

Resolution



City Council
City of Wilmington
North Carolina

Introduced By: Meredith T. Everhart, City Attorney

Date: 07/15/2025

Resolution Amending City Council’s Rules of Order, Rule 6, “Public Comment Period”

LEGISLATIVE INTENT/PURPOSE:

WHEREAS, pursuant to Rule 6 of City Council’s Rules of Order (“Rules”), the agenda of every regular business meeting of Council includes a 30-minute “Public Comment Period” during which the public may address Council to make presentations on non-public hearing matters that are on the agenda, as well as any other matters that are relevant to City business; and,

WHEREAS, according to Rule 6 of the Rules, members of the public wishing to speak are currently limited to five minutes (5) per person, with a single extension possible for three minutes (3) per person, so there is a limit of six (6) individuals who may sign up for the Public Comment Period at any given meeting; and,

WHEREAS, to speak during a Public Comment Period, Rule 6 allows citizens to file a written request with the City Clerk no later than 12:00 noon on the day prior to the Council meeting, with such written requests being accepted in either electronic or hard copy form; and,

WHEREAS, the Rules do not currently provide the public with any ability to sign up between 12:00 noon on the day prior to the Council meeting, and the beginning of the Council meeting, even if individuals withdraw from speaking or do not show up to speak at the meeting; and,

WHEREAS, City Council wishes to amend Rule 6 of the Rules to allow additional access and more opportunities for the public to speak at City Council meetings.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT, Rule 6 of City Council’s Rules of Order, “Public Comment Period,” is hereby amended to limit public speakers under the Public Comment Period to three (3) minutes, with a single extension of two (2) minutes, thereby allowing up to 10 individuals to speak during the Public Comment Period.

THAT, Rule 6 shall be further amended to allow for an additional sign-up period to occur beginning 30 minutes ahead of the Council meetings, upon entering the Council Chambers or other meeting location, and ending when the Council meeting begins.

THAT, the City Clerk shall be responsible for developing a sign-up form to be used for the sign-ups occurring immediately prior to the Council meetings, and such form shall include, but not be limited to, the name of the individual speaking, and the topic the individual wishes to speak on.

THAT, this resolution shall be effective immediately upon its adoption.

Adopted at a _____ meeting

On _____ 2025

Attest:

Penelope Spicer-Sidbury, City Clerk

Bill Saffo, Mayor

Approved As To Form:

City Attorney