

City of Aransas Pass – Rules of Decorum for Public Meetings

The City Council meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month at 7:00 pm at City Hall – Council Chambers, 600 W. Cleveland, Aransas Pass, Texas.

The City Charter, Article III, Section 11 - Rules of Procedure, states that the Council shall determine its own rules of procedure. The City of Aransas Pass hereby adopts “Roberts Rules of Order, 11th Edition, to govern the basic order of meetings and additionally adopts the following “Rules of Decorum”.

The purpose of the Rules of Decorum are to: 1) to ensure that meetings of the City Council are conducted in a way that allows the business of the City to be effectively conducted, 2) to ensure that members of the public who attend meetings of the City Council can be heard in a fair, impartial and respectful manner, and 3) to ensure that meetings of the City Council are conducted in a way that is open to all viewpoints, yet free from distracting and intimidating behavior.

City Council, city staff and members of the audience shall be courteous, polite and respectful of one another, so that the City Council may hear all sides of an issue and by due deliberation act in the best interest of all citizens.

The Mayor, as Presiding officer, has the primary responsibility for ensuring that the council’s rules of procedure are followed and for maintaining the dignity of council meetings.

Rules for Speakers

1. Members of the public may address the City Council at the following times during a meeting:
 - During the citizens comment period.
 - During a public hearing on an agenda item.
2. Speakers must limit their comments to three limits.
3. All comments shall be addressed to the Mayor and City Council and not to the council members as individuals.
4. Inquiries from speakers about matters not listed on the agenda will either be directed to the Staff to follow up, or placed on a future agenda for council consideration.

Rules for Members of the Public

While in the meeting room during a city council meeting, members of the public shall not engage in any of the following:

1. Shouting, unruly behavior, distracting side conversations, or speaking out when another person is talking.
2. Defamation, intimidation, personal affronts, profanity, or threats of violence.

3. Audible use of phones or other electronic equipment.
4. Booing, hissing, foot stomping, parading, or other similar behavior that impedes or disrupts the orderly conduct of meetings.

Enforcement of Rules

The Rules of Decorum will be enforced in the following manner:

1. The Presiding Officer will request that a person who is violating a rule cease the violation.
2. If the violation continues, the Presiding Officer will warn the person that he or she will be required to leave the meeting room if the violation continues.
3. If the violation continues, the Presiding Officer will order the person to leave the meeting room.
4. If the person does not leave the meeting room, the Presiding Officer may order any peace officer at the meeting to remove the person from the meeting room.