

RESOLUTION NO. 266a

AMENDING THE ALBANY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE RULES OF ORDER PERTAINING TO LIVESTREAMING

Introduced: 10/10/17

By Messrs. Signoracci, Clenahan, Bullock and Law Committee:

WHEREAS, Rule 2 of the Albany County Legislative Rules of Order provide that members of the public may address the Legislature at its monthly meetings on matters pertaining to the County of Albany, and

WHEREAS, At its regular meetings, speakers frequently take up time before the meetings addressing issues not on the agenda or not directly pertaining to issues within the Legislature's purview, and

WHEREAS, It is important that members of the public have the opportunity to address the Legislature on the particular issues on the agenda to be considered that evening, and

WHEREAS, The Public Forum should be livestreamed to enable the public to hear the comments made prior to the passage of legislation, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Rule 2 of the Albany County Legislative Rules of Order be amended in part to read as follows:

“PUBLIC FORUM – From 6:30 p.m. until its conclusion, and in no event shall the Public Forum continue past 7:30 p.m., except that the Chairperson, in his/her discretion, may extend the time for the Public Forum, on the night of each monthly meeting, annual meeting and adjournment thereof, members of the public shall have the right to address the members of the Legislature on matters pertaining to the County of Albany. Each member of the public who desires to address the Legislature shall personally give their name to the Clerk of the Legislature from 6:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on such evening. The members of the public should state the topic on which they wish to speak. The Clerk shall maintain such list from month-to-month in a continuous fashion. The Chairperson of the County Legislature shall allow each member of the public whose name is reached five (5) minutes, except that the Chairperson, in his/her discretion, may limit speakers to three (3) minutes to give as many speakers as possible an opportunity to address the issues on that evening's legislative agenda. If all speakers wishing to address the legislature on that evening's agenda have spoken, speakers wishing to speak on other matters pertaining to Albany County may address the legislature in the remaining time before the meeting and, if at the end of the hour there are still speakers who have not been heard, the Public Forum shall continue after the legislature has adjourned the meeting. No

member of the Legislature shall question any speaker nor shall any speakers be allowed to question members of the Legislature. The Clerk shall take roll call and record the names of those members present and absent for the Public Forum. The Public Forum shall be livestreamed.”

and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Rule 8 of Albany County Legislative Rules of Order be amended to read as follows:

“On roll call, the Clerk shall record the names of all members present and absent. The Clerk of the Legislature shall provide for the recording and livestreaming of the meeting. Such recording and livestreaming shall begin prior to the roll call of the members. Members not present for the roll call must report their presence from the floor to the Chairperson.”

and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Rule 39 of Albany County Legislative Rules of Order be amended to read as follows:

“All Public Hearings or Meetings of the body as a whole may not take place before 5:00 PM. In the event more than one public hearing is scheduled for the same night, the scheduled times shall be consecutive, with no more than a five minute delay between hearings. The Clerk shall take roll call and record the names of those members present and absent for the Public Hearing. The Public Hearing shall be livestreamed. All meetings of standing or special committees shall not take place before 5:00 PM unless agreed to by a majority of said standing or special committee members. No Public Hearing of the Albany County Legislature shall be held on a civic holiday and consideration shall be given to avoid meeting on a religious holiday.”

and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Legislature forward a certified copy of this resolution to the Chairman of the Legislature and the appropriate County Officials.

Adopted by unanimous vote. 10/10/17