

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AO No. 2025-_____

1 **AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY AMENDING**
2 **ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 2.30, RULES OF PROCEDURE**
3 **FOR ASSEMBLY, TO MAKE A MOTION TO POSTPONE INDEFINITELY**
4 **NONDEBATABLE WHEN IT CLOSSES THE PUBLIC HEARING ON AN AGENDA**
5 **ITEM.**
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7
8 **WHEREAS**, the Home Rule Charter of the Municipality of Anchorage provides that
9 “the assembly by ordinance shall determine its own rules and order of business,...”
10 Charter § 4.04(c); and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, the Anchorage Assembly has implemented that directive by adoption
13 of several specific rules in Anchorage Municipal Code chapter 2.30, Rules of
14 Procedure for Assembly, which includes a catchall provision in AMC section
15 2.30.080I.: “In all matters not covered by this chapter, Robert’s Rules of Order,
16 Newly Revised, shall govern.”; and
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18 **WHEREAS**, the Anchorage Municipal Code section 2.30.065 allows for a motion to
19 postpone indefinitely to act as an incidental main motion (it is normally a subsidiary
20 motion), and therefore may be in order even before a motion to approve an agenda
21 item has been made; and
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23 **WHEREAS**, AMC section 2.30.055 permits the public hearing on an item to be
24 closed when a motion to postpone the item indefinitely has prevailed; and
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26 **WHEREAS**, every Assembly Member is within their rights to move to postpone an
27 item indefinitely after the public hearing is opened, and, if successful, thereby defeat
28 the item and prevent any public comment on it; and
29

30 **WHEREAS**, Robert’s Rules, Newly Revised, 12th Edition, § 11:2(5) states the
31 subsidiary motion to postpone indefinitely is “debatable; and, unlike the case of any
32 other subsidiary motion, debate on the motion to Postpone Indefinitely can go fully
33 into the merits of the main question.”; and
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35 **WHEREAS**, these provisions of Code and RONR create the potential for the
36 Assembly to debate the merits of an underlying item, before hearing public
37 testimony concerning it; now, therefore,
38

39 **THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY ORDAINS:**
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41 **Section 1.** Anchorage Municipal Code chapter 2.30 is hereby amended to read
42 as follows (*the remainder of the chapter is not affected and therefore not set out*):
43

44 **Chapter 2.30 - RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR ASSEMBLY**

*** **

2.30.055 Conduct of public hearing.

*** **

E. If any time scheduled for public hearing proves inadequate to hear all persons present to testify, the public hearing shall be continued.

1. Continued public hearing may be scheduled for any day of the week.
2. If the date, time, and location of continued public hearing cannot be announced when the public hearing is continued, public notice shall be given as soon as practicable.

F. If the assembly anticipates public hearing or assembly deliberation will draw more people than the assembly chambers will accommodate, additional space with audio or audio and video in the Wilda Marston Theater or other location will be used, if available, to facilitate seating for additional members of the public.

G. Notwithstanding subsection E. of this section, the assembly may close a public hearing:

1. In order to meet a deadline imposed by law,
2. If necessary to pass an item which is, in the sole discretion of the assembly, time sensitive, or
3. If the item for which the public hearing is being conducted is postponed indefinitely. A motion to postpone an item indefinitely, made and seconded before the closure of the public hearing, is not debatable.

*** **

(AO No. 2014-2(S), § 3, 2-25-14; AO No. 2017-53, § 10, 4-11-17; AO No. 2020-137(S), § 2, 1-14-21; AO No. 2021-117, § 1, 1-19-22; AO No. 2022-43(S), § 5, 4-12-22; AO No. 2022-82, § 1, 9-27-22)

*** **

2.30.065 Motions.

A. By a member with the floor. A motion that is in order may be made at any time by a member who has been granted the floor by the chair.

B. Rules applicable to specific motions. Certain motions classified by Robert's Rules as subsidiary shall be considered incidental main motions when made pertaining to an agenda item and there is no main motion pending, including a motion to postpone indefinitely, motion to postpone to a time certain, motion to continue, motion to refer, and

similar motions incidental to or related to assembly business on the agenda.

