

BILL No. 43 -2012  
AN ORDINANCE

AMENDING §1-119 OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Whereas the Council of the City of Reading hereby ordains as follows:

Section 1. Amending §1-119 of the Administrative Code, Public Participation as follows:

**§1-119. Public Participation.**

These rules are intended to promote an orderly system of public comment, to give every person an opportunity to be heard, and to ensure that no individual is embarrassed by exercising his right of free speech. Public comment is permitted at the regular meetings of Council which occur on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. Public comment is not permitted at the City Council work sessions, *committee meetings or Committee of the Whole meetings*.

A. Citizens desiring to address the Council at its regular meetings may do so by providing notice verbally or in writing their name, address and the subject matter to be discussed to the City Clerk any time before *5 pm on the day of the scheduled meeting*. ~~City Hall closes on the day of the scheduled Council meeting before the meeting is called to order by the President of Council or the presiding officer.~~

B. Citizens desiring to address the Council at its special meeting may do so by providing notice verbally or in writing the subject matter to be discussed to the City Clerk *any time before 5 pm on the day of the scheduled meeting*. ~~½ hour before the special meeting before the meeting is called to order by the President of Council or the presiding officer.~~

C. A citizen shall be provided the opportunity to address the Council on any agenda item without written notice (see Charter, §2135). The presiding officer or by action of Council shall limit the time each person shall speak giving equal time to all. Such discussion shall occur prior to the vote of the agenda item.

D. All remarks must be directed to Council as a body and not to any Council member or public or elected official in attendance. Any person making personally offensive or impertinent remarks or who shall become unruly while addressing Council may be called to order by the Presiding Officer, and may be barred from speaking before Council, unless permission to continue speaking is granted by a majority vote of Council.

E. Any person making personally offensive or impertinent remarks or who shall become unruly while addressing the Council may be called to order by the Presiding Officer, and may be barred from speaking before the Council unless permission to continue to speak is granted by a majority vote of the Council.

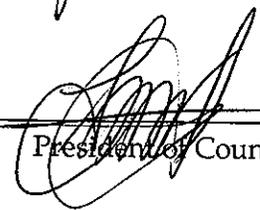
F. All comments by the public shall be made from the speaker's podium. No comments shall be made from any other location except the podium, and anyone making "out of order" comments may be subject to removal. There will be no demonstration at the conclusion of anyone's presentation. ~~The time limits placed on the public's ability to address Council by this subsection shall terminate on February 23, 2008. [Ord. 6 2006]~~

G. Citizens may not ask questions of Council member or other elected or public official in attendance. However, Council members, elected or public officials may make a statement in response to comments made by citizens at the conclusion of the public comment period.

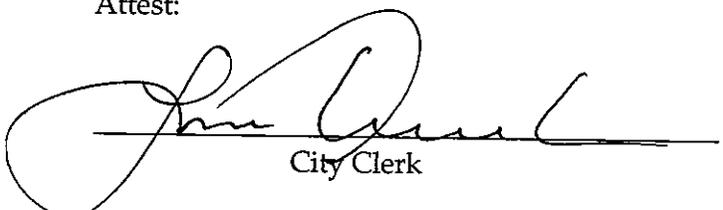
H. **Public Hearings.** Any person who fails to sign in with the City Clerk shall not be permitted to speak until all those who signed in have done so. Those testifying must limit their comments to 3 minutes. No person who has previously spoken during the public hearing on a particular item may speak again unless all other persons desiring to give testimony at the public hearing have spoken. A person speaking for a second time shall limit his comments to not more than 1 minute.

**Section 2.** This ordinance, Advertised in the Reading Eagle on Monday, April 2, 2012, shall become effective ten (10) days after its adoption, in accordance with Sections 219 & 221 of the City of Reading Home Rule Charter.

Enacted: April 9, 2012

  
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President of Council

Attest:

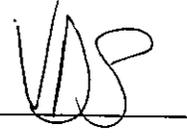
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk  
(Council Staff)

I, LINDA A. KELLEHER, City Clerk of the City of Reading, Pa., do hereby certify, that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original Ordinance passed by the Council of the City of Reading, on the 9 day of April, A. D. 2012. Witness my hand and seal of the said City this 10 day of April, A. D. 2012.

  
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CITY CLERK

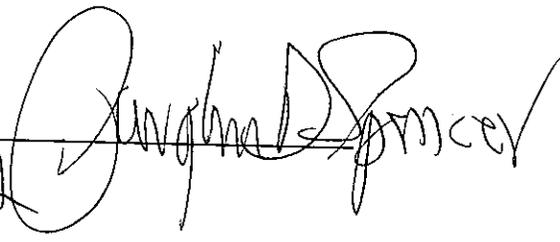
Submitted to Mayor: 

Date: 4/10/12

Received by the Mayor's Office: 

Date: 4/10/12

Approved by Mayor:

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas D. Spencey". The signature is written over a horizontal line that extends from the "Approved by Mayor:" text.

Date:

4/10/12