

Wilmington, Delaware  
April 17, 2025

Rev. 1  
#0039

Sponsor:

Council  
Member  
Darby

Co-  
Sponsor:

Council  
Member  
Owens

**WHEREAS**, the 109<sup>th</sup> Session of Wilmington City Council believes openness, transparency, and accountability are fundamental in carrying out its duty to the citizens of Wilmington; and

**WHEREAS**, Council believes the public should be afforded every opportunity to comment on legislation (ordinance or resolution) when it is being considered; and

**WHEREAS**, in prior sessions, the President of City Council sometimes called for votes prior to members of City Council having an opportunity to debate in accordance with the Council Rules, so Council amended the Rules to provide for an extra round of debate for Council members after a public comment period; and

**WHEREAS**, the 109th Session of Wilmington City Council deems it necessary to take similar action to ensure that all Council members are consistently and completely afforded the time allotted by the Council Rules to participate in meaningful debate; and

**WHEREAS**, in light of the foregoing, City Council deems it necessary and appropriate to amend City Council Rule 2 to provide for a public comment period after members of City Council conclude their initial round of debate regarding legislation with legislative effect during which the public will be allowed to comment in increments of three (3) minutes followed by a second round of debate by members of City Council during which each Council member will be entitled to speak twice on the matter subject to debate for a period of three (3) minutes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that Rule 2 of the City Council Rules is hereby amended by deleting the stricken language and adding the underlined language to read as follows:

**RULE 2 - ORDER OF BUSINESS**

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**J) Legislative Business:** This portion of the meeting shall begin no later than 7:30 p.m., unless leave is granted by a two-thirds vote of the members present to grant additional time for public comment. The Legislative Business portion of the meeting shall be for the consideration of resolutions with legislative effect and ordinances only. Each member is entitled to speak twice prior to the legislative public comment period to any matter subject to debate for periods not to exceed ten (10) minutes total, 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 the President calls for a vote, each member of the public shall have the opportunity to give public comment, limited to three (3) minutes, regarding that item of legislative business.

After the close of public comment, each Council member is entitled to speak once to any matter subject to debate for periods not to exceed three (3) 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. 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.

**K) Presentation of Petitions and Communications:** Any petition or communication, written or oral, from Council Members, the Mayor, city departments, or from the public, or any communication or comment relating to city business, other than a matter on the agenda for action, is presented at this time. Each member shall be limited to five minutes for presentation of petitions and communications, to include any time yielded to other members. Any debatable motion made shall not be subject to this limit, but instead to the debate limits in Paragraph I) J), Legislative Business.

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Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

**SYNOPSIS:** This Resolution amends City Council Rule 2 to include an additional public comment time for each individual legislative item, followed by a final round of debate by members of City Council.