

ORDINANCE NO. 20220217-033

APPROVE A RESOLUTION RELATING TO REPLACING THE TERM “CITIZEN COMMUNICATION” WITH THE TERM “PUBLIC COMMUNICATION” IN COUNCIL MEETINGS, COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND IN BOARD AND COMMISSION MEETINGS AND APPROVE AN ORDINANCE THAT FACILITATES THAT CHANGE BY AMENDING CITY CODE SECTIONS 2-1-43 (*MEETING REQUIREMENTS*) AND 2-5-107 (*CITIZEN PARTICIPATION*), WAIVING SUBSECTION (A)(3) OF CITY CODE SECTION 2-1-8 (*COUNCIL AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE*) AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY CLERK TO MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES TO BOARD AND COMMISSION BYLAWS, AGENDAS, AND PUBLIC MEETING NOTICES.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

PART 1. Findings

The City Council finds that the term “citizen communication” may lead some individuals to believe that only United States citizens or citizens of the City are eligible to participate in the portion of council committees and city board and commission meetings set aside for members of the public to address the committee, board, or commission on any topic they wish, when in fact all members of the public may participate; that the term “public communication” is a more inclusive term to refer to this time period; and that changes to City Code will facilitate using the term “public communication” in place of “citizen communication” in committee, board, and commission bylaws, agendas, and public meetings.

PART 2. Subsection (D) of City Code Section 2-1-43 (*Meeting Requirements*), is amended to read as follows:

(D) Each board meeting agenda shall provide for [~~citizen~~]public communication.

PART 3. Section 2-5-107 (*Citizen Participation*) is amended to change the title of the section as follows:

§ 2-5-107 – [~~CITIZEN~~]PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

PART 4. Council waives the requirement of Subsection (A)(3) of City Code Section 2-1-8 (*Council Audit and Finance Committee*) only in order to authorize the City Clerk to make conforming amendments to all board and commission bylaws to change “citizen communication” to “public communication,” without further action of the Audit and Finance Committee or City Council. The City Clerk is also authorized to make

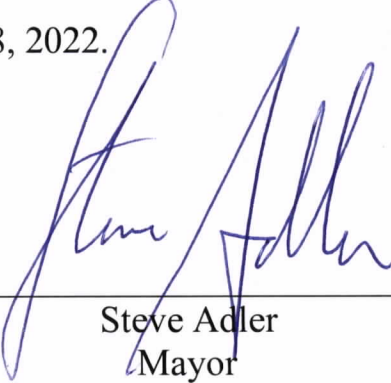
conforming changes to all agendas and notices for Council meetings, Council Committee meetings, and City Board and Commission meetings.

PART 5. This ordinance takes effect on February 28, 2022.

PASSED AND APPROVED

_____, February 17, 2022

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Steve Adler
Mayor

APPROVED:



Anne L. Morgan
City Attorney

ATTEST:



Myrna Rios
City Clerk