

Ordinance Amending 2-98 of the City Code Pertaining to Procedures for Passage of Certain Ordinances and Resolutions

WHEREAS, the City Council regularly considers ordinances and resolutions that must be acted upon within limited timeframes in order to meet grant deadlines, contractual requirements, fiscal constraints, or intergovernmental coordination schedules; and

WHEREAS, existing first and second reading requirements were adopted to promote transparency and deliberation, but in practice can delay noncontroversial or time-sensitive matters even where Council consensus is clear; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to retain the protections of a two-reading process as the default while also preserving a narrowly tailored mechanism to act at a single meeting when circumstances warrant; and

WHEREAS, requiring a supermajority vote of the whole Council to waive a second reading ensures that such waivers occur only when there is broad agreement and a demonstrated need for expedited action; and

WHEREAS, clarifying and harmonizing the procedures for ordinances, resolutions, and appropriations will improve administrative efficiency, reduce procedural ambiguity, and support consistent agenda management; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendments preserve all requirements imposed by state law, including any mandatory reading, notice, or public hearing provisions that cannot be waived by local action.

Now, therefore, be it ordained by the Council of the City of Charlottesville:

City Code section 2-98 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

Sec. 2-98. - Procedure for appropriating money, imposing taxes, etc.

- (a) For every ordinance or resolution appropriating money exceeding one hundred dollars (\$100.00), imposing or releasing taxes, authorizing the borrowing of money, creating a debt, or donating any property of the city where the value of such property is one hundred dollars (\$100.00) or more, a vote of a majority of all members elected to the council shall be necessary, and the ayes and noes shall be entered on the minutes of the council.
- (b) No ordinance or resolution appropriating money exceeding the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00), imposing taxes, or authorizing the borrowing of money shall be passed by the city council on the same day of its introduction, nor shall any such ordinance or resolution be valid unless at least three (3) days intervene between its introduction and passage; provided, that by a four-fifths vote of the whole council, any such ordinance or

resolution may, unless a second reading is otherwise required by law, be passed on the same date as its introduction and be valid.

- (c) Subsection (b) notwithstanding, the annual appropriations provided for in section 11-4 of this Code may be passed on the same date as their introduction.