect on April 25, 2016.

PASSED AND APPROVED

April 14, 2016

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Steve Adler
Mayor

APPROVED:

Anne L. Morgan
City Attorney

ATTEST:

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk