

ORDINANCE NO. 19-2864

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DENTON AMENDING THE CITY OF DENTON CODE OF ORDINANCES (CODE) SECTION 2-29(f)(4) (CITY COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE) SUBSECTION (4) (PRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC) ALLOWING UP TO SEVEN (7) MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BODY THROUGH ANY COMBINATION OF PRIOR REGISTRATION AND OPEN MICROPHONE PRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Denton desires to conduct the City Council meetings of the City of Denton in the most efficient and time effective manner; and

WHEREAS, the City Council also desires to allow open dialogue by citizens of the community regarding the business of city government; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to increase the number of residents participating in the "Presentations from Members of the Public" portion of City Council meetings; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to allow for flexibility in the number of Prior Registration and Open Microphone presentations made during each meeting with a maximum combined total of seven (7) speakers;

WHEREAS, Denton City Council meetings are conducted in accordance with the Council Rules of Procedure set forth in Section 2-29 of the Denton City Code of Ordinances; NOW THEREFORE,

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DENTON HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. That Section 2-29(f)(4) of the City Code, known as the Denton City Council Rules of Procedure, is hereby amended to read as follows:

(4) *Presentations from members of the public:*

a. *Reports from members of the public:* Reports from members of the public shall be received through two (2) methods: 1) prior registration or 2) open microphone. A total of up to seven (7) speakers are permitted to provide public comment and may include any combination of prior registration and open microphone speakers. Public comment is provided during regular meetings of the city council, which typically occur on the first and third Tuesday of each month.

1) *Prior registration.* Any person who wishes to place a subject on the council agenda at regular council meetings shall advise the city manager's office of that fact and the specified subject matter which he or she desires to place on the agenda no later than 12:00 p.m. Thursday prior to the council meeting at which he or she wishes the designated subject to be considered. Such reports shall be heard at the beginning of the regular meeting of the city council pursuant to an agenda posting allowing a period of public comment.

Each speaker providing a report shall speak for no longer than four (4) minutes. At the conclusion of each report, council may pose questions to the speaker concerning his or her report. Council may also engage in discussion concerning each report. If the city council believes that a speaker's report requires a more detailed review, the council will give the city manager or city staff direction to place the item on a future work session or regular meeting agenda and advise staff as to the background materials to be desired at such meeting.

2) *Open microphone.* At the beginning of the regular meeting of the city council, persons who have not registered to speak as above described may make comments through the open microphone procedure. Such person(s) shall have filed a "Blue Card" requesting to speak during this period prior to the calling of this agenda item. At the time the city council calls the Open Microphone comment period, a person may present himself or herself and make public comments regarding public business; provided however, such persons shall not be allowed to speak to items on the current agenda in light of other established procedures for taking such comments as specified in these rules.

No person may fill out a "request to speak" form in order to speak or comment on another person's report, which is given at the same council meeting. An announcement may be made, prior to the time for reports from members of the public on the agenda, summarizing the main portions of the rules and the "code of conduct" as they may apply to members of the public speaking to the council. Any speaker providing a report shall speak for no longer than four (4) minutes on all items that he or she may bring before the council at each meeting.

SECTION 2. The provisions of this Ordinance are severable, and the invalidity of any phrase, clause, or part of the Ordinance shall not affect the validity or effectiveness of the remainder of the Ordinance.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its passage and approval.

The motion to approve this ordinance was made by PAUL MELTZER and seconded by KEELY BRIGGS, the ordinance was passed and approved by the following vote [6 - 0]:

	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Chris Watts, Mayor:	<u>✓</u>	_____	_____	_____
Gerard Hudspeth, District 1:	<u>✓</u>	_____	_____	_____

Keely Briggs, District 2:	<u>✓</u>	_____	_____	_____
Jesse Davis, District 3:	<u>✓</u>	_____	_____	_____
John Ryan, District 4:	_____	_____	_____	<u>✓</u>
Deb Armintor, At Large Place 5:	<u>✓</u>	_____	_____	_____
Paul Meltzer, At Large Place 6:	<u>✓</u>	_____	_____	_____

PASSED AND APPROVED this the 29th day of January, 2020.

Chris Watts
CHRIS WATTS, MAYOR

ATTEST:
ROSA RIOS, CITY SECRETARY

BY: Aaron Leal

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:
AARON LEAL, CITY ATTORNEY

BY: Aaron Leal

