

ORDINANCE NO. 2023 - 5

ORDINANCE AMENDING PART I, CHAPTER 3, ARTICLE II, TO ADD A NEW SECTION 3-13 TO THE ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WILLINGBORO TO ESTABLISH TIME LIMITS FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS AND TIME LIMITS ON COUNCIL MEMBERS COMMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

PURPOSE: The purpose of this Ordinance is to establish reasonable time limits for the duration of public meetings, Council Member's comments and public comment at public meetings of the Willingboro Township Council to address the issues of extremely long meetings going late into the night, which is an undue hardship on the residents seeking to participate in the meetings and counter-productive to the efficient conduct of Township business.

WHEREAS applicable New Jersey Law including the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, as well as Part I, Chapter 3, Article II, Section 3-13 of the Ordinances of the Township of Willingboro provide that the Township Council of Willingboro Township ("Council") has the authority to establish the order of business, agenda, conduct of meetings, procedure, decorum, and any other matters pertain to functions of Council, including carrying out Township business at regular and special meetings; and

WHEREAS, Council has determined that it is in the best interest of the residents of Willingboro Township and Council to limit the time allocated for public meetings such that such meetings shall not exceed three (3) hours unless an extension of such time is approved by motion and vote of a majority of a quorum of Council members present at a given meeting, and

WHEREAS, Council has determined that it is in the best interest of the residents of Willingboro Township that a Council Members' initial comments on a given topic shall be limited to five (5) minutes and after comment by other Council Members, five (5) minutes for rebuttal; and

WHEREAS, Council has determined that it is in the best interest of the residents of Willingboro Township that public comment on Agenda items shall be limited to not to exceed two (2) minutes per individual and general public comment shall be limited to not exceed four (4) minutes per individual;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of Willingboro Township of that Part 1, Chapter 3, Article II, Section 3 shall be amended to include a new paragraph, Section 3-13, that shall read:

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“All regular and special meetings of Council shall be limited to and shall not exceed three (3) hours in total time from start to finish, unless said time limit is extended upon motion and an affirmative vote of the majority of a quorum of Council members present at a given meeting. A Council Member’s initial comments on a given topic shall be limited to not exceed five (5) minutes for rebuttal. Further, public comment on Agenda items shall be limited to not to exceed two (2) minutes per individual and general public comment shall be limited to not exceed four (4) minutes per individual at a given public meeting.”

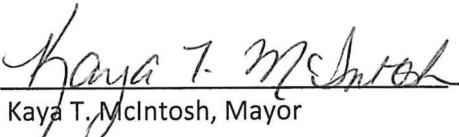
This Ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after the first publication thereof after passage and publication according to Law.

FIRST READING- March 7, 2023

Councilmember	Motion	2 nd	Yea	Nay	Recuse	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Anderson		X	X				
Councilwoman Perrone	X		X				
Councilwoman Worthy			X				
Deputy Mayor Whitfield			X				
Mayor McIntosh			X				

FINAL READING-March 21, 2023

Councilmember	Motion	2 nd	Yea	Nay	Recuse	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Anderson		X	X				
Councilwoman Perrone	X		X				
Councilwoman Worthy			X				
Deputy Mayor Whitfield			X				
Mayor McIntosh			X				


 Kaya T. McIntosh, Mayor

Attest:


 Brenda Bligen, Acting Township Clerk