

Council Meeting Decorum

Chapter 2: Administration

Article 1., In General

Sec. 2.38. Duties of presiding officer. The Mayor, or in absence, the mayor pro tem, shall be the presiding officer and shall preserve strict order and decorum at all regular and special meetings of the City Council.

Sec. 2-44. Quorum. A quorum shall be considered to be four council members plus the mayor, or in absence, the mayor pro tem, making a total number of five persons.

Sec. 2-45. Rules of procedure. In all cases, Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised (1970) shall govern the proceedings of the City Council meeting except as otherwise provided in the charter.

Sec. 2-46. Limits on addressing City Council. Any person not a member of the City Council who desires to address the Council shall first secure the permission of the presiding officer to do so, then shall step up in front of the podium, give his name and address in an audible voice for the record, and direct his remarks to the Council as a body rather than to any particular councilmember, limiting such remarks to five minutes (5) unless additional time is granted by the presiding officer.

Sec. 2-47. Rules of debate. No member, while the City Council is in session, shall speak on any subject unless it is recognized by the presiding officer. A member once recognized, shall not be interrupted when speaking unless it is to call him to order, or as herein otherwise provided. If a member, while speaking is called to order, he shall cease speaking until the question of order be determined, and if in order, he shall be permitted to proceed.

Sec. 2-54. Decorum.

(a) Council members. When the Council is in session, the members must preserve order and decorum and a member shall neither by conversation or otherwise, delay or interrupt the proceedings or the peace of the Council, nor disturb any member while speaking, or refuse to obey the orders of the Council or its presiding officer, except as otherwise herein provided.

(b) Others. Any person making personal impertinent, or slanderous remarks, or who shall become boisterous while addressing the Council, shall be forthwith by the presiding officer, barred from further audience before the Council, unless permission to continue be granted by a majority vote of the Council.

Sec. 2-55. Enforcement of decorum. The Chief of Police, or such member or members of the Police Department as he may designate, shall be sergeant-at-arms of the Council Meetings. He or they shall carry out all orders and instructions given by the presiding officer for the purpose of maintaining order and decorum at the Council Meetings.