

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 May 2, 1977 by Resolution No. 179-77 and the City Council reaffirmed those rules on April 20, 1981 by Resolution No. 188-81; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to modify said Rules.

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

SECTION 1. Resolution No. 188-81 adopted on April 20, 1981, which reaffirmed rules for public hearings and comments before the City Council, is hereby repealed.

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

1. The public may comment or testify on all bills, resolutions, and policy resolutions up for final passage and at all public hearings before the City Council.
2. When public comment is in order the presiding officer will so announce and ask that persons who desire to be heard come forward.
3. Anyone desiring to address the presiding officer should, when recognized by the presiding officer, move to the center podium and speak into the microphone. Persons addressing the presiding officer should first state their name and ward for the record.
4. Public comments are limited to three (3) minutes per person on any one matter before the Council. Individuals speaking on behalf of an organization

may request up to five (5) minutes. Any person may be granted additional time with permission of the City Council.

- 5. Comments will only be received which address themselves to the subject matter before the Council and the presiding officer may rule out of order any comments which do not address the subject before the Council. The presiding officer 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 in attendance 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, comments 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. Any person who engages in disorderly speech or action may be called out of order and admonished by the presiding officer. A person who engages in egregious behavior or repeatedly engages in disruptive conduct may be removed from the meeting at the direction of the presiding officer. Any person who refuses to leave the Council Chamber after being order to do so by the presiding officer may be removed by the Chief of Police, or other designated official.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2026.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor and Presiding Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Counselor