

Open and Inclusive Government Proposals 2020

Chapter 7 Amendments

Expanding Public Comment Opportunities at County Board and Committee Meetings and Comment Time for Registrant Using Interpreter

Delete 7.225(2)(a). Remove authority to deny public comment to a member of the public if that person has already spoken on that item (e.g. an amendment).

~~(2)(a) If a committee has taken testimony on an item and the same committee considers action on the item at a separate meeting, the public shall not have the opportunity to testify if that same item appears on subsequent agendas of the same committee. Items are not considered to be the same item if a new amendment has been posted and the public has not had the opportunity to testify on the new amendment.~~

Delete the second sentence from 7.51(7). Remove authority to deny public comment at County Budget meetings.

~~(7) During the fall budget session, the county board may designate meetings at which no matters other than the annual budget may be considered. At such meetings, no public testimony or registrations shall be taken, provided a public hearing has been held on the budget prior to the budget meeting.~~

Delete 7.63(2) to remove authority to deny public comment at meetings where an item has already been noticed for public hearing.

~~If the county board has taken testimony on an item and considers action on the item at a separate meeting, the public shall not have the opportunity to testify when that same item appears on subsequent county board calendars.~~

Amend 7.63(6) as follows:

(6) No registrant shall speak for more than five minutes, subject to the following exceptions: that:

- (a) No registrant using an interpreter shall speak for more than ten minutes; and
- (b) No registrant shall speak for more than two minutes, except registrants using an interpreter may speak for four minutes, on matters being reconsidered by the board, and consideration of motions to override county executive vetoes, ~~no registrant shall speak for more than two minutes.~~

Formalizing Two Budget Hearings - One Before and One After Release of Executive Budget - and Providing Free Child Care

Add the following to section to 7.51: The County Board shall hold at least two public hearings on the budget. One of the public hearings shall be in September before the Executive Budget is

released to the County Board and one public hearing shall be held after the Executive Budget is released. The County Board shall make child care available to the public at no cost at the County Board budget hearings.

Create Opportunity for County Board Rule Change by Majority Vote at Beginning of Session (Every April)

Amend 7.99 as follows 7.99 AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 7. Ordinances in chapter 7 may be amended or repealed by a majority vote of supervisors present at the county board's first (organizational) meeting in April of even numbered years and the first meeting of the county board session in odd-numbered years, which is the second meeting in April, but otherwise shall only be amended or repealed by a two-thirds vote of the quorum of supervisors present at the board meeting.

Requiring Audio-Recording of Standing Committee Meetings and Online Access to Recordings

Amend title and create new section of 7.23 as follows. Minutes and recording of meetings. All meetings shall be audio-recorded. A link to the audio recording shall be made available in an easily accessible format to the public through the county board's website and the committee's webpage in the legislative tracking system. The effective date of this provision is 7/1/2020.

Annual Committee Public Engagement Plans

Create new section as follows 7.235(?)

Annual Committee Public Engagement Plans.

(a) Each committee shall identify at least three significant issues or items per session to include in the committee's public engagement plan. One of the items shall be the annual operating and capital budget recommendations of the committee. A significant issue could be identified by name or, if it has a budgetary impact, an issue or item could be identified as significant if it meets a certain cost threshold set forth by the committee.

(b) The committee's public engagement plan shall identify: (i) who is most impacted by the issue or item, (ii) the strategies for connecting with those most impacted to provide meaningful opportunities to guide the committee's policy and budget decisions on the issue or item, (iii) the need for translation and interpretation services, and (iv) how County Board funds may support the engagement.

© The committee's public engagement plan shall be provided to the Executive Committee and Equal Opportunities Commission no later than September 1,

(d) Meetings noticed for potential action on an issue or item identified in the public engagement plan shall be prioritized for video-recording resources and be live-streamed or video-recorded when possible.

Chapter 15 amendments

Amend 15.04(7)(a) to provide double per diems for low-income committee members: “..., except that non-supervisors serving on committees who are income-eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Wisconsin FoodShare benefits are eligible for a per diem amount which is double the per diem rate for county supervisors.”

In chapter 15 (and all chapters in the code), replace “citizen” with “resident”.