PROPOSED CHANGES TO RULES OF COUNCIL

Language to be deleted is ~~struck-out~~; language to be added is underlined.

**Rule 2. Meetings – Public.** All meetings of the Council or its committees shall be public, ~~and upon request of any citizen desiring to be heard on any matter~~ ~~then under consideration by the Council, the Council may, on motion,~~ ~~resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole and hear that citizen at the~~ ~~date, time and for the length of time as Council may determine~~ and, in accordance with rules and procedures established by the Clerk of Council and approved by a majority vote of Council, any person may be heard during that portion of a regular meeting set aside for public comment. ~~Persons desiring to be heard by any committee of~~ ~~Council on any matter then under consideration may, by consent of such~~ ~~committee, be given an opportunity to be heard. All Rules of Council~~ ~~minutes and records of the Council shall be open to the public at all~~ ~~reasonable times, upon request~~ Persons desiring to be heard by a committee of Council on a matter to be considered by that committee may request the committee Chair, in advance, for the opportunity to be heard. Approval of such request is at the discretion of the committee Chair. All minutes and records of the Council shall be open to the public at all reasonable times, upon request.

**Rule 7. Order of Business.** The business of all regular meetings of the Council shall be transacted in the following order, unless the Council by a two-thirds vote, suspends the rules and changes the order.

1. Roll call of members.
2. Prayer.
3. Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Disposal of the journal of the preceding meeting.
5. Public Comment
6. 6. Reports and communications from the Mayor.
7. 7. Reports and communications from departments, commissions and other public officers.
8. 8. Other communications, petitions and memorials.
9. 9. Reading and passage of emergency ordinances and resolutions
10. 10. Introduction of ordinances and resolutions.
11. 11. Second reading of ordinances and resolutions. ~~11~~ 13. Third reading of ordinances and resolutions.
12. 14. Miscellaneous business shall be permitted at the direction of the chair.
13. 15. Report of the clerk of absent members. ~~14~~ 16. Adjournment.

The presiding officer may, at any time without objection of the members of Council, permit a member to introduce an ordinance, resolution or motion out of the regular order; provided, however, if an objection is made, a two- thirds vote of all members elected to Council shall be required to permit such introduction out of the regular order.

**The procedures for public comment at Council meetings are currently being finalized. Here is a working draft of the proposed process:**

Anyone wishing to speak must register (online, by paper form, or by phone), including stating the topic they are commenting on. Speakers can talk on any topic, not limited to that night’s Council meeting agenda.

Registration will open at 12:00 noon on Wednesdays before a Monday council meeting and will close at 2:00 pm on Mondays of a regular 7:00 pm Council meeting.

Anyone would be able make comments at Council meetings, not limited to Cleveland residents or business owners.

Speaking slots will be allotted by order of registration. There will be a maximum of 10 speakers, each able to comment for up to three minutes. There will not be a holdover list of people who will be given speaking priority at the next regular Council meeting.

For those who don’t want to comment publicly or are unable to get to a meeting, they can submit written comments that will be distributed to all Council Members.

Cleveland City Council has reasonable accommodation policies for those with disabilities or who need language assistance, which will be available to all who request assistance (in advance) for public comment.

Other policies will include the decorum of the speaker, including not using indecent or discriminatory language; not engaging in electioneering; not endorsing or promoting any product or service, among other conduct. Violators will not be allowed to speak at the podium and may be asked to leave the Chamber.

Since the pandemic, all Council meetings have been available to watch live on TV20 or live or anytime on Council’s YouTube page. That will continue even as Council goes back to in-person meetings and will include the public comment portion of the meeting.

The September 20, 2021, Council meeting will be the first one with a period for Public Comment.