

AMENDMENT FORM

COMMITTEE: COMMITTEE ON COUNCIL

PAGE NUMBER(S): 2

COMMUNICATION I.D.#: _____

CAPTION: YES NO

ORDINANCE I.D.#: 13-O-0170

SUBSECTION(S): (f), (e), (b)

RESOLUTION I.D.#: _____

PARAGRAPH(S): _____

AUTHORIZING SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: February 4, 2013

Amendment #1

To Amend Section 2-136, by deleting the language in subsection (f) and replacing it with the following language so that it reads:

“(f) Comments shall not be permitted for items that have been referred to and heard before the Zoning Review Board or the subject of a public hearing for a land use change to the Comprehensive development Plan”.

Amendment #2

To Amend Section 2-136, subsection (e) by deleting the language “three (3) minutes” and replacing it with “five (5) minutes” so that it reads:

“(e) General public comment at the end of the committee meeting shall be five (5) minutes per person. Comments relating to non-action items presented or discussed during the meeting, such as a departmental presentation, shall be included in general comments.”

Amendment #3

To Amend Section 2-136, subsection (b) by adding the word “agenda” after the word “legislative”, and the words “or amendment,” after the word “item,” so that it reads:

“(b) For each legislative agenda action item, or amendment, public comment shall be three (3) minutes per person.”

[Signature]
AN ORDINANCE

BY COUNCIL MEMBER JOYCE SHEPHERD *Joyce M. Shepherd*

Alcedo
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 2-136 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA (ENTITLED "REMARKS FROM PUBLIC") SO AS TO REPEAL SAID SECTION IN ITS ENTIRETY AND TO ESTABLISH NEW RULES GOVERNING REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC WHEN SPEAKING BEFORE THE STANDING COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL; TO WAIVE CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the city council desires to establish a uniform policy regarding remarks from the public when speaking before the standing committees of the council; and,

WHEREAS, the council further desires that such uniform rules be closely aligned and patterned after the rules for remarks from the public when speaking before the full council as provided in City Code Section 2-104; and,

WHEREAS, the current provisions of Code Section 2-136 give wide discretion to committee chairpersons as to the time allotment and scope of remarks from the public when speaking before committees; and,

WHEREAS, a uniform policy established for all committees will eliminate any confusion by the public as to the rules governing remarks from the public when speaking before council committees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA, as follows:

Section 1: Section 2-136 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Atlanta, Georgia which currently provides as follows:

Sec. 2-136. Remarks from public.

Each standing committee shall hear remarks from the public at its regularly scheduled meetings, provided that the chairperson may limit receipt of such remarks to legislation pending before such committee, may bar comments pertaining to legislation for which public hearings have been held, may rule out of order personal, abusive or indecorous language, and may further limit the time allotted to each person, or to each side of a pending issue, to no less than one minute.

Is hereby repealed in its entirety with the following being substituted in lieu thereof:

Sec. 2-136. Remarks from public.

The rules governing remarks from the public before all standing committees of the city council shall be as follows:

- (a) Public comment shall be consistent for all committee meetings.**
- (b) For each legislative action item, public comment shall be three (3) minutes per person.**
- (c) Public comment on individual pieces of legislation shall occur after committee debate, but before the committee votes on the legislation.**
- (d) The committee, by a motion and a majority vote, may modify the speaking time for a person on a specific piece of legislation. For example, a subject matter expert may make a presentation on a specific aspect of a piece of legislation.**
- (e) General public comment at the end of the committee meeting shall be three (3) minutes per person. Comments relating to non-action items presented or discussed during the meeting, such as a departmental presentation, shall be included in general comments.**
- (f) Comments pertaining to legislation for which public hearings have been held shall not be permitted.**
- (g) Personal, abusive or indecorous language shall not be allowed.**

Section 2: All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby waived to the extent of any such conflict.