

Sec. 2-51. Decorum.

(a) All councilmember's must conduct themselves in a professional and respectful manner. All remarks should be directed to the mayor and not to individual councilmember's, staff or citizens in attendance. Personal remarks are inappropriate. A councilmember is not allowed to speak at a meeting until he has been recognized by the mayor. All comments made by a councilmember shall address the motion that is being discussed.

(b) The mayor shall enforce these rules of decorum. If a councilmember believes that a rule has been broken, he can raise a point of order. A second is not required. The mayor can rule on the question or he may allow the city council to debate the issue and decide the issue by majority vote.

Sec. 2-52. Public participation.

(a) *Generally.* Public participation in meetings of the city council shall be permitted in accordance with this section.

(b) *Public comments.* The final agenda item of the meeting shall be reserved for comments from the public. Every member of the public who wishes to address the city council must submit his name and the topic of his comments to the city clerk at least three business days before the city council meeting. These individuals will be allotted 15 minutes to make their comments, and their comments must be limited to their chosen topic. These limits can be waived by a majority vote of the city council.

(c) *Public participation on agenda items.* By a majority vote, the city council may allow public comment on an agenda item at the time the item is being considered by the city council. These comments must be limited to the subject that is being debated. Members of the public may speak for 15 minutes and may only speak once. These limits may be waived by a majority vote of the city council. Anyone wishing to speak at any city council meeting must be recognized by the mayor before addressing the city council.

(d) *Decorum.* Members of the public shall not make inappropriate or offensive comments at a city council meeting and are expected to comply with the rules of decorum that are established for councilmembers. Individuals who violate any rules of the city council may be ruled out of order by the mayor or on a point of order made by a councilmember. A majority vote of the councilmember will rule on the point of order. An individual who violates the rules of decorum may be removed from the meeting at the direction of the mayor.

(e) *Public hearings.* The councilmembers may schedule public hearings for the purpose of soliciting public comment on any subject of interest to the councilmembers. Hearings may be held immediately prior to or following a meeting of the councilmembers or at such other places and times as the councilmembers may determine. No official action shall be taken at any such public hearing.