

Wilmington, Delaware  
October 2, 2025

**#0120**

**Sponsor:**

**Council  
Member  
Johnson**

**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**, at the June 23, 2025, Finance & Economic Development Committee meeting, a controversy arose whether Ordinances need to be voted out of Committees before appearing on an agenda for 3<sup>rd</sup> and Final voting; and

**WHEREAS**, historically, Committee Members voted Ordinances out of Committee for a final vote before Council as a whole; and

**WHEREAS**, to resolve the controversy, City Council wishes to amend its Rules to rectify the confusion; and

**WHEREAS**, in light of the foregoing, City Council deems it necessary and appropriate to amend City Council Rule 9.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON** that Rule 9 of the City Council Rules is hereby amended by deleting the stricken language and adding the underlined language to read as follows:

**RULE 9 - ORDINANCES**

**An ordinance shall be introduced only by a Council Member, either as sponsor or on behalf of the sponsor, or by order of the President.**

**Every ordinance shall be accompanied by a brief statement of its purposes and objectives and a policy statement. In addition, and more specifically, every ordinance prior to its enactment shall be accompanied by a brief but specific statement of its expected fiscal impact, and a copy of such fiscal impact statement shall be filed with the City Clerk.**

When a Council Member introduces an ordinance, the Clerk shall read it twice by title only, unless a member requests that it be read in full. After the two readings, the sponsor or another member on behalf of the sponsor shall move that the ordinance be received, recorded and filed, and referred to the appropriate committee. Upon seconding, introduction is complete.

~~Ordinances shall be reviewed in the appropriate committee prior to final vote by Council, or held or withdrawn by the sponsor.~~

Ordinances shall be voted out of the appropriate committee prior to final vote by Council.

Ordinances shall not continue to another session of Council. All ordinances shall be acted upon during the Council session that it was introduced, and if not the legislation dies at the end of that Council session.

Except as provided in the City Charter for emergency ordinances, an ordinance shall not be read for the third and final time, nor acted upon, at the same meeting at which it was introduced nor in the absence of the Council Member who introduced the same without the consent of that member, unless there is a sponsor or co-sponsor present who requests that the ordinance be brought up for its enacting vote.

When the President is the primary sponsor of an ordinance and the member who introduced such ordinance on the President's behalf is absent, the President shall be free to have another member bring the ordinance to the floor for its third and final reading.

No ordinance shall be repealed unless notice shall have been given and entered on the minute book of the Council at a stated meeting that at the next succeeding stated meeting, an ordinance would be introduced for such repeal.

An ordinance may be reviewed by the committee to which it was referred, either at the request of a sponsor or as determined by the chair of the committee. At any meeting subsequent to the introduction of an ordinance, it shall be subject to debate by the members. The Council Member who introduced the ordinance, on seeking the floor, shall be first entitled to recognition.

After an ordinance has been properly introduced and presented to Council, it shall be before the Council for action, but the Council Member who introduced it may withdraw or hold it at any time prior to final action upon it.

An ordinance before Council may be amended at any time prior to final action upon it.

After an ordinance has been given its third and final reading, debate is in order.

**Whenever an ordinance amends the zoning district map, the public hearing concerning which has been concluded, and after any debate by the members, the President shall call on each Council Member in turn to state for the record the reasons the Member supports or opposes the proposed ordinance. Each Member's statement may refer to or adopt findings in documents or reports, or parts of them that are already on record concerning such ordinance.**

**An ordinance that has appeared on the agenda for third and final reading at two meetings of Council without its sponsor moving for its consideration shall not thereafter be placed on the agenda for consideration at another meeting, except by a majority vote of members present at a meeting preceding the meeting for which agenda listing is sought.**

**After debate has concluded and required statements of members have been made, the President shall instruct the Clerk to call the roll. When the roll call is completed, the Clerk will tally the vote and announce the result.**

Passed by City Council,

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

**SYNOPSIS:** This Resolution amends City Council Rule 9 to require Ordinances to be voted out of Committee prior to being heard before a full council for a 3<sup>rd</sup> and Final vote.