

CITY OF ST. JOHNS

POLICY FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS AT MEETINGS

I. Purpose

The City of St. Johns welcomes and encourages comments from members of the public who attend City Commission meetings. Pursuant to the requirements of the Open Meetings Act, a person is permitted to make a public comment during a meeting under rules established and recorded by the City Commission.

II. Public Comment Period; Meeting Agendas

1. If an agenda is available, the City Commission will have copies of the agenda available for the public who attend the meeting. The agenda will indicate the designated time(s) for the public to provide comments. The City Commission will include at least one public comment period during each meeting. These rules apply to the public comment period in any regular or special meeting or in any committee meeting that is open to the public ("Public Comment").
2. Members of the public have no right to address the City Commission or make comments outside of the Public Comment. At any time, the City Commission, at its discretion, may accept comments from the public. However, outside of the Public Comment time, the City Commission is under no obligation to hear comments from the public during a meeting.
3. The City Commission has sole discretion to determine the content of each meeting agenda and is not obligated to add any item to the agenda.

III. Rules of Public Comment

The City Commission adopts the following procedures to receive Public Comments:

1. When the City Commission meeting reaches a designated time for Public Comments, the Chairperson will invite attendees to make Public Comments.
2. The Chairperson will ask persons wishing to speak to raise their hands to be recognized by the Chairperson. The Chairperson will recognize one person to speak at a time, and each speaker should provide his or her name and state whether they are a resident of the City. The person may also provide an address. No person in attendance may make a comment without being recognized.
3. Public Comments must be addressed to the City Commission, not to other members of the audience.

4. Each speaker is only entitled to one (1) three-minute time during each Public Comment period and may not split the time or “give” the time to another speaker.
5. In lieu of speaking, a person may submit any written comments to the City Clerk. Written materials submitted to the City Commission are considered public documents.
6. The City Commission encourages free and complete public dialogue on City Commission issues within the bounds of civil discourse. Speakers may not breach the peace of the meeting.
7. If a speaker includes specific questions to the City Commission in his or her Public Comments, the City Commission has no obligation to respond.
8. Groups are encouraged to designate one or more individuals to speak on their behalf to avoid cumulative comments. However, there is no requirement to make this designation. If a speaker is speaking on more than one individual’s behalf, they must state as such at the beginning of their comment and shall be entitled to one (1) five-minute time during Public Comment.
9. The City Commission may determine, in its sole discretion, how Public Comments will be summarized in the meeting minutes. Members of the public should not expect the minutes to include verbatim transcripts or details of any individual comment.
10. Members of the public are also encouraged to contact the City during regular business hours to ask questions, raise concerns, and request information about City matters.

IV. Recording of Rules

These rules will be recorded in the minutes and kept on file with the City Clerk.

RESOLUTION #23-2022
RESOLUTION TO ADOPT PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY

At a regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of St. Johns, Clinton County, Michigan, held at the City Hall, in said City on the 26th day of September 2022 at 6:00 p.m., Local Time.

Present: Eric Hufnagel, Bob Craig, Jean Ruestman, Brad Gurski

Absent: Tammy Kirschenbauer

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner Gurski and supported by Commissioner Craig.

WHEREAS, the City of St. Johns (“City”) has previously adopted an ordinance regulating public comment at City Commission meetings; and

WHEREAS, the City is in the process of amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of St. Johns to allow the public comment rules established and recorded by the City Commission; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 3(5), of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, 1976 PA 267, a person shall be permitted to address a meeting of a public body under rules established and recorded by the public body; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission desires to adopt such rules pursuant to a policy governing public comment procedures (“Public Comment Policy”); and

WHEREAS, the City Commission has determined it is in the best interests of the health, safety, and welfare of Library residents to adopt the Public Comment Policy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of the City of St. Johns as follows:

1. The City adopts and approves the Public Comment Policy attached as an exhibit to this Resolution.
2. The Public Comment Policy shall take effect upon the effective date of Ordinance #19-2022, An Ordinance to Amend Section 30.09 (of Title III, Chapter 30) of the Code of Ordinances to Amend Rules for Addressing the Commission.
3. To the extent that any resolution or portion of resolution is inconsistent with this Resolution, such resolutions or portions of resolutions are hereby rescinded.

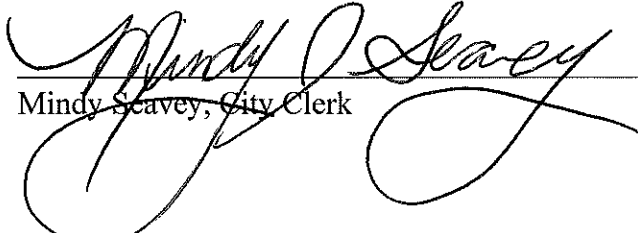
ADOPTED:

YEAS: Hufnagel, Craig, Ruestman, Gurski

NAYS: None

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)
COUNTY OF CLINTON)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the City of St. Johns, Clinton County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of certain proceedings taken by the City Commission of said City at a regular meeting held on the 26th day of September, 2022.



Mindy Scavey, City Clerk