

CITY OF BLANCO
ORDINANCE No. 2021-O-005

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BLANCO, TX., CITY COUNCIL ADOPTING RULES OF CONDUCT AND DECORUM FOR PUBLIC MEETINGS AND HEARINGS HELD BY THE CITY COUNCIL; PROVIDING FOR REPEALER, SEVERABILITY AND SAVINGS CLAUSES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Blanco is a General Law Type A Municipality located within Blanco County, Texas; and

WHEREAS, the City of Blanco, as a General Law Type A Municipality, derives its powers exclusively from the Texas Constitution and the State statutes; and

WHEREAS, the City of Blanco City Council conducts its business at public meetings and hearings; and

WHEREAS, the City of Blanco City Council has a responsibility to ensure that members of the public have the opportunity to participate in public meetings and public hearings and therefore can reasonably limit the length and general nature of public comments so that the City Council and its boards and commission can consider various points of view; and

WHEREAS, while the public may provide information during designated times at public meetings to the City Council, such presentation must be limited to public business in order for the City Council to efficiently and effectively conduct its meetings; and

WHEREAS, to assist with expectations and provide clear guidance to the public as to the proper conduct when presenting public business information to the City Council, boards, or commission, the City Council finds it appropriate to adopt certain rules of conduct and decorum; and

WHEREAS, the City of Blanco finds it is in the best interest of its residents and the general public to adopt the following rules of conduct and decorum.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLANCO, TEXAS THAT:

Section 1. The following rules of conduct and decorum are hereby adopted and shall apply in all City Council meetings of the City of Blanco as follows:

1. Members of the public wishing to address the City Council may provide input during the "Public Comments" on items that are or are not listed on the agenda.
2. Members of the public shall sign in before the meeting on a sign in sheet provided by the City Secretary. The Presiding Official may call those signed in to the podium to speak.

3. Members of the public shall be allowed three (3) minutes to provide comments during the "Public Comments" portion. Members of the public may not allocate or transfer their time to others to address the body. The presiding officer shall have final say over speakers' time limits and the number and timing of comments related to any topic.
4. All City Council meetings will be videotaped live and placed on the City of Blanco website. Videotaping of City Council meetings is allowed from the back row of the City Council chambers. No video equipment shall be placed so that it obstructs the view of other members of the community attending the City Council meeting.
5. City Council members, staff and members of the public shall not shout, display unruly behavior, distract with side conversations, use profanity, threat of violence, or disrupt the orderly conduct of the meeting.
6. When any person is addressing City Council, staff or members of the public, no personal attacks on staff, members of the public or City Council shall be allowed.
7. If the person speaking violates these rules of decorum, they may be asked to leave the meeting room and if the person does not immediately leave the meeting room, the presiding officer may order any peace officer at the meeting to remove the person from the meeting room.
8. City Council members shall not speak or answer questions from members of the public speaking during Public Comments.
9. Any City Council member desiring to speak during any portion of City Council meetings shall be first recognized by the Presiding Officer.
10. A Council member who has spoken should refrain from speaking again until each Council member has had an opportunity to speak.

11. Council members shall not use devices for the purpose of communicating during a City Council meeting. These devices include but are not limited to telephone, computer, I-Pad.

12. Robert's Rules of Order will take precedence for conduct not covered by these Council meeting rules.

Section 2. Such rules shall be administered and enforced by the Presiding Officer of such City Council.

Section 3. Such rules shall apply to all members of the public presenting information to the City Council.

Section 4. Such rules may be suspended, for good cause, by the Presiding Officer during a meeting as long as the presentation of information remains related to public business only.

Section 5. The Presiding Officer may enforce these rules by any means or authority provided to the Presiding Officer by law.

Section 6. It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council that the sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, and phrases of this Ordinance are severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, or section of this Ordinance shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality or invalidity shall not affect any other remaining phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this Ordinance.

Section 7. The repeal of any Ordinance or part of Ordinances effectuated by the enactment of this Ordinance shall not be construed as abandoning any action now pending under or by virtue of such Ordinance or as discontinuing, abating, modifying or altering any penalty accruing or to accrue, or as affecting any rights of the municipality under any section or provisions at the time of passage of this Ordinance.

Section 8. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its passage and publication as required by law.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this 13 day of July, 2021, by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions of the City Council of the City of Blanco, Texas.

City of Blanco, Texas

Rachel Lumpee

Rachel Lumpee, Mayor

ATTEST:

Laurie A. Cassidy
Laurie Cassidy, City Secretary

