CWK
Item No. 21
08/21/08

AN ORDINANCE 2008-08-21-0726

AMENDING THE CITY CODE OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO, PART II, CHAPTER 2, DIVISION 2, ENTITLED "MEETINGS", SECTION 2-35 REGARDING RULES FOR ADDRESSING THE CITY COUNCIL.

* * * * *

WHEREAS, the City Council has adopted and amended City Code provisions which established general rules for and outlined the process to be followed in conducting City Council meetings; and

WHEREAS, this Ordinance will revise Article II, Division 1, Section 2-35 of the City Code by clarifying the limitations on speaking time for organizations addressing the City Council; **NOW THEREFORE;**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO:

SECTION 1. The City Code of the City of San Antonio, Part II, Chapter 2, Division 2, entitled "Meetings", Section 2-35, entitled "Rules of courtesy for persons attending" subsections (a)(1) and (a)(6) are amended by adding the underscored words and deleting those struck through and bracketed to read as follows:

"(a) Addressing the city council.

(1) General Rules.

a. Whether speaking on an agenda item or at the "Citizens to be [~~To Be~~] Heard" portion of the meeting, those signed up to speak shall be called upon in the order that they have registered.

b. No personal attacks shall be allowed by any speaker.

c. The Mayor or presiding officer may, at any time and at his/her discretion, increase or reduce the time a person [~~an individual~~] has to address the City Council. At any time during a presentation of the speaker, any councilmember may request the presiding officer to extend the time limit of the speaker.

d. Whether speaking on an agenda item or at the "Citizens to be [~~To Be~~] Heard" portion of the meeting, a person [~~an individual~~] signed up to speak has three (3) minutes to speak, with a nine (9) minute maximum time limit for any one (1) meeting.

e. Organizations [~~shall~~] have a total of nine (9) minutes to address the City Council [~~city council~~]. Three (3) persons [~~individuals~~] must register on

behalf of [represent] an [An] organization [shall be represented by three (3) individuals] in order for the organization [Order] to be allotted [the] nine (9) minutes to speak.

f. Persons [Citizens that] registering on behalf of [sign up] or standing with an organization [to address the City Council as part of an organization will have this segment constitute as part of the nine (9) minute maximum time limitation may not be permitted an additional three (3) minutes to speak if the organization has already been allocated nine (9) minutes to address the City Council.

g. Persons [Individuals]/organizations must sign in person by the specified deadline in order to be recognized to speak.

h. Persons [Citizens that have] registered to speak must be present in order to give [up] their time to another registered speaker. No time may be given to a person not registered to speak.

i. In each instance in which a person [citizen] or organization [group] is provided an opportunity to address the City Council [city council], said person [citizen] or organization [group] may submit written testimony in support of or opposition to a particular agenda item or on a topic that could be discussed during "Citizens to be Heard" in lieu of presenting verbal testimony, provided that such written testimony is submitted by the deadlines and could otherwise be read into the record during the timeframes provided in this Code.

...

(6) Work Sessions. Persons [Citizens] may attend the informal sessions (work sessions) of the City Council [council], but will neither be included in the discussions nor be allowed to address the City Council [council] unless:

a. Not less than six (6) members of the City Council [council] have agreed in writing or voted to allow such;

b. The respective City Council Committee [policy and planning committee] has designated an item which should include public [citizen] participation.

If persons [citizens] are allowed to address the City Council [council] under either of the two (2) [above] circumstances above, each person is [citizen will be] limited to three (3) minutes speaking time, with no organization [group] allowed more than a total of nine (9) minutes. Persons registering on behalf of or standing with an organization may not be permitted an additional three (3) minutes to speak if the organization has been allocated nine (9) minutes to address the City Council."

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SECTION 2. No other provision of Part II, Chapter 2, Division 2, entitled "Meetings", Section 2-35, entitled "Rules of courtesy for persons attending" is changed by this amendment.

SECTION 3. The codifier of the City Code of San Antonio, Texas (the "Code") is authorized to make nonsubstantive changes in this ordinance and parts of this ordinance as necessary to embody the ordinance into a unified code. The codifier may organize the ordinance material into appropriate subdivisions; provide or change appropriate catchlines, headings, titles and numbers for sections and other subdivisions of the Code and make other nonsubstantive changes necessary to preserve the original meaning of the ordinance sections inserted into the Code; but in no instance shall the codifier make any change in the meaning or effect of ordinance material included in the Code.

SECTION 4. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon passage by eight (8) affirmative votes; otherwise this ordinance shall take effect on the tenth (10th) day after passage.

PASSED AND APPROVED *this 21st day of August 2008.*

MAYOR

PHIL HARDBERGER

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM: _____
for City Attorney