

December 14, 2022

**WHEREAS**, Section 13, Chapter III of the eCity eCharter requires the city council to adopt rules of procedure governing the conduct of city council meetings; and

**WHEREAS**, the city council has adopted, and follows, the City Council Rules of Procedure (“Council Rules”) for briefing and voting meetings; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council Rules contain provisions, including time limitations, regarding open microphone speakers addressing city council during city council meetings, but the current provisions do not adequately prevent disruptive behavior; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed provisions will better serve the city council in conducting meetings that are efficient and orderly and will allow city council meetings to be conducted in a way that will allow the public to be heard without disruption.

**Now, Therefore,**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DALLAS:**

**SECTION 1.** That Paragraph (c), of Subsection 3.3, “Residents and Other Visitors,” of Section 3, “Code of Conduct,” of the City Council Rules of Procedure is amended to read as follows:

“(c) Residents and other visitors attending city council meetings shall observe the same rules of propriety, decorum and good conduct applicable to members of the city council. Any person who disrupts the meeting by making personal, impertinent, profane, or slanderous remarks or who disrupts the meeting by engaging in disorderly conduct [becomes boisterous] while addressing the city council or while attending the city council meeting shall be removed from the room if the sergeant-at-arms is so directed by the presiding officer after receiving one warning regarding the disruptive behavior, and the person shall be barred from further audience before the city council during that session of the city council. If the presiding officer fails to act, any member of the city council may move to require enforcement of the rules, and the affirmative vote of a majority of the city council shall require the presiding officer to act.”

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**SECTION 2.** That Subparagraph (1) of Paragraph (c), "Voting Agenda Meetings," of Subsection 6.1, "Agenda," of Section 6, "Order of Business," of the City Council Rules of Procedure is amended to read as follows:

"(1) Unless amended by city calendar, on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, the city council will hold a voting agenda meeting, which shall begin at 9:00 a.m. At a voting agenda meeting, the city council shall hear speakers who wish to comment on matters that are scheduled on the city council's voting consent and individual item agenda for that day. ~~[The city council shall also hear open microphone speakers.]~~ Speakers shall appear in accordance with applicable rules established in Subsection 6.3 of these rules. ~~[Upon completion of any speakers allowed under Subsection 6.3 to speak at the beginning of the meeting]~~, the city council will consider the minutes, the consent agenda, and individual items for consideration until noon, when city council shall recess. The city council shall reconvene no earlier than 1:00 p.m. to conduct public hearings. At the completion of the public hearings, the city council shall resume its voting agenda."

**SECTION 3.** That Paragraph (f), "Open Microphone," of Subsection 6.3, "Public Speakers," of Section 6, "Order of Business," of the City Council Rules of Procedure is amended to read as follows:

"(f) **Open Microphone.** The city council will provide an opportunity for the public to present concerns or address issues that are not matters for consideration listed on a posted meeting agenda during an "open microphone" period at city council briefing meetings, subject to the following rules:

(1) Five persons may speak on any matter, including an agenda item, during an open microphone period at the beginning of each city council briefing meeting. These first five speakers will be called in the order in which they registered to speak with the city secretary. Whenever a person fails to speak when the person's name is called, the name of the next speaker registered for the initial open microphone period will be called, until either five persons have spoken, or all of the names have been called. An open microphone period will also be provided after the city council has concluded its briefing agenda, at which time all speakers not heard earlier in the meeting may speak. For purposes of enforcing all provisions of Subsection 6.3 governing public speakers, a person who signs up to speak during the open microphone period at the beginning of a city council meeting, but who fails to speak when called upon, will be deemed to have spoken at the meeting.

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**SECTION 3. (continued)**

\_\_\_\_\_ (2) Each speaker may speak only once, and the length of time a person will be allowed to speak during the open microphone period is three minutes. If a large number of speakers register for the open microphone period, however, the mayor may, with the concurrence of a majority of the city council, impose more restrictive time limits in order to allow the maximum number of persons to speak.

\_\_\_\_\_ (3) The order in which speakers will be called will be determined by the mayor.

\_\_\_\_\_ (4) No person may register to speak during an open microphone period more than once within any 30-day period.”

**SECTION 34.** That the City Council Rules of Procedure, as amended, will remain in full force and effect, save and except as amended by this resolution.

**SECTION 45.** That this resolution shall take effect on \_\_\_\_\_, 2022, and it is accordingly so resolved.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

CHRISTOPHER J. CASO, City Attorney

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant City Attorney