

CLERK'S OFFICE

Submitted by: Assemblymember TESCHE

APPROVED

Prepared by: Assembly Office

Date: 3-13-01

For reading: FEBRUARY 13, 2001

VETOED 03-20-01; NO ASSEMBLY
ACTION TAKEN

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

AO NO. 2001-52

AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY AMENDING
ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE SUBSECTION 2.30.030 I. RELATING TO THE
TIME REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND
ADJOURNMENT OF ASSEMBLY MEETINGS.

THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY ORDAINS:

Section 1 That AMC 2.30.030 is amended to read as follows:

The order of business at all regular meetings of the Assembly shall be as follows:

1. Call to order.
2. Roll call.
3. Pledge of allegiance.
4. Minutes of previous meetings.
5. Mayor's report.
6. Addendum to agenda.
7. Consent agenda.
 - a. Bid awards.
 - b. Ordinances and resolutions for introduction.
 - c. Resolutions for action
 - d. New business.
 - e. Information and reports.

8. Regular agenda.
 - a. Bid awards.
 - b. Ordinances and resolutions for introduction.
 - c. Resolutions for action.
 - d. New business.
 - e. Information and reports.
9. Old business and unfinished action on public hearing items.
10. Appearance requests (shall begin no earlier than 6:00 p.m. and no later than 7:00 p.m.).
11. Continued public hearings (shall begin no earlier than 6:00 p.m. and no later than 7:00 p.m.).
12. New public hearings (shall begin no earlier than 6:00 p.m. and end no later than 10:30 p.m. provided, however, by **a majority [TWO-THIRDS]** vote of the Assembly, public hearings may continue past 10:30 p.m. until adjournment).
13. Board of adjustment/assembly appeals.
14. Special orders.
15. Unfinished agenda.
16. Audience participation.
17. Assembly comments.
18. Executive sessions.
19. Adjournment, which shall be promptly at 11:00 p.m.; provided, however, by **a majority [THREE-QUARTERS]** vote of the Assembly, adjournment and business before the Assembly may be continued past 11:00 p.m. until 12:00 midnight.

Section 2: That this ordinance shall become effective upon passage and approval.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 13 day of March, 2001.


Chair

ATTEST:

Municipal Clerk



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
ASSEMBLY MEMORANDUM

NO. AM 146-2001

Meeting Date: **FEBRUARY 13, 2001**

From: Assemblymember Tesche

**Subject: Amending AMC Subsection 2.30.030.I, Order of Business at
Assembly Meetings**

Per current Municipal Code, the order of business at Assembly meetings includes several time requirements for starting and/or ending business. Two of these time requirements are:

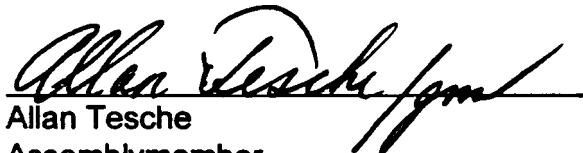
Starting and ending times for new public hearings. Currently, new public hearings shall begin no earlier than 6:00 p.m. and shall end no later than 10:30 p.m., unless extension of this end time is approved by a two-thirds vote of the Assembly.

Adjournment. Currently, Assembly meetings shall adjourn at 11:00 p.m., unless extension of this end time (up to 12 midnight) is approved by a three-quarters vote of the Assembly.

I believe that approval to extend the end times of these two time requirements should be by majority vote of the Assembly.

Approval of this ordinance is recommended

Respectfully submitted:


Allan Tesche
Assemblymember

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
Summary of Economic Effects - General Government

AO Number: 2001-52

Title: Amending AMC 2.30.030, Order of Business
at Assembly Meetings

Sponsor: Assemblymember Tesche

Preparing Agency: Assembly Office

Others Affected: Assembly

CHANGES IN EXPENDITURE AND REVENUES (Thousands of Dollars)

Operating Expenditures	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98
1000 Personal Services					
2000 Supplies					
3000 Other Services					
4000 Debt Service					
5000 Capital Outlay					
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS:					

ADD: 6000 Charge from Others					
LESS: 7000 Charge to Others					
FUNCTION COSTS:					

REVENUES:					
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CAPITAL:					

POSITIONS: FT/PT and Temp.					

Public Sector Economic Effects:

No public sector economic effects anticipated.

Page 2

Private Sector Economic Effects:

No private sector economic effects anticipated.

Prepared by: Greg Moyer
Date: 2-7-01

Telephone: 343-4755



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 20, 2001

TO: Anchorage Assembly

FROM: Mayor George Wuerch

SUBJECT: Veto of Assembly Ordinance 2001-52, an ordinance of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly amending Anchorage Municipal Code Subsection 2.30.030 I. relating to the time requirements for public hearings of the Assembly and adjournment of Assembly meetings.

George Wuerch

2001 MAR 20 PM 4:17
CLERK'S OFFICE
M.O.A.

I hereby veto Assembly Ordinance 2001-52 as approved by the Assembly March 13, 2001 for the following reason.

The ordinance sets bad public policy. The time limits and rules previously set by the Assembly were designed to ensure that the public's business is conducted in a manner and at times generally convenient to the public, except as otherwise necessary as determined by a supermajority. Restricting late night meetings fosters open government, public participation, and public involvement. Changing the rule to allow a simple majority of the Assembly to extend business into the late hours of the evening defeats this policy. This is true for our citizens who watch on TV, but is especially true for our citizens who come from Girdwood or from Eagle River – Chugiak and need to return to their homes at a decent hour.

Last minute decisions should be made only when time is of the essence and the matter is recognized by a supermajority of the Assembly as one of some urgency justifying public hearings and deliberations well past a time convenient for the public. Only in rare instances is this justified.

It is far better to conduct the Municipality's business openly and during hours that most of us with jobs, children, and other obligations can manage. Far better is a system that maximizes public participation, not one that discourages it. Allowing a simple majority to deliberate on and pass legislation long after the public has gone home is discouraged by the supermajority vote requirement.

I encourage the Assembly to uphold this veto.