

ORDINANCE NO. 23-15

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DANBURY, TEXAS, PROVIDING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AND AGENDA ITEMS AT CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS; PROVIDING REGULATIONS THEREON; AND PROVIDING A SEVERANCE CLAUSE AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANBURY, TEXAS:

1. **Agenda Items.** The City Secretary shall not be required to place any item on an agenda for a Council meeting, except as authorized by the Mayor, two Aldermen, this ordinance, or applicable law.
2. **Agenda for Public Comment.** The City Secretary shall place an agenda item entitled "Public Comment" upon: each agenda for open City Council or other City Board meetings.
3. **Public Comment.** Any member of the public, who wishes to give public comment, must sign in on the public comment sign-in sheet before the council meeting is called to order. During the public comment portion of a Council meeting, the Mayor will recognize each speaker in the order that they signed in.
4. **Stating Name and Address.** Any member of the public addressing the Council during the public comment period shall begin by stating his or her name and address.
5. **Scope of Limits on Public Comment.** The limitations in this ordinance on the number of speakers and time length of comments apply only to members of the public addressing the Council during the public comment section of a Council meeting, not to City staff and consultants participating in the deliberative portions of the meeting at the request of the Council.
6. **Three Minute Limit.** Each speaker shall be limited to three minutes of public comment during the public comment period.
7. **Maximum Ten Speakers Per Meeting.** Public comment shall be limited to no more than ten (10) speakers at any one Council meeting.
8. **Good Order and Decorum.** Speakers shall observe good order and decorum and shall refrain from name calling and similar personal abuse.
9. **Public Comment on an agenda item.** Public comment on an agenda item will be allowed after a motion is made, and seconded. The public may comment during the further discussion of the agenda item. Each speaker shall be limited to two minute of public comment on each agenda item. Any member if the public may address the City Council after being recognized by the Mayor or Mayor Pro-Tem.

10. **Authority to Grant Exceptions.** The Mayor shall have discretion to grant exceptions to the time limits and number of speakers in this ordinance, if the Mayor determines in his discretion that the subject matter cannot reasonably be addressed within those limits. The City Council shall also have the same discretion and authority as the Mayor to extend the limits described in this section or to overrule an extension by the Mayor. Such action by the Council shall be done by a motion, second, and vote without debate.

11. **Violations.** If any person makes or attempts to make a public comment in violation of this ordinance, the Mayor may refuse to allow that person to make any public comment, or further public comment, at that meeting.

12. **Presiding Officer.** Any reference herein to the Mayor shall also include any other person presiding at the Council meeting in question.

13. **Severance Clause.** If any part of this ordinance, of whatever size, is ever declared invalid or unenforceable for any reason, the remainder of this order shall remain in full force and effect.


14. **Effective Date.** This ordinance shall be effective immediately upon its passage and approval.

PASSED, and APPROVED this 17th day of August, 2023.



Suzanne Powell, Mayor
City of Danbury, Texas

ATTEST:



Erin Nolan, City Secretary
City of Danbury, Texas