

ORDINANCE NO. 2011-05-033

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER TWO, SECTION 2-4
OF THE URBANA CITY CODE**

(Public Meetings)

WHEREAS, the City of Urbana ("City") is an Illinois Municipal Corporation pursuant to the Illinois Constitution of 1970 and the Statutes of the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the City's committees, commissions, boards, and other official bodies are subject to the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, Public Act 96-1473, adopted by the 96th Illinois General Assembly, amended the Open Meetings Act to provide that any person will be permitted an opportunity to address public officials at public meetings under rules established and recorded by the public body; and

WHEREAS, Section 2-4 of the Urbana City Code establishes rules for public participation at public meetings held by official bodies of the City; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and the City Council find that communication between the public and City officials is a vital and necessary function of City government; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and the City Council find that amending Section 2-4 will promote the City's longstanding practice of allowing the public to address City officials on matters of public concern.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Urbana, Illinois, as follows:

Section 1. Urbana City Code Chapter Two, "Administration," Article I, "In General," Section 2-4, "Public hearings," is hereby amended and as amended shall read as follows:

Sec. 2-4. Public meetings.

(a) Any person who seeks to address the members of a commission, committee, or other official body of the city at any public meeting will be permitted to speak on any matter listed on the agenda or on any other matter of public concern, subject to the following provisions:

1. The presiding officer shall designate a time during the meeting at which the public may address the members. The presiding officer may require persons wishing to speak during any portion of a meeting to sign in before the start of the meeting and to provide their names, addresses, and topics to be discussed.

2. Prior to speaking, each person must be recognized by the presiding officer and must state his or her name and address for the record.

3. Subject to subsection 2-4(a)(4), public comment is limited to no more than five (5) minutes per person and to no more than two (2) hours per meeting, unless extended by consent of a majority vote of the members present. The presiding officer or his or her designee shall monitor each speaker's use of time and shall notify the speaker when the time allotted has expired.

4. If the presiding officer recognizes that more than 20 persons desire to speak, he or she may limit each speaker to comments of no more than three (3) minutes. Whenever any group of persons wishes to address the members on the same subject matter, the presiding officer may ask that a spokesperson be chosen from the group. If additional matters are to be presented by other persons in the group, the presiding officer may limit the number of such persons and may limit the presentation to information not already presented by the group spokesperson.

5. Persons invited by the presiding officer to address the members are subject to such time limitations as the majority of the members present may prescribe.

6. Separate rules, as required by law or as otherwise provided in this Code, will govern the conduct of quasi-judicial hearings.

(b) The city clerk shall post the provisions of subsection 2-4(a) on the city's website.

Section 2. Those sections, paragraphs, and provisions of the Urbana City Code that are not expressly amended or repealed by this Ordinance are hereby re-enacted, and it is expressly declared to be the intention of this Ordinance not to repeal or amend any portions of the Urbana City Code other than those expressly set forth as amended or repealed in this Ordinance. The invalidity of any section or provision of this Ordinance hereby passed and approved shall not invalidate other sections or provisions thereof.

Section 3. This Ordinance shall not be construed to affect any suit or proceeding pending in any court, or any rights acquired, or a liability incurred, or any cause or causes of action acquired or existing prior to the effective date of this Ordinance; nor shall any right or remedy of any character be lost, impaired, or affected by this Ordinance.

Section 4. The City Clerk is directed to publish this Ordinance in pamphlet form by authority of the corporate authorities, and this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

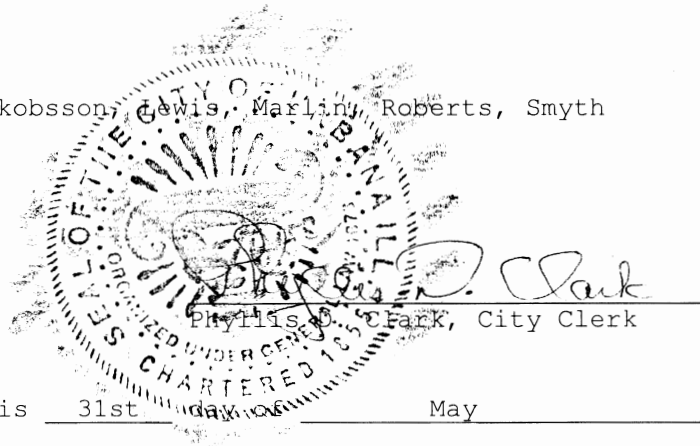
This Ordinance is hereby passed by the affirmative vote, the "ayes" and "nays" being called, of a majority of the members of the Council of the City of Urbana, Illinois, at a meeting of said Council.

PASSED by the City Council this 16th day of May, 2011.

AYES: Bowersox, Jakobsson, Lewis, Marlin, Roberts, Smyth

NAYS:

ABSTAINS:



APPROVED by the Mayor this 31st day of May, 2011.


Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor