

ORDINANCE 2024-13

**TO AMEND TITLE 2 OF THE BLOOMINGTON MUNICIPAL CODE ENTITLED
“ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL”**

Re: Amending BMC 2.04.380 (Order of Business at Regular Sessions)

WHEREAS, the Common Council generally controls the order and time allotted for each item of its agenda; and

WHEREAS, in general, unscheduled matters should not cause undue inconvenience for those who are presenting legislation and other arranged business before the Council; and

WHEREAS, the current order of business at regular sessions provides twenty 20 minutes for public comment on items not on the agenda at the beginning of the meeting and 25 minutes for such comment at the end of the meeting, allowing five minutes for each speaker, with an option for the presiding officer to decrease this time if many people wish to speak; and

WHEREAS, this practice regarding public comment on items that are not on the agenda means that members of the public do not have a predictable amount of time to speak, that the presiding officer routinely asks for a show of hands of those who want to speak and divides the allotted time accordingly, and that the then-allotted time per speaker does not consider members of the public who did not initially indicate their intention to speak; and

WHEREAS, on April 30, 2024, the Common Council held a Work Session to review its existing rules and practices related to offering public comment at Council meetings, wherein many members agreed that the Council should consider a standard time allotment of three minutes per speaker during each opportunity for public comment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT:

SECTION 1. Section 2.04.380 of the Bloomington Municipal Code entitled “Order of business at Regular Sessions” shall be amended by deleting the last sentence in the last paragraph and replacing it with “Speakers are allowed up to three minutes each.”, such that the full paragraph reads as follows:

* Members of the public may speak on matters of community concern not listed on the agenda at one of the two *Reports from the Public* opportunities. Citizens may speak at one of these periods, but not both. Speakers are allowed up to three minutes each.

SECTION 2. If any sections, sentence or provision of this ordinance, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall be declared invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any of the other sections, sentences, provisions, or applications of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington and approval of the Mayor.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this _____ day of _____, 2024.

ISABEL PIEDMONT-SMITH, President
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST:

NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk
City of Bloomington

PRESENTED by me to the Mayor of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this _____ day of _____, 2024.

NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk
City of Bloomington

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this _____ day of _____, 2024.

KERRY THOMSON, Mayor
City of Bloomington

SYNOPSIS

This ordinance amends BMC 2.04.380 entitled “Order of Business at Regular Sessions,” which sets forth the order of items on the Council’s Regular Session agenda. It reduces the standard speaker time limit applicable to Reports from the Public and Additional Reports from the Public from five minutes to three minutes and removes a provision allowing the presiding officer to reduce this time allotment based on the number of people wishing to speak.