

Policy Briefing Summary

City Council



Regarding:	Ordinance Amending 2-98 of the City Code Pertaining to Procedures for Passage of Certain Ordinances and Resolutions
Staff Contact(s):	John Maddux, City Attorney
Presenter:	John Maddux, City Attorney
Date of Proposed Action:	February 2, 2026

Issue

Under the current City Code very few items on the City Council agenda may be adopted at the same meeting they are introduced. General ordinances may be adopted at the same meeting they are introduced upon motion and affirmative vote of 4/5 of the City Council. The existing first and second reading requirements were adopted to promote transparency and deliberation, but in practice they can delay noncontroversial or time-sensitive matters even where Council consensus is clear. For that reason, at its retreat, the City Council indicated a desire to retain the protections of a two-reading process as the default while extending the mechanism to act at a single meeting to all matters when circumstances warrant unless otherwise prohibited by law.

Accordingly, this amendment to the City Code extends the ability to take action on items appropriating money at the same meeting they are introduced, provided a supermajority of the council agrees to waive the second reading and that some other legal provision does not require a second reading. .

Background / Rule

Analysis

The proposed amendment to Section 2-98 clarifies and modernizes the procedural requirements that apply when City Council acts to appropriate money, impose or release taxes, authorize borrowing, create debt, or donate City property. Subsection (a) restates the long-standing requirement that such actions must be adopted by a recorded majority vote of the full Council. Subsection (b) preserves the general rule that fiscal actions over \$5,000 may not be adopted on the same day they are introduced, and that a minimum waiting period must occur between introduction and passage, but adds that Council may elect to waive that requirement by a four-fifths vote.

The revision is intended to remove ambiguity regarding when a same-day waiver is permissible and how the “except as otherwise required by law” language operates. Under the revised structure, the exception applies only to the waiver of the waiting period and does not negate the underlying requirement that certain actions normally receive two separate readings. This ensures consistency with state law, reduces procedural risk, and provides clearer guidance to staff and Council. Subsection (c) preserves the existing exception for the annual budget and related appropriations, which by their nature must be adopted on a single date.

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of this measure

Recommended Motion (if Applicable)

I move that the City Council approve the proposed amendment to Section 2-98 of the City Code.

I further move that the City Council waive the requirement that this item receive a second reading, and that it be given immediate effect.

Attachments

1. Ordinance Amending Sec 2-98 of the City Code