

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AO No. 2024-35**

1 **AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY AMENDING ANCHORAGE**
2 **MUNICIPAL CODE SECTIONS 2.30.035 AND 2.30.040 TO INCLUDE INITIAL**
3 **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION AND ESTABLISH A DURATIONAL LIMIT**
4 **TOGETHER WITH APPEARANCE REQUESTS AT REGULAR ASSEMBLY**
5 **MEETINGS.**
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7
8 **THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY ORDAINS:**
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10 **Section 1.** Anchorage Municipal Code section 2.30.035 is hereby amended to
11 read as follows (*the remainder of the section is not affected and therefore not set*
12 *out*):
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14 **2.30.035 - Meeting agenda.**

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16 A. *Order of business.* The order of business at all regular meetings of the
17 assembly shall be as follows:
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19 *** *** ***

20 9. Appearance requests and initial audience participation (shall
21 begin no earlier than 5:15 p.m. and start no later than 6:00
22 p.m. and total at least 30 minutes of testimony; it may be less
23 only if no person comes forward for audience participation
24 when invited by the chair [BY THE LAST PERSON SHALL
25 BEGIN NO LATER THAN 6:00 P.M.]).

26 a. Appearance requests shall be first and in accordance
27 with section 2.30.040.

28 b. Following appearance requests, members of the public
29 may be heard under initial audience participation, in
30 accordance with subsection 2.30.040G. The chair may
31 prioritize persons whom credibly declare they are unable
32 to remain at the meeting for final audience participation.

33 *** *** ***

34 (AO No. 2017-53 , § 6, 7-1-17; AO No. 2020-30(S) , § 2, 4-28-20; AO No.
35 2021-117 , § 1, 1-19-22; ; AO No. 2022-82 , § 1, 9-27-22)
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37 **Section 2.** Anchorage Municipal Code section 2.30.040 is hereby amended to
38 read as follows (*full section set out for context, amendments are to subsection G*):
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40 **2.30.040 - Appearance requests and audience participation.**

41 A. A person wishing to speak before the assembly under "appearance
42 requests" must file an appearance request with the municipal clerk
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- 1 specifying the topic on which the person intends to speak.
- 2 B. Appearance requests will be heard by the assembly when placed on
- 3 the agenda by the municipal clerk. A person may only file one
- 4 appearance request per meeting. Each speaker is limited to three
- 5 minutes of testimony. The chair may, at the chair's discretion, extend
- 6 the time to allow no more than five minutes for remarks when the
- 7 speaker is representing a group.
- 8 C. In determining whether or not appearance requests are placed on the
- 9 agenda, the municipal clerk, in conjunction with the assembly chair,
- 10 shall adhere to the following:
- 11 1. If the appearance request has clearly defined administrative
- 12 channels of resolution that have not yet been utilized by the
- 13 person requesting an appearance before the assembly, the
- 14 municipal clerk shall refer the person to the appropriate
- 15 administrative channels of resolution.
- 16 2. Except under special circumstances as determined by the
- 17 chair, appearance requests which involve the following shall
- 18 not be accepted:
- 19 a. Items that have clearly defined administrative channels
- 20 of resolution that have not yet been utilized by the
- 21 person.
- 22 b. Items that the assembly or administration has no
- 23 jurisdiction over and/or responsibility or authority to
- 24 resolve per the Municipal Charter, Municipal Code, or
- 25 Municipal Code of Regulations.
- 26 c. Subjects currently under labor negotiations.
- 27 d. An item upon which litigation involving the person or the
- 28 person's representative is currently pending.
- 29 3. To ensure that sufficient time remains available for the
- 30 Assembly to conduct its business, not more than three
- 31 appearance requests will typically be granted for any single
- 32 meeting.
- 33 D. Appearance requests accepted by the municipal clerk must be placed
- 34 before the assembly no later than 14 days after acceptance.
- 35 E. In lieu of appearance requests, the assembly will accept brief written
- 36 communications on any subject at the electronic transmission address
- 37 assigned to assembly members by the Municipality of Anchorage.
- 38 Other written communications directed to the assembly will be
- 39 reproduced, if necessary, and distributed to assembly members by the
- 40 municipal clerk no later than 14 days after receipt.
- 41 F. Persons who do not wish to speak before the assembly under
- 42 "appearance requests," persons who had their appearance request
- 43 denied under subsection C.2 of this section, or persons who do not
- 44 wish to submit written communications, may be heard under
- 45 "audience participation."
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- 47 G. If time is available, initial and final audience participation shall be held
- 48 at each regular meeting. Audience participation shall be held at each
- 49 special meeting. Audience participation is limited to three minutes of
- 50 testimony per speaker, and this time may not be extended. A person

