

Introduced by: Mayor Pruhs and
Council Members Marney, Rogers, and Cleworth
Date: September 25, 2023

ORDINANCE NO. 6263, AS AMENDED

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FAIRBANKS GENERAL
CODE SECTION 2-119, CITIZENS' COMMENTS AND
ORDER OF BUSINESS**

WHEREAS, the City of Fairbanks both values and adheres to the rule of law protecting freedom of speech; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Statute §29.20.020 includes that the governing body of a municipality must provide reasonable opportunity for the public to be heard at regular meetings; and

WHEREAS, one of the manners in which a citizen can communicate with the Fairbanks City Council is during the prescribed time at a council meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Fairbanks City Council aims to hold efficient and effective meetings **that, among other things, solicit citizens' perspectives and input on how to improve the governance of the city;** and

WHEREAS, the Fairbanks City Council deems comments not directly pertaining to the City's business or concerning a matter in which the Council has no control that are provided during the time-limited portion of the City Council meeting dedicated to citizens' comment to be a disruption to the meeting; and

WHEREAS, procedural rules safeguard against an abuse of discretion that might otherwise inappropriately categorize comments as being not related to the business at hand; and

WHEREAS, prescribing a time period for citizens' comments, rather than a fixed deadline, will help ensure that citizens have an opportunity to address the City Council; and

WHEREAS, combining the second section of Council members' comments and the information and reports (committee reports) section of the agenda will save time and increase meeting efficiency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAIRBANKS, ALASKA, as follows:

Section 1. That FGC Sec. 2-119(a), Order of business; citizens addressing city council, is hereby amended as follows [new text in **underlined bold** font; deleted text in ~~striketrough~~ font]:

Sec. 2-119. Order of business; citizens addressing city council.

(a) At every regular meeting of the city council, the order of business shall be as follows:

- (1) Roll call.
- (2) Invocation.
- (3) Flag salutation.
- (4) Ceremonial matters (proclamations, introductions, recognitions, and awards).
- (5) Citizens' comments (oral communications to the city council on ~~any items~~ not up for public hearing). The comment period will ~~end no later than 7:30 p.m.~~ **not exceed a total of 30 minutes unless extended by a Council vote.**
- (6) Approval of agenda and consent agenda. Consent agenda items are indicated by asterisks (*). Consent agenda items are considered together unless a council member requests that the item be returned to the general agenda. Ordinances on the approved consent agenda are automatically advanced to the next regular meeting for second reading and public hearing. All other items on the approved consent agenda are passed as final.
- (7) Approval of minutes of previous meetings.
- (8) Special orders.
- (9) Mayor's comments and report.
- (10) Council members' comments.
- (11) Unfinished business.
- (12) New business.
- ~~(13) Discussion items (information and reports).~~
- (134) Written communication to the city council.
- (145) **Committee reports and** Council members' comments.
- (156) City clerk's report.
- (167) City attorney's report.
- (178) Executive session (if necessary).
- (189) Adjournment.

(b) Any person wishing to raise any matter not on the agenda **which concerns the City's business or over which the Council has control** shall be heard under citizens' comments. A council member wishing to raise any matter not on the agenda shall be heard under council members' comments.

* * * * *

Section 2. That the effective date of this Ordinance is five days after adoption.



David Pruhs, Mayor

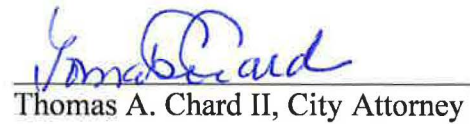
AYES: Rogers, Tidwell, Ringstad, Marney, Sprinkle, Cleworth
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ADOPTED: October 23, 2023

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk



Thomas A. Chard II, City Attorney