

**NEW BUSINESS: CODE AMENDMENT INITIATION REVIEW SHEET**

**Amendment:** Discuss and consider initiation of an amendment to Title 25 of the City Code related to order of process for public hearings at the Zoning and Platting Commission and/or Planning Commission.

**Description:** See attached resolution.

**Proposed Language:** TBD

**Background:** Recommended for discussion and/or initiation by Codes and Ordinances Joint Committee on September 20, 2017.

Commission sponsor: Commissioner Zaragoza  
Commission co-sponsor: Commissioner Seeger

**Staff Recommendation:**

**Board and Commission Actions:**

**Council Action:**

**Ordinance Number:** NA

**City Staff:** NA      **Phone:**      **Email:**

**RESOLUTION**

Zoning and Platting Commission

Alternating Public Hearing Testimony

**WHEREAS**, Section 25-1-151 of the Land Development Code specifies that public hearings shall proceed in the following order:

- 1) presentation of a report by City staff;
- 2) presentation by the applicant, for a hearing on an application;
- 3) presentation by interested parties supporting the application or proposal;
- 4) presentation by interested parties opposing the application or proposal;
- 5) rebuttal by the applicant, for a hearing on an application;

**WHEREAS**, hearings on contentious cases may result in several hours of presentations resulting in an inherent unfairness to the interested parties opposing the application or proposal;

**WHEREAS**, the City of Austin has historically made it a practice of utilizing *Robert's Rules of Order* as the parliamentary guide for conducting public meetings;

**WHEREAS**, *Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised, 11th edition*, on page 31 states that  
3) In cases where the chair knows that persons seeking the floor have opposite opinions on the question (and the member to be recognized is not determined by [1] or [2] above), the chair should let the floor alternate, as far as possible, between those favoring and those opposing the measure;

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has on occasion recognized speakers at public hearings who alternate between favoring and those opposing an issue;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Zoning and Platting Commission urges the City Council to amend the Land Development Code to allow the chair of the land use commissions to use discretion, with the approval of the commission, to permit presentations of interested parties to alternate between those favoring and those opposing an application or proposal.

ADOPTED: September 20, 2016

ATTEST:



Thomas Weber  
Chair, Zoning and Platting Commission