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A resolution/ordinance by Supervisors Alexander, Logsdon, and Sebring, amending Chapter 1, Section 3 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances to allow for public comments during the order of business for all meetings of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION/ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board) is elected to serve the residents of Milwaukee County (the County), and advocate for their best interests and needs; and

WHEREAS, public comment is usually permitted during each agenda time at County Board standing and special committee meetings; and

WHEREAS, items recommended for adoption by a committee may be amended during the committee process or at County Board meetings, limiting public comment on those changes; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the County Board to listen to their constituents and allow time for their input; and

WHEREAS, members of the public may wish to address the entire County Board about relevant County business; and

WHEREAS, time for public comment should be built into the order of business for meetings of the County Board; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Finance and Audit, at its meeting of July 18, 2019, recommended adoption of File No. 19-618 (vote 3-2); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board) supports the public's right to comment on Milwaukee County business; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, public comment during County Board meetings should be limited by the County Board Chairperson to issues that are pending on the agenda; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board hereby amends Section 1.03(c) of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances, by adopting the following:

42 **AN ORDINANCE**

43
44 The County Board of Supervisors of the County of Milwaukee does ordain as follows:

45
46 **SECTION 1.** Section 1.03 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances is
47 amended as follows:

48
49 1.03. – Opening of meeting.

50
51 (a) *Call to order.* At the hour of meeting, the chairperson of the county board, or in
52 his/her absence the first vice-chairperson, or in his/her absence the second vice-
53 chairperson, shall call the members to order and shall request all members
54 present to rise for the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silent prayer and
55 meditation. In case of the absence of the chairperson or vice-chairperson, the
56 county board shall elect one (1) of its members temporary county board
57 chairperson. The annual meeting shall be opened with an invocation offered by a
58 member of the clergy selected in rotation without discrimination as to race,
59 gender, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, creed, or
60 religious affiliation, who shall serve without compensation. Regular meetings may
61 be opened with an invocation.

62
63 (b) *Roll call.* The chairperson shall direct the calling of the roll. The county clerk, on
64 recording the initial roll call at the opening of each county board meeting, shall
65 mark those supervisors who are present "present," and those who are absent
66 "absent," and those who are excused by the chairperson "excused," and shall,
67 in the paragraph immediately following the said roll call, insert the names of
68 those supervisors who have been marked absent who are present later in the
69 meeting of the county board, and said county clerk shall further record the
70 appearance of such supervisors marked absent at the point in the proceedings
71 when they appear during meetings of the county board. If a majority of the
72 members-elect answer to their names as called, the chairperson shall
73 announce the presence of a quorum. If no quorum is present at any regular or
74 special meeting of the county board, the chairperson may issue a warrant to the
75 sheriff of the county, and compel the attendance of the members absent without
76 having first been excused by the county board chairperson, and in such case,
77 said session shall remain open until the sheriff shall make return on the warrant
78 delivered to him/her. When such return has been made, it shall be recorded in
79 the journal. If the sheriff's return shows that he/she is unable to find the absent
80 members or that they are unable to attend through illness, the meeting shall
81 stand adjourned.

82
83 (c) *Order of business.* The order of business shall be as follows:

- 84 (1) Roll call
85 (2) Presentations by supervisors
86 (3) Presentation of petitions and communications

- 87 (4) Required appearance of county employees or officers, including the
88 county executive, to answer questions of the county board of
89 supervisors
90 (5) Public comment
91 ~~(5)~~ (6) Notice of claims
92 ~~(6)~~ (7) Files referred to standing committees
93 ~~(7)~~ (8) Correction and approval of the Journal of Proceedings
94 ~~(8)~~ (9) Unfinished business
95 ~~(9)~~ (10) Reports of county officers
96 ~~(10)~~ (11) Resolutions and ordinances by and from standing committees
97 ~~(11)~~ (12) Resolutions and ordinances by and from select committees
98 ~~(12)~~ (13) County board citations and certificates
99 ~~(13)~~ (14) Resolutions and ordinances presented under suspension of the
100 rules
101 ~~(14)~~ (15) Files not referred to standing committees
102 ~~(15)~~ (16) Announcements and remarks under special privilege
103 (17) Adjournment
104

105 **SECTION 2.** The provisions of this ordinance shall be effective upon passage and
106 publication.
107

108
109 srb
110 07/18/19
111 S:\Committees\2019\July\F&A\Resolutions\19-618 Chapter 1 - Board Day Public Comment.docx