

RESOLUTION 2019-63

A RESOLUTION REVISIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT REGARDING PUBLIC COMMENT

Whereas, Council for the City of Laramie, Wyoming (“Council”) adopted Rules of Procedure and Code of Conduct of City (“Council Rules”); and,

Whereas, the Council wishes to amend the Council Rules to reflect current and best practices.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF LARAMIE, WYOMING:

Section 1. That the following changes be made to the Council Rules under Rule 4, Chapter 4, Appendix B, and Appendix C:

Rule 4. Order of Business

A. Order of Business. The order of business shall be as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
- ~~3.4.~~ **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**
- ~~4.5.~~ Order of Agenda
- ~~5.6.~~ Proclamations/Notifications
- ~~6.7.~~ Consent Agenda
- ~~7.8.~~ Regular Agenda
- ~~8.9.~~ Public Comment
- ~~9.10.~~ Adjournment

4.02. Public Comments

4.02(A). Time for public comment during meetings. There shall be public comments permitted when members of the public are recognized by the Mayor at the following times:

Regular meetings:

1. During any public hearing on the agenda.
2. Before any substantive action by Council on a regular agenda item, for comments on that agenda item.
3. For comments on matters not on the agenda, as a regular agenda item at or near the **beginning, with an aggregate time limit of 30 minutes, and** end of the meeting.

4.02(B) General rules

General rules involving public comment include:

1. Members of council may not participate as members of the public in public comment periods.
2. Each member of the public may only speak once in any given public comment period, and is limited to **five three** minutes for his/her public comment. In situations where unusually large

numbers of people wish to speak, the Mayor has discretion to limit public comments to less than five minutes to insure everyone has a chance to speak.

APPENDIX B

CITY OF LARAMIE, WYOMING COUNCIL MEETING PROCEDURES

TIME LIMIT

Each member of the audience speaking to the council shall limit their presentation to no more than ~~five~~ **three (35)** minutes, unless the time is waived by the council on any specific item. A speaker may not defer the speaker's time to other speakers. Groups or organizations are encouraged to select a spokesperson to speak on their behalf. Speakers are also encouraged to not repeat comments made by prior speakers, but rather to only indicate their agreement with the comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

A member of the general public may address the council at every meeting of the city council.

When specific topics have been scheduled for work session discussion, the mayor or presiding officer may specifically request or invite members of the public who may have a special interest, involvement, information or expertise of the topic to address the council. At Business Meetings: Council reserves time for members of the public to address council on any matter under the agenda item denoted as "Public Comments" at the **beginning, with an aggregate time limit of 30 minutes, and the** end of each regular business meeting held on first (1st) and third (3rd) Tuesdays of the month.

APPENDIX C

GUIDELINES FOR ADDRESSING THE COUNCIL

6. Large groups are encouraged to express their views through a single spokesperson rather than individually. Individuals should observe the ~~five~~ **three (35)** minute time limit when speaking. The council may vote to suspend the rules and allow more time for a public comment upon a 2/3 vote.

Section 2: That the following changes be made to Chapter 4.05 Unofficial Settings:

4.05. Unofficial Settings

It is also appropriate that council members recognize that as elected officials their conversations when out in public will be overheard. Members of the council should take care to be aware of what they say in public, and to differentiate between personal opinion and the opinion of council as a whole, whether in private or public conversations. **This also pertains to any social media posts made by Council members.**

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 20th day of August, 2019.

Joe Shumway
Mayor and President of Council

ATTEST:

Nancy Bartholomew
City Clerk