



AGENDA STAFF MEMO

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members
FROM: Steve Krokoff, City Manager
DATE: Submitted on May 5, 2025, for the May 19, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting

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Steve Krokoff

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AGENDA ITEM: Consideration of an Ordinance to Modify the Council's Internal Rules of Procedure to Remove Language Prohibiting Official Action During the Public Hearing Agenda.

SUMMARY:

This ordinance modifies the City of Milton's internal governance rules by removing the restriction on taking official action during the *public hearing* portion of a City Council meeting.

Previously, the Council's rules prohibited formal decisions—such as votes or approvals—while an item was still under public hearing. Public hearings are designed to:

- Gather community input,
- Hear from residents on specific issues (e.g., zoning changes, ordinances), and
- Promote transparency in the decision-making process.

Under the former structure, community members would attend and engage during the public hearing—where all discussion and deliberation occurred—only to then wait until the *New Business* section of the agenda for any formal action. This delay in taking formal action is not only inefficient, but it serves no legitimate legal purpose.

Approval of this ordinance allows the Council to vote or decide on matters during the public hearing agenda item itself. This change is intended to streamline proceedings while still ensuring the public's voice is heard and considered in real time.

REVIEW & APPROVALS:

Legal Review: Ken Jarrard, Jarrard & Davis, LLP – May 5, 2025

Concurrent Review: Stacey Inglis, Deputy City Manager –

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Stacey Inglis

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ATTACHMENT(S): Ordinance

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**A ORDINANCE AMENDMENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MILTON,
GEORGIA, AMENDING SECTION 2-59(4) OF THE MILTON CITY CODE TO
REMOVE THE PROVISION PROHIBITING OFFICIAL ACTION AT PUBLIC
HEARINGS.**

WHEREAS, Section 2-59(4) of the Milton City Code pertains to the rules regarding public hearings. That Section currently provides that "no official action shall be taken at any such public hearing"; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it appropriate to amend this section to allow official action to be taken at public hearings as deemed necessary; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to amend Section 2-59(4) accordingly to better serve the interests of the City and its residents.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF MILTON, GEORGIA, AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:**

SECTION 1. Amendment to Section 2-59(4).

Section 2-59(4) of the Milton City Code is hereby amended by removing the sentence stating: "No official action shall be taken at any such public hearing." The revised section shall read as follows:

"The city council may schedule public hearings for the purpose of soliciting public comment on any subject of interest to the city council. Hearings may be held immediately prior to, during or following a meeting of the city council or at such other places and times as the city council may determine. Hearings require at least ten minutes per side. These limits may be waived by a majority vote of the city council. Hearings on zoning decisions shall be governed in accordance with the zoning policies and procedures and require the opportunity for each side to have at least ten minutes to discuss their position or offer comments."

SECTION 2. Effective Date.

This Ordinance amendment shall become effective immediately upon its adoption by the City Council.

SO ORDAINED this ____ day of _____, 2025.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk