

Decorum of Councilmembers

1. No Councilmember shall engage in private conversation or pass private messages while in the chamber in a manner so as to interrupt the proceedings of the council.
2. No councilmember shall use their cell phone (or other electronic devices) during council proceedings.
3. No Councilmember shall use profane or obscene words or un-parliamentary language or use language that threatens harm or violence toward another person during a council meeting.
4. No Councilmember shall speak on any subject other than the subject in debate.
5. No Councilmember shall speak without being recognized by the chair, nor shall any councilmember interrupt the speech of another Councilmember.
6. No Councilmember shall engage in disorderly conduct that disturbs or disrupts the orderly conduct of any meeting.
7. Councilmembers should recognize time limits. For initial comments, all comments shall be limited to five minutes. For subsequent comments, all comments shall be limited to two minutes, providing all members have had a chance to speak.
8. When debate appears to be lengthy but unproductive, Councilmembers can make a motion to limit the time for debate, thus setting a deadline for making a decision.
9. When debate has continued for at least 20 minutes or everyone on the council has had an opportunity to speak, a Councilmember may make a motion to "Call the question". If approved, the main motion must be voted upon instantly.
10. Councilmember must direct all remarks to the presiding officer alone. No one has the right to speak at whim.
11. Councilmembers shall not answer or respond to an issue initially raised by a member of the public. All remarks must be directed to the Mayor and will be referred to staff for further research and possible report or action at a future council meeting.
12. Members of the public shall be given the opportunity to speak during the open forum portion of a meeting. They shall have a 3 minute time limit.
13. Councilmembers shall not attempt to contact the City Attorney or Engineer privately by conference as this is very costly to the City. These individuals make themselves available to all twice a month.
14. Members of the public may identify a topic in writing a few days prior to a meeting in order to be placed on the agenda and allowed 15 minutes to speak.

Mayor drafted 12-30-15