

RESOLUTION NO. 9 OF 2023

RESOLUTION ADOPTING RULES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR PUBLIC MEETINGS

WHEREAS, the primary purpose of Borough Council meetings is to afford elected officials the opportunity to conduct Borough business; and

WHEREAS, every public meeting of the Borough of Greensboro, Greene County, Pennsylvania (hereafter "Borough") shall provide opportunity for residents and taxpayers to be heard; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of Greensboro Borough, Greene County, Pennsylvania desires to adopt certain rules and regulations regarding public participation and comment during the course of public meetings; and

WHEREAS, the authority for establishment of these rules is derived from the Pennsylvania Borough Code, 8 Pa. C.S.A. § 101, et. seq. and the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act, 65 P.S. § 271, et. seq. and all amendments thereto; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of Greensboro Borough, Greene County, Pennsylvania as follows:

Agenda: A section for public comment shall be scheduled on each agenda, at the beginning of each public meeting, subsequent to roll call and prior to Council deliberating or taking official action on any matter.

Sign In: Persons in attendance at a meeting should sign the attendance sheet indicating their full name and address. Persons wishing to address Borough Council shall state their full name and address for the purpose of accurately recording the minutes.

Public Comment: Residents and taxpayers of the Borough have the right to comment on matters that are before or of concern to the Borough during the public comment portion of all Borough Council public meetings. Public comment is intended to give residents and taxpayers an opportunity to address items on the agenda as well as comment on other topics related to Borough services. It is not intended to be a question and answer period. Borough Council's response to public comment at a meeting is at the discretion of Borough Council.

Time Limit: Each resident and/or taxpayer shall be afforded a period of public comment of no more than seven (7) minutes. When a resident and/or taxpayer is granted the floor for public comment by the Borough Council President, said person shall not be interrupted unless a question is posed to Borough Council by said person and Borough Council elects to respond. In such case, the response of Borough Council shall be included in the time allotment afforded the resident and/or taxpayer.


Civility and Decorum: Borough officials and members of the public are expected to conduct themselves with civility and respect for others. Shouting, personal insults and other conduct that disrupts the flow of Borough business is considered out of order. The Borough Council President has the discretion to rule comments that appear disruptive, vulgar, defamatory or redundant to be out of order. If, in the judgment of Borough Council, the period for public comment becomes out of order, unusually long, unruly, or the comments become repetitive, Borough Council may move to close public comment or defer portions of the public comment to a subsequent regular meeting or an advertised special meeting to be held in advance of the next regular meeting.

Borough Council President: Borough Council President shall direct the order in which resident and/or taxpayers provide public comment. Borough Council President shall be the spokesperson for Borough Council and shall refer any concerns addressed in public comment to the appropriate Borough personnel for research or investigation. At the discretion of the Borough Council President, members of the public who are not residents and/or taxpayers may be recognized to speak during public comment and subject to the terms of this Resolution. Upon being advised by a member of the public that a public meeting is being recorded, as described herein, Borough Council President shall notify the public that the meeting is being recorded/streamed.

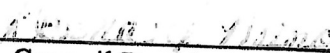
Recording/Streaming of Meetings: Members of the public may record/stream Borough Council meetings that are open to the public provided that their actions do not disturb or interrupt the proceedings, The audio or visual recording/streaming must be publicly announced prior to commencing the recording. The recording must be conducted from the gallery available to the public within the Borough Council meeting room.

RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Greensboro this 27th day of October, 2023.

ATTEST:


Secretary

BY:


Council President