

ELIZABETHTOWN CITY COUNCIL POLICY

POLICY TOPIC: Public Comments at City Council Meeting

POLICY STATEMENTS

1. Mayor is the presiding officer at City Council meeting and will recognize members of the public and allow them to speak or make a presentation to the City Council. In the Mayor's absence, the Council will elect one of their members to serve as the presiding officer.
2. The public is encouraged to contact the City Clerk prior to the meeting to be placed on the agenda to speak before the City Council. In general, a public comment period will be on the agenda after all regular business items have been addressed/discussed by the Council.
3. All members of the public attending the Council meeting are requested to sign the meeting attendance log.
4. Members of the public addressing the meeting shall state their name and address for the record prior to their comments.
5. Public comments on matters before the Council will be limited to five (5) minutes. The presiding officer may ask any speaker to yield the floor if the allotted time is exceeded. The presiding officer may also suspend the time limit if in his/her judgment additional time is vital for appropriate discussion on the matter before the Council.
6. All speakers will be afforded equal time no matter their view on a matter before the Council.
7. The presiding officer may limit repetitive comments from the public.
8. Groups who wish to bring a single topic before the Council are encouraged to have a spokesperson to present their view/concern.
9. The presiding officer has the right to silence speakers or have them removed from the meeting if they become disruptive, threatening, or slanderous in their remarks or actions.
10. Profanity and abusive language will not be tolerated.

This policy is adopted in compliance with court decisions in Lockett v City of Grand Prairie and White V City of Norwalk