

A POLICY RESOLUTION

repealing Resolution No. 188-81 reaffirming rules for public hearings and comments before the City Council and adopting a new policy resolution on the same subject.

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 the City Council reaffirmed those rules on the 20th day of April, 1981 by Resolution No. 188-81; and

WHEREAS, the City Council ~~is desirous of~~ desires to modify 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 ~~That the City Council reaffirms the following rules adopted by Resolution No. 188-81 is hereby repealed. 179-77 on May 2, 1977:~~

SECTION 2. The City Council establishes the following rules for public hearings and comments before the Council:

1. The public may comment or testify on all ordinances bills and resolutions 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 move to the center podium and speak into the microphone. Persons addressing the chair should first state their name and ward address for the record.

4. Public comments are limited to three (3) minutes per person ~~Comments by any person are limited to five minutes~~ on any one matter before the Council. Individuals speaking on behalf on an organization may request up to five (5) minutes. Any person may

be granted ~~an additional~~ time with permission of the City Council.~~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. Individuals who attend council meetings, including individuals engaging in public comment on agenda items, are expected to adhere to rules of conduct appropriate for a public legislative body. Disorderly speech or action which disrupts, disturbs or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of the meeting or otherwise impairs the ability of any person present to present their point of view in a welcoming environment is prohibited. Such disorderly speech or action includes, but is not limited to name-calling or personal attacks, obscene or indecent remarks,; remarks which are not the subject of the agenda item under discussion, and the use of verbal or non-verbal communication to express support or opposition of a statement (such as booing, hissing, snapping, clapping, obstructive signage, etc.).

8.7. Any person who engages in disorderly speech or action may be who is continuously called out of order and admonished by the chair, who disrupts the council meeting. A person who engages in egregious behavior or repeatedly engages in disruptive conduct may be removed from the meeting at the direction of the Mayor. Any person who refuses to leave the Council Chamber after being ordered to do so by the Mayor may be removed by the Chief of Police, or other designated official.

~~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 theirhis 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 _____ day of _____, 2025.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor and Presiding Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Counselor