

**CITY OF WAUKESHA****Administration**

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<b>Committee:</b> None	<b>Committee Meeting Date:</b> <a href="#">Click here to enter a date.</a>
<b>Agenda Item Number:</b> 18-1544	<b>Common Council Meeting Date:</b> 10/16/2018
<b>Submitted By:</b> Brian Running, City Attorney	<b>City Administrator Approval:</b> Kevin Lahner, City Administrator <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>
<b>Finance Department Review:</b> Rich Abbott, Finance Director <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>	<b>City Attorney's Office Review:</b> Brian Running, City Attorney BER
<b>Subject:</b> Amendment of Council Rules to require "readings" of ordinances before they are passed and become effective.	

**Details:**

This is a proposal sponsored by Council members Rodriguez and Perry. Formerly, Council Rules required three readings of Ordinances before they became effective. This rule was repealed for several reasons: One, the readings took place after the ordinance was passed, so it was too late for amendment and the readings served no purpose. Two, frequently we lost track of the number of readings and the effective date of ordinances was not clear as a result. Three, the readings were frequently waived anyway.

Now, some Council members have expressed an interest in bringing back the concept of having a review period for ordinances. The current proposal corrects the major defect of the former system – it provides for the review period before the ordinance is passed, so there's an actual opportunity to amend after having a chance to consider the proposed ordinance. In the end, it would result in the addition of the time span between Council meetings to the ordinance-approval process, typically two weeks. The concept behind the proposal is: (1) To give notice to the Council when an ordinance is going to the O&L Committee, so Council members have an opportunity to attend the meeting and understand the proposal right from the start. This is essentially what the O&L agenda does now. (2) To debate the ordinance at Council after it comes up from O&L, but not to vote on it at that first Council meeting. (3) To bring up the ordinance again at the next Council meeting, at which point it could either be passed as-is, or amended and then passed. In a nutshell, what the proposed rule change really does is add a one-meeting consideration period before an ordinance can be voted on. In this way, a common complaint from Council members could be avoided – that the Council wasn't aware in advance of a proposal, didn't have time to prepare for it, and is being rushed into making a decision.

**Options & Alternatives:**

If the Council is satisfied with the present system, it could simply not change the Rules and leave the present system in place.

**Financial Remarks:**

There are no financial ramifications of this proposed Council Rule change.

**Staff Recommendation:**

There is no staff recommendation, this matter is entirely within the Council's discretion.