

§ 30.06 PUBLIC COMMENTS.

(A) There shall be one period before a regular meeting of 15 minutes which the City Council shall receive public comments. The City Council shall listen, but not enter into discussions or debate the person commenting. The Council will take note of comment by offering to make arrangements to speak further with that person after the Council meeting concludes or a later date.

(B) Each speaker at each comment session shall be limited to three minutes to make his or her remarks. If more than five people desire to speak at either session, the Mayor may reduce the time for each speaker to two minutes.

(C) The Mayor shall administer public comment periods and shall be responsible for enforcing time limits on speakers and prohibiting the use of obscene, abusive, personal attacks, or inflammatory language.

(D) Individuals who use obscene or abusive language or make obscene gestures under conditions likely to provoke a disorderly response from persons present at the meeting, or to disrupt the orderly conduct of the meeting, may be cited or arrested for disorderly conduct. The violator may be banned from speaking at Council meetings for a period of no less than two Council meetings. However, no speaker is to be curtailed for remarks that are merely critical in nature.

(E) This section shall not affect statutorily required public hearing periods held during City Council meetings.

(Ord. 2013-02-406, passed 2-5-13; Am. Ord. 2015-01-503, passed 1-6-15)

§ 30.26 RULES GOVERNING CONDUCT IN MEETINGS.

(A) The City Council shall have the authority to adopt such rules governing its meetings as it may deem expedient. Except as provided by rules adopted by the City Council, in all matters of procedure the Procedural Rules for Municipal Officials as published by Arkansas Municipal League, newly revised, shall govern and apply.

(B) The City Council's rules and order of business shall be observed in all cases, unless suspended temporarily for a special purpose of an emergency nature by any rule, and such motions must be seconded to entitle it to consideration.

(C) If any member, in speaking or otherwise, transgresses the rules of the Council, the presiding officer shall, or any member can, call him or her to order; in which case the member so called to order shall immediately cease discussion unless permitted by the presiding officer to explain; and the Council, if appealed to, shall decide the question without debate. If the decision is in favor of the member so called to order, he or she shall be at liberty to proceed; if otherwise, he or she shall not proceed without leave of the Council to proceed in order.

(D) A member about to speak shall respectfully address the chair, and shall not commence to speak until recognized by the presiding officer. When two or more members request to speak at the same time, the presiding officer shall determine which one is recognized.

(E) Every member, while speaking, shall confine himself or herself to the subject under debate, refrain from personalities and shall not refer to any other member of the council except in a respectful manner.

(F) Unless a member, who has the floor, yields for that purpose, no member shall interrupt another while speaking, except to propound a parliamentary inquiry or make a point of order.

(G) No member shall speak more than twice or for more than five minutes continuously to any one question, except that one or more additional periods of five minutes may be granted by majority consent. The reading of papers desired by any member shall be read by himself or herself or by the City Clerk within the member's time limitation unless permission for the Recorder/Treasurer to read such paper outside the time limitations is granted by a majority.

(Ord. 2013-02-406, passed 2-5-13; Am. Ord. 2015-01-503, passed 1-6-15)

§ 30.27 CONDUCT OF SPECTATORS.

(A) It shall be the duty of the Chief of Police to be present and on official duty at all special and regular meetings of the City Council.

(B) Except during such periods of time at such meetings as the City Council shall set aside for public discussion, it shall be unlawful for any person present as a spectator to interrupt or disturb the proceedings in any manner by voice, actions, or otherwise.

(C) During periods set aside for public discussion of any nature, any person desiring to speak shall secure the permission of the presiding officer by first silently raising his hand and being recognized. The use of profanity, obscene language, threats, or any violent or abusive conduct by any person shall constitute a violation of this section.

(D) It shall be the duty of the Chief of Police, upon the order of the presiding officer at any such meeting to forcibly, if necessary, evict any person violating the provisions of this section from the Council meeting hall. Any such violation shall subject the offender, upon conviction thereof before the district court, to a fine and or imprisonment.

(E) No one but a member shall address the Council except by the unanimous consent of all the members present.

(Ord. 2013-02-406, passed 2-5-13; Am. Ord. 2015-01-503, passed 1-6-15)