

Wilmington, Delaware
November 1, 2019

#4727

WHEREAS, the 107th Session of Wilmington City Council believes openness, transparency, and accountability are important policies; and

Sponsor:

WHEREAS, Wilmington City Council believes the public should have the opportunity to comment on legislation (ordinance or resolution) when legislation is being considered; and

**Council
Member
Gray**

Co-Sponsor:

WHEREAS, the President, the presiding member of Wilmington City Council has started roll call votes prior to members of Wilmington City Council having an opportunity to debate in accordance with the rules; and

**Council
Member
Turner**

WHEREAS, when members of Wilmington City Council conclude debate regarding legislation (ordinance or resolution) the public should be allowed to comment in three-minute increments followed by a final round of debate by members of Wilmington City Council pursuant to the procedures used for the first round of debate; and

WHEREAS, including receipt of quarterly and bimonthly COWBAC Reports on the Agenda will ensure accurate information regarding the composition of City of Wilmington Boards and Commissions will be available to the public and media; and

WHEREAS, Council deems it appropriate to amend its Rules.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, that the Rules of the Council of the City of Wilmington are amended to require that “I) Legislative Business:” will read as follows:

“This portion of the meeting shall be for the consideration of resolutions with legislative effect and ordinances only.

Each member is entitled to speak twice to any matter subject to debate for periods not to exceed five minutes each time, including any time yielded to other members. No member shall exceed these limits except by leave granted by a two-thirds vote of the members present, without debate. No member shall speak twice to a matter until every other member choosing to speak has been recognized. The member on whose motion the matter was brought before Council is first entitled to the floor, and also to close the debate, but not until every other member has had an opportunity to speak for a second time.

After the close of debate on an item of legislative business, but before a vote is started, there shall be an opportunity for public comment in three-minute increments.

After the close of public comment each member is entitled to speak twice to any matter subject to debate for periods not to exceed five minutes each time, including any time yielded to other members. No member shall exceed these limits except by leave granted by a two-thirds vote of the members present, without debate. No member shall speak twice to a matter until every other member choosing to speak has been recognized. The member on whose motion the matter was brought before Council is first entitled to the floor, and also to close the debate, but not until every other member has had an opportunity to speak for a second time.”

Passed by City Council,

Attest: _____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: Wilmington City Council desires to expand the process for legislative business so that after the close of debate by members of city council, the public is allowed to comment, followed by a final round of debate by members of City Council.