1. Motion to postpone indefinitely. Any main motion may be postponed indefinitely. When made as an incidental main motion, a motion to postpone indefinitely is not debatable if it is moved and seconded before closure of a public hearing on the item.

*** **

(AO No. 2021-117, § 1, 1-19-22; AO No. 2022-82, § 1, 9-27-22; AO No. 2023-62, § 1, 5-23-23)

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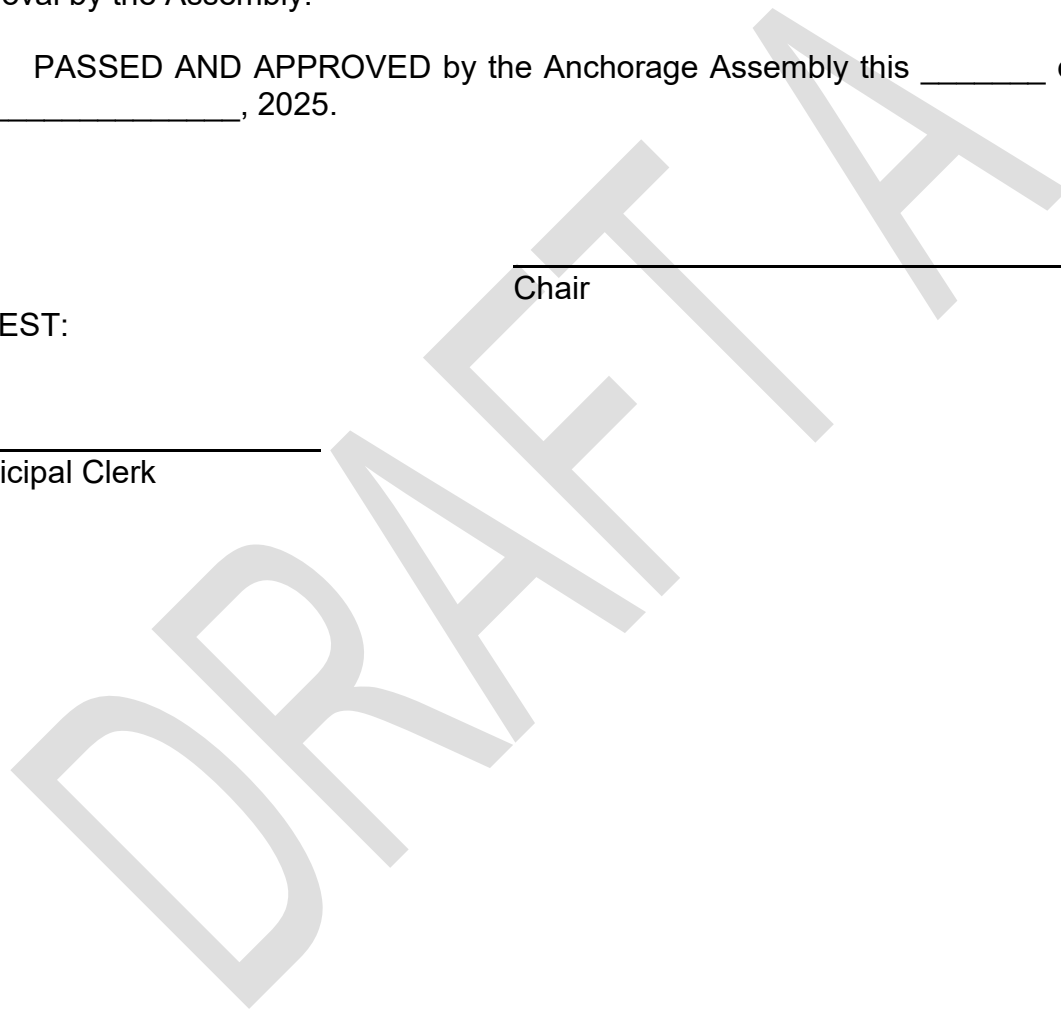
Section 2. This ordinance shall be effective immediately upon passage and approval by the Assembly.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this _____ day of _____, 2025.

