

City of College Place, Washington
RESOLUTION NO. 24-002

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLLEGE PLACE, WASHINGTON, AMENDING RULES OF CONDUCT FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS ESTABLISHED IN CITY RESOLUTION NUMBER 20-003.

Whereas, the City of College Place (City) is a non-charter code city governed by the rules and regulations of Title 35A Revised Code of Washington (RCW); and

Whereas, the City of College Place has adopted a mayor-council plan of government pursuant to Chapter 35A.12 RCW consisting of a mayor elected at-large and separately elected council; and

Whereas, the Council is the legislative body of the City, with the authority to formulate and adopt City policies and the Mayor is responsible for carrying out the legislative policies;

Whereas, the Mayor and City council must and do meet regularly, at least once a month; such council meetings must be open to the public except as permitted by Chapter 42.30 RCW (Open Public Meetings Act); and

Whereas, the Mayor must preside over all City Council meetings, except when illness or other duties prevent the Mayor from attending; and

Whereas, City Council desires to and in some cases must take public comment or testimony regarding City business being deliberated; and

Whereas, to enable the City to effectively and efficiently perform its duties, with appropriate public participation, meetings must be conducted in an orderly fashion such that interruptions or disruptions do not render the meeting activities unfeasible; and

Whereas, the City is empowered with the authority to set generally applicable conditions on members of the public or public groups to protect the public health or safety, or to protect against interruption of meetings; and

Whereas, the Council shall determine its own rules and order of business, and may establish rules for the conduct of council meetings and the maintenance of order;

Whereas, the City has established rules governing meetings in Resolution No. 20-003, including the following:

Section 5: Citizen's Rights:

5.1 Addressing the Council: Any person desiring to address the Council by oral communication shall first secure the permission of the Presiding Officer.

5.2 Manner of addressing the Council - time limit: Each person addressing the Council shall give his/her name and address in an audible tone of voice for the record and, unless further time is granted by the Council, shall limit their address to five minutes. No person may transfer any portion of their time allotment to another person. All remarks shall be addressed to the Council as a body, and not to any member thereof. No person, other than members of the Council and the person having the floor, shall be permitted to enter into any discussion, either directly or through the members of the Council. No questions shall be asked the Council Members, except through the Presiding Officer.

5.3 Personal and slanderous remarks: Any person making personal, impertinent or slanderous remarks, or who shall become boisterous, while addressing the Council may be requested to leave the meeting and may be forthwith, by the Presiding Officer, barred from further audience before the Council during that Council meeting.

5.4 Reading of protests: Interested persons, or their authorized representatives, may address the Council for the reading of protest, petitions, or communications relating to any matter over which the Council has control, when the item is under consideration by the Council, if a majority of the Council present agrees to let them be heard.

5.5 Mayor may appoint committee or refer citizens' complaints: The Mayor may appoint a committee of three members of the city Council to hear citizen's complaints or may refer citizen's complaints to an executive session of the City Council, whenever the subject would be appropriate.

5.6 Written communications: Interested parties, or their authorized representatives, may address the Council by written communication in regard to any matter concerning the city's business or over which the Council had control at any time by direct mail or by addressing the City Clerk and copies will be distributed to the Council Members.

Whereas, the City has experienced, in recent months, the public comment and/or public hearing period of Council meetings being used to make antisemitic, racist, vulgar and other generally offensive statements; and

Whereas, such statements have been made via remote access to the meetings after request to make a comment or provide testimony under an assumed name and without a person physically appearing by video during the comment or testimony; and

Whereas, such statements disrupt City meetings rendering the meetings unfeasible absent a cessation of the statements; and

Whereas, the rules established by Resolution No. 20-003 cannot be utilized to stop such disruptions; and

Whereas, it is necessary to establish additional rules to protect the health and safety of the public and to ensure such disruptions do not render the City meeting activities unfeasible;

Now therefore, it is hereby resolved by the City Council of the City of College Place, Washington, as follows:

Adoption: The following rules are hereby adopted and shall be identified as “**Section 8 – Public Comment and Public Testimony**” to the *City of College Place City Council Rules*:

Section 8: Public Comment and Public Testimony

8.1 Remote/Virtual Public Comment: Any member of the public who desires to make a public comment at a City Council meeting by telephone or other remote access, shall, at least 24 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) prior to the start of the meeting at which the member of the public wants to make a comment, notify the City Clerk or designee in writing or by direct verbal communication of their desire to make a comment. The notice shall include the member’s first and last name, address or place of residence, and the topic or topics the comment will touch upon. Nothing in this section suspends the application of the rules established by Resolution No. 20-003, including but not limited to Rule 5.2 and 5.4.

8.2 Remote/Virtual Public Testimony: Any member of the public who desires to testify at a City public hearing by telephone or other remote access shall, at least 24 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) prior to the start of the hearing, notify the City Clerk or designee in writing or by direct verbal communication of their desire to testify. The notice shall include the member’s first and last name, address or place of residence, and the hearing at which the member desires to testify.

8.3 In-person Comment and/or Testimony: It shall not be necessary to make the notifications required in 8.1 or 8.2 if the member of the public is physically at the place of the meeting or hearing. A person commenting or testifying by way of real-time/live video which clearly shows the person’s identity and clearly depicts their testimony shall be considered “in-person”. Nothing in this section suspends the application of the rules established by Resolution No. 20-003, including but not limited to Rule 5.2 and 5.4.

8.4 Accommodations. Any individual requiring reasonable accommodation may request alternative mode of providing public comment or testimony. Such request should be directed to the City Clerk who shall, in concert with the Mayor or City Administrator, determine if a reasonable accommodation is warranted and what the accommodation will be.

Clerical Corrections. The City Clerk is authorized to make necessary clerical corrections to this resolution including, but not limited to, the correction of scrivener's/clerical errors, references, resolution numbering, section/subsection numbers and any references thereto.

Effective Date. This resolution shall take effect and be in full force upon its passage as provided by law.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of College Place, Washington, this 23rd day of January, 2024.

DocuSigned by:

Norma L. Hernández

70C6446A-403F-4D84-932E-0496AE1F37C5
Norma L. Hernández, Mayor

Attest:

DocuSigned by:

Sherri St. Clair

70C6446A-403F-4D84-932E-0496AE1F37C5
Sherri St. Clair, City Clerk