

Introduced by Council Council Bill No. 188-81

A RESOLUTION

reaffirming rules for public hearings and comments before the City Council.

WHEREAS, Section 2.410 of the ordinances provides that "Prior to the final passage of any bill, other than an emergency bill, all persons interested therein shall be given an opportunity to be heard before the Council, in accordance with such rules and regulations as the Council may adopt", and

WHEREAS, this section gives the Council authority to adopt rules for conducting public hearings and to which the public must adhere in hearings before the Council; and

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted rules for public hearings and comments before the City Council on the 2nd day of May, 1977, by Resolution No. 179-77; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is desirous of reaffirming said Rules.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. That the City Council reaffirms the following rules adopted by Resolution No. 179-77 on May 2, 1977:

1. The public may comment or testify on all ordinances up for final passage and at all public hearings before the City Council.

2. When public comment is in order the chair will so announce and ask that persons who desire to be heard come forward.

3. Anyone desiring to address the chair should, when recognized by the chair, step to the center podium and speak into the microphone. Persons addressing the chair should first state their name and address for the record.

4. Comments by any person are limited to five minutes on any one matter before the Council. Any person may be granted an additional five minutes upon request by any Council member.

5. Comments will only be received which address themselves to the subject matter before the Council and the chair may rule out of order any comments which do not address the subject before the Council. The chair shall rule out of order all comments which are irrelevant, repetitious, or are in derogation of persons, businesses, or organizations which are not the subject of the discussion before the Council.

6. The rules may be suspended from time to time on motion of the City Council.

7. Any person who is continuously called out of order by the chair, who disrupts the council meeting, or who having been admonished by the chair, continues to make remarks which are derogatory of persons, businesses or organizations which are not the subject of the discussion before the Council shall leave the Council Chamber on direction of the Mayor. Any person refusing to leave the Council Chamber when so ordered by the Mayor may be removed by the Chief of Police or his representative. An order to leave the Council Chamber may be appealed to the Council as a whole.

8. Smoking is not prohibited, but discouraged. Persons should use ashtrays provided and properly extinguish smoking materials.

ADOPTED this 20th day of APRIL, 1981.

ATTEST:

John Wood
City Clerk

John Westlund
Mayor and Presiding Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

W. Scott Snyder
City Counselor