72-R-19

A RESOLUTION

Amending City Council Rule 6, "Citizen Participation," to Require that Individuals are Physically Present to Participate in Public Comment Unless an Individual is Physically Disabled and Cannot Attend and to Amend the Section Heading to "Public Comment"

WHEREAS, the City Council amends the City Council Rules and Organization of the City Council of the City of Evanston ("City Council Rules") from time to time; and

WHEREAS, the business of the City is to be conducted in an orderly and efficient manner to facilitate sound City Council and public deliberation and decision making; and

WHEREAS, the Rules Committee of the City Council requested at its June 3, 2019 meeting, that the City Council Rules should be amended to prohibit individuals from remotely addressing the Council during public comment; and

WHEREAS, the title of the section should more accurately reflect that the public participation period is not just for citizens and re-title the section to *"Public Comment"*,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EVANSTON, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS:

SECTION 1. Section 6 of the City Council Rules is hereby re-titled to read as follows:

6.   PUBLIC COMMENT

SECTION 2. Rule 6.2 of "Public Comment" of the City Council Rules is hereby amended to read as follows:

6.2   The Council shall provide a period for Public Comment. Interested persons shall sign their name, address and the agenda item or other topic to be addressed on a designated citizen participation sheet. Only individuals physically present at the meeting are permitted to participate in Public Comment. No electronic communication methods will be permitted for persons that seek to participate remotely in Public Comment. If an individual cannot attend the meeting due to a disability, the person is provided other alternative channels of communication to provide their comments, including the person may submit written public comment in advance of the meeting and it will be read during Public Comment within the time parameters set forth herein. In the event there is not adequate time to read the entire statement, the balance of the statement will be included in the record. A speaker may address the Council for no more than three minutes, and only once per Council meeting. The maximum time limit for each speaker is a single three minute time limit applied to any and all topics the speaker addresses. The maximum time period for citizen participation is forty-five minutes. If there are more than 15 speakers, the Mayor will allocate time among the speakers to ensure that citizen comment does not exceed forty-five (45) minutes. Speakers will not be permitted to cede time to another speaker. The business of the City Council shall commence no later than forty-five (45) minutes after the beginning of Public Comment.

City Council standing committees shall provide opportunities for citizen comment at the beginning of each meeting. For all of the standing committees of the City Council, except Planning and Development, a period of twenty minutes shall be provided for all public comment, and no individual may speak longer than two (2) minutes and cannot cede time to another speaker. For Planning and Development Committee, a period of forty-five minutes (45) shall be provided for all public comment and no individual may speaker longer than two (2) minutes and cannot cede time to another speaker. The committee chair of the standing committees will allocate time among the speakers to ensure that Public Comment does not exceed the allotted time provided above. The business of the committee shall commence after the specified time above expires.

SECTION 3. That this Resolution 72-R-19 shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval in the manner provided by law.

Stephen H. Hagerty, Mayor

Attest:

Devon Reid, City Clerk

Adopted: July 15th , 2019

Approved as to form:

Michelle L. Masoncup, Corporation Counsel