2998-26

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 3, "RULES OF COUNCIL," SECTION 3-8, "ORDER OF BUSINESS" AND SECTION 3-15.2, "TIME LIMITS," OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST ORANGE

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of West Orange (the "Township") has determined that modifications to the public comment time limits will promote the orderly administration of Council meetings and the timely consideration of public business; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:48-1, the governing body of a municipality may make, amend, repeal, and enforce such other ordinances, regulations, rules and by-laws not contrary to the laws of this State or Federal Government, as it may deem necessary and proper for the good of government, order and protection of person and property, and for the preservation of the public health, safety and welfare of the municipality and its inhabitants, and as may be necessary to carry into effect the powers and duties conferred and imposed by this subtitle, or by any law; and

WHEREAS, the Township desires to amend Chapter 3, Sections 3-8 and 3-15.2 of the Code of the Township of West Orange, which establish procedures governing Council meetings, including public comment and speaking time limits;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Council of the Township of West Orange, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION 1. RECITALS. The foregoing whereas clauses are incorporated herein by reference and made a part hereof.

SECTION 2. Section 3-8. Order of Business and Section 3-15.2. Time Limits of the General Ordinances of the Township of West Orange are hereby amended as follows:

Note: Additions are shown in **bold and underline** and deletions are shown as ~~strikethrough~~.

§ 3-8. Order of Business.

[1972 Code § 3-8; Or. No. 726-84; Or. No. 1157-93; Or. No. 2128-07 §II; Or. No. 2382-13]

b. Public Agenda:

Pledge of Allegiance;

Roll Call;

Public Comment - Each member of the public wishing to speak shall do so through the Council President after stating their name and address for the record and shall be limited to ~~five~~ **three** minutes. Each Council Member, including the Council President, may respond.

§ 3-15.2. Time Limits.

[1972 Code § 3-15.2]

In all matters not provided for in subsection 3-15.1 and except upon consent of the Council President, each person addressing the Council pursuant to this subsection shall be required to limit his or her remarks to ~~five~~ **three** minutes, and shall at no time engage in any personally offensive or abusive remarks. The chair shall call any speaker to order who violates any provision of this rule.

SECTION 3. **SEVERABILITY.** Each section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase of these subsections are declared to be an independent section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase, and the finding or holding of any such portion of these subsections to be unconstitutional, void, or ineffective for any cause, or reason, shall not affect any other portion of these subsections.

SECTION 4. **REPEALER.** All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION 5. **EFFECTIVE DATE.** These subsections shall be in full force and effect from and after their adoption and any publication as required by law.

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the above Ordinance was introduced and passed on first reading at the regular meeting of the Township Council of the Township of West Orange, County of Essex, State of New Jersey held in the Municipal Building on the 27th day of October, 2026, and the same came up for final passage at the regular meeting of the Township Council held on the 10th day of November, 2026, at which time, after persons interested were given the opportunity to be heard concerning said Ordinance, the same was passed and will be in full force and effect in the Township of West Orange after approval by the Mayor or in accordance with law.

Susan McCartney, Mayor

Karen J. Carnevale, R.M.C.
Municipal Clerk

Susan Scarpa, Council President

Introduced: October 27, 2026

Adopted: November 10, 2026