

23-1431

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ORDINANCE NO. 23-1431

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DENTON AMENDING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE II, SECTION 2-30 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF DENTON (CITY COUNCIL REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION OR AGENDA ITEMS), TO REQUIRE A CONSENSUS OF A SUPERMAJORITY OF COUNCILMEMBERS FOR A REQUEST FOR A RESOLUTION OR ORDINANCE TO BE PLACED ON AN AGENDA PRIOR TO A WORK SESSION ON THE REQUEST; PROVIDING A REPEALER CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE, PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, on August 27, 2019 by Ordinance No. 19-2026, the City Council adopted Section 2-30 of the City of Denton Code of Ordinances to provide procedures to ensure there is a consensus of the City Council regarding the use of staff time when responding to requests from elected officials; and

WHEREAS, on September 28, 2021 by Ordinance No. 21-1837 the City Council amended the City Council request procedures to increase the time for the requesting councilmember to speak from one minute to two minutes and change the section title to more accurately reflect the response types may include agenda items; and

WHEREAS, the City Council now desires to amend the City Council request procedures to require a 3/4 supermajority consensus to have a request go directly to a resolution or ordinance on a future City Council agenda; NOW THEREFORE,

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DENTON HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. The findings and recitations contained in the preamble of this Ordinance are incorporated herein by reference to the body of this Ordinance as if fully set forth herein.

SECTION 2. Chapter 2, Article II, Section 2-30 of the City of Denton Code of Ordinances, entitled “City Council Requests for Information or Agenda Items,” is hereby amended in its entirety to now read as follows:

**Chapter 2 - ADMINISTRATION**

**ARTICLE II. – ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION**

Sec. 2-30. - City Council Requests for Information or Agenda Items.

(a) Definitions.

(1) For purposes of Section 2-30 the following definitions apply:

- a. “Request for Information” – Requests made by a member of the City Council to seek clarification on Board, Commission, Committee or City Council agenda items; address perceived service issues, infrastructure maintenance, or construction concerns caused by or impacting City operations and/or the quality of life for Denton residents; and requests for policy-related research to evaluate

policies implemented by other agencies and/or assess the impact a new policy or potential program may have if implemented by the City of Denton.

- b. "City Staff" – Includes employees of the City of Denton consisting of, or reporting to, the City Manager or the City Attorney.

(b) City Council Requests for Information from City Staff.

- (1) All City Council requests for information from City Staff, must be submitted to the City Manager's Office via email and include at a minimum, the following details:
  - a. Request Type;
  - b. Purpose;
  - c. Time Sensitivity; and
  - d. Preferred Response Format.
- (2) The City Manager's Office and/or the City Attorney's Office will estimate the amount of time required to respond to each request.
- (3) Requests estimated to take more than a total of two hours to complete will be brought forward within the next 30 calendar days, to a City Council work session to seek consensus from the full City Council regarding the use of City Staff time to fulfill the request. Requests for information referred to a work session will follow the procedures provided in sub-section (b) of Section 2-30.

(c) City Council Requests for Information Referred to a Work Session.

- (1) A standing work session item will be added to each City Council agenda for City Council requests to be considered.
  - a. The requesting Council Member will be required to provide a clear, written explanation describing the reason for the information requested. This description will be included as an attachment to the work session agenda materials and must be provided to the City Secretary in time to fully comply with Texas Open Meeting Act requirements.
- (2) During the work session, the requesting Council Member will have a maximum of two minutes to describe and justify their request.
  - a. Remaining Council Members will then have a maximum of one minute each to provide feedback and indicate their support for the use of City Staff time to respond to the request.
- (3) Staff will respond to all requests where a consensus of at least four elected officials is established. To the extent possible, responses will be made in the requested format including Informal Staff Reports, Legal Status Reports, City Council work session topics, or ordinances and resolutions to be considered on future City Council agendas.

A consensus of six (6) Council Members is required for a resolution or ordinance to be placed on a future City Council agenda prior to a City Council work session on the request.

SECTION 3. Ordinance No. 19-2026 and Ordinance 21-1837 are hereby repealed and replaced by this Ordinance. To the extent not otherwise provided, this Ordinance shall repeal every prior ordinance in conflict herewith, but only insofar as the portion of such ordinance shall be in conflict; and as to all other sections of the ordinance not in direct conflict herewith, this Ordinance shall be and is hereby made cumulative except as to such prior ordinances or portions thereof as are expressly repealed hereby.

SECTION 4. It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council that the phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, and sections of this Ordinance are severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, or section of this Ordinance shall be declared unconstitutional by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, and sections of this Ordinance, since the same would have been enacted by the City Council without the incorporation in this Ordinance of any such unconstitutional phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, or section.

SECTION 5. The City Secretary is hereby directed to record and publish the above regulations in the City's Code of Ordinances.

SECTION 6. 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 Chris Watts; this Ordinance was passed and approved by the following vote [ 4 - 3 ]:

	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Mayor Gerard Hudspeth:	<u>✓</u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Vicki Byrd, District 1:	<u>      </u>	<u>✓</u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Brian Beck, District 2:	<u>      </u>	<u>✓</u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Paul Meltzer, District 3:	<u>✓</u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Joe Holland, District 4:	<u>✓</u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Brandon Chase McGee, At Large Place 5:	<u>      </u>	<u>✓</u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Chris Watts, At Large Place 6:	<u>✓</u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>


PASSED AND APPROVED this the 25<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023.

  
GERARD HUDSPETH, MAYOR

ATTEST:  
JESUS SALAZAR, INTERIM CITY SECRETARY

BY:  \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:  
MACK REINWAND, CITY ATTORNEY

  
BY: \_\_\_\_\_