Chair

ATTEST:

Municipal Clerk



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AO No. 2025-_____

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2 **ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 2.30, RULES OF PROCEDURE**
3 **FOR ASSEMBLY, REGARDING THE RULES FOR A MOTION TO POSTPONE**
4 **INDEFINITELY WHEN IT CLOSSES THE PUBLIC HEARING ON AN AGENDA**
5 **ITEM.**
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8 **WHEREAS**, the Home Rule Charter of the Municipality of Anchorage provides that
9 “the assembly by ordinance shall determine its own rules and order of business,...”
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13 of several specific rules in Anchorage Municipal Code chapter 2.30, Rules of
14 Procedure for Assembly, which includes a catchall provision in AMC section
15 2.30.080I.: “In all matters not covered by this chapter, Robert’s Rules of Order,
16 Newly Revised, shall govern.”; and
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18 **WHEREAS**, Anchorage Municipal Code section 2.30.065 allows for a motion to
19 postpone indefinitely to act as an incidental main motion (it is normally a subsidiary
20 motion), and therefore may be in order even before a motion to approve an agenda
21 item has been made; and
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23 **WHEREAS**, AMC section 2.30.055 permits the public hearing on an item to be
24 closed when a motion to postpone the item indefinitely has prevailed; and
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27 item indefinitely after the public hearing is opened, and, if successful, thereby defeat
28 the item and prevent any public comment on it; and
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30 **WHEREAS**, Robert’s Rules, Newly Revised, 12th Edition, § 11:2.5 states the
31 subsidiary motion to postpone indefinitely is “debatable; and, unlike the case of any
32 other subsidiary motion, debate on the motion to Postpone Indefinitely can go fully
33 into the merits of the main question.”; and
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35 **WHEREAS**, these provisions of Code create the potential for the Assembly to
36 debate the merits of an underlying item, before hearing public testimony concerning
37 it; now, therefore,
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44 **Chapter 2.30 - RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR ASSEMBLY**

1 *** *** ***

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4 **2.30.055 Conduct of public hearing.**

5 *** *** ***

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7 E. If any time scheduled for public hearing proves inadequate to hear all
8 persons present to testify, the public hearing shall be continued.

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10 1. Continued public hearing may be scheduled for any day of the
11 week.

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13 2. If the date, time, and location of continued public hearing
14 cannot be announced when the public hearing is continued,
15 public notice shall be given as soon as practicable.

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17 F. If the assembly anticipates public hearing or assembly deliberation will
18 draw more people than the assembly chambers will accommodate,
19 additional space with audio or audio and video in the Wilda Marston
20 Theater or other location will be used, if available, to facilitate seating
21 for additional members of the public.

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23 G. Notwithstanding subsection E. of this section, the assembly may close
24 a public hearing:

25
26 1. In order to meet a deadline imposed by law,

27
28 2. If necessary to pass an item which is, in the sole discretion of
29 the assembly, time sensitive, or

30
31 3. If the item for which the public hearing is being conducted is
32 postponed indefinitely. A motion to postpone an item
33 indefinitely, made and seconded before the closure of the
34 public hearing, may be debated, but the scope of the debate
35 may not reach the merits of the underlying item.

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37 *** *** ***

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39 (AO No. 2014-2(S), § 3, 2-25-14; AO No. 2017-53, § 10, 4-11-17; AO No.
40 2020-137(S), § 2, 1-14-21; AO No. 2021-117, § 1, 1-19-22; AO No. 2022-
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1. Motion to postpone indefinitely. Any main motion may be postponed indefinitely. When moved and seconded before closure of a public hearing as an incidental motion, a motion to postpone indefinitely is debateable, but debate may not reach the merits of the underlying item.

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(AO No. 2021-117, § 1, 1-19-22; AO No. 2022-82, § 1, 9-27-22; AO No. 2023-62, § 1, 5-23-23)

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Municipal Clerk