may testify on any topic; however, a person speaking under an appearance request shall not be permitted to testify during initial audience participation, nor on the speaker's own appearance request at the same meeting.

H. The following chart summarizes information in this chapter regarding appearance requests, audience participation, and public testimony:

AMC 2.30.040B.	Appearance Requests	3 min. – chair may extend to 5 min. for individual representing a group
AMC 2.30.040G.	<u>Initial and</u> Final Audience Participation	3 min. – chair may not extend
AMC 2.30.055B.	Public Hearings	3 min. – for individuals, chair may extend for up to 5 min. total for individual representing a group OR 5 min. – for community council representative, Girdwood Board of Supervisors (GBOS) representative, or Native Village of Eklutna (NVE) representative – chair may not extend Note: person testifying for a group does not also get 3 minutes to testify as an individual.

(AO No. 78-49; AO No. 79-137, 10-18-79; AO No. 94-177(S), § 2, 10-27-94; AO No. 2014-2(S), § 1, 2-25-14; AO No. 2017-53 , § 7, 4-11-17; AO No. 2020-30(S) , § 4, 4-28-20; AO No. 2021-117 , § 1, 1-19-22; AO No. 2022-82, § 1, 9-27-22)

Section 3. This ordinance shall be effective immediately upon passage and approval by the Assembly.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this _____ day of _____, 2024.

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Chair

ATTEST:

Municipal Clerk

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE



ASSEMBLY MEMORANDUM

No. AM 344-2024

Meeting Date: April 9, 2024

1 **From: Assembly Member Sulte**

2
3 **Subject: AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY AMENDING**
4 **ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE SECTIONS 2.30.035 AND**
5 **2.30.040 TO INCLUDE INITIAL AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION AND**
6 **ESTABLISH A DURATIONAL LIMIT TOGETHER WITH**
7 **APPEARANCE REQUESTS AT REGULAR ASSEMBLY**
8 **MEETINGS.**
9

10 This proposed ordinance is intended to enhance public involvement during the
11 Assembly's regular meetings.
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13 The ordinance adds back initial audience participation at the beginning of the regular
14 meeting agenda Section 9, which was removed by AO 2022-82, and provides a
15 predictable time frame for both Appearance Requests and Initial Audience
16 Participation. This change assures the public will have a set time frame to provide
17 comments to the Assembly regardless of when the public comment period
18 commences. While current Code offers that Appearance Requests begin not before
19 5:15 p.m. and no later than 6:00 p.m., the proposed AO's objective is to allot a
20 predictable 30 minutes of time in the aggregate for Appearance Request and Initial
21 Audience Participation at each regular meeting. Initial Audience Participation would
22 follow after Appearance Requests are completed and end after 30 minutes has
23 elapsed, and then resume at the end of the meeting at Agenda Item 16. The
24 proposed ordinance also allows the Chair to ask that persons coming forward for
25 initial audience participation be those whom say, in good faith, they are not staying
26 through the meeting until final audience participation. This standard would not be
27 very enforceable, but may discourage persons who clearly stay through the end of
28 Assembly meetings regularly from exploiting the initial audience participation time,
29 and allow the chair to let others speak first.
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31 **I request your support for the ordinance.**
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33 Reviewed by: Assembly Counsel's Office and
34 Legislative Services Office

35 Respectfully submitted: Randy Sulte, Assembly Member
36 District 6 – South Anchorage, Girdwood, Turnagain Arm