

RESOLUTION NO. 07212025-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF REYNOLDSVILLE, JEFFERSON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA ADOPTING RULES REGARDING PUBLIC COMMENT AT PUBLIC MEETINGS AND PUBLIC WORK SESSIONS OF THE BOROUGH OF REYNOLDSVILLE

WHEREAS, the Sunshine Act, Act of October 15, 1998, P.L. 729, No. 93, 65 Pa.C.S. §§ 701-716 ("the Act") requires municipal governments to deliberate and take official action in open and public meetings and includes statutory provisions and procedures to enable the public to attend, participate, and comment before official action is taken by a governing body; and

WHEREAS, Section 710.1 of the Act provides that "the . . . [council] of a . . . [borough] . . . shall provide a reasonable opportunity at each advertised regular meeting and advertised special meeting for residents of the [Borough] . . . or for taxpayers of the [Borough] . . . to comment on matters of concern, official action or deliberation which are or may be before . . . [Borough] council prior to taking official action"; and

WHEREAS, the primary purpose of the Reynoldsville Borough Council public meetings, public special meetings and public work sessions (collectively, "meetings") is for elected officials to conduct Borough business and discuss and vote upon agenda items; and

WHEREAS, Reynoldsville Borough Council is committed to the democratic process, the right of individual expression, and respect for those with different or opposing viewpoints; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this Resolution is to establish clear and specific rules governing public comment periods during meetings; and

WHEREAS, the implementation and enforcement of the rules set forth in this Resolution will provide an orderly framework within which the business of Reynoldsville Borough Council can be conducted efficiently while ensuring that members of the public are able to make and present public comment fairly and without interruption.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Reynoldsville as follows:

Every Reynoldsville Borough Council meeting shall provide the opportunity for residents and taxpayers of the Borough of Reynoldsville to be heard. The following rules shall apply:

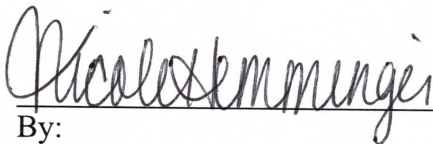
1. The above recitals are fully incorporated into this Resolution and shall be considered materials provisions of this Resolution.
2. Reynoldsville Borough Council elected and appointed officials, as well as members of the public, are expected to and shall at all times demonstrate and show respect to every person in attendance at each meeting and conduct themselves with civility and decorum.
3. Public comment will be included and scheduled twice on agendas for Reynoldsville Borough Council meetings.
4. The President of Borough Council shall preside over the public comment period and shall, as a general rule, refer citizen concerns or questions to the Borough Secretary for research by appropriate staff and reporting back to Council.
5. The first public comment period will be scheduled at the beginning of meeting; prior to Council deliberating or taking official action on any matter; and shall be reserved only for meeting agenda items.
6. The second public comment period may be related to matters other than meeting agenda items; however, the scope of public comment during the second public comment period shall, consistent with the Act, be confined in scope to Borough-related matters of public concern, official action or deliberation which are or may come before Borough Council.
7. Public comment is limited to three (3) minutes per person, per topic, and is reserved only for residents and taxpayers.
8. The President of Borough Council, in his or her discretion, may extend the three (3) minute time limit referenced in paragraph 7, above, for good cause on a case-by-case basis.
9. Prior to the beginning of any Reynoldsville Borough Council meeting, residents and taxpayers of the Borough of Reynoldsville desiring to participate in public comment shall sign a register briefly describing the nature of the public comment they will be providing and whether they wish to speak during the first or second public comment period, or both.
10. All individuals who wish to participate in public comment shall include their name and address on the register referenced in paragraph 5 of this Resolution for verification of residency and shall also verbally state their name and address when called upon to make his/her public comment.

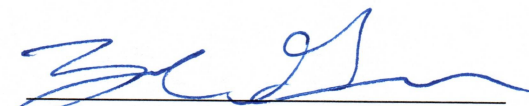
11. There shall be no interruptions of any kind or nature from any person in attendance once a person making public comment has been granted the floor by Council President.
12. Council President shall have the discretion to rule out disruptive, impertinent, defamatory, and/or redundant comments or any comment which prevents the conduct of the business of the meeting or work session.
13. Public comment periods are not to be used as question-and-answer sessions. Citizens are encouraged to request information and/or present any specific questions they may have to the Reynoldsville Borough Manager during normal business hours rather than during public comment.
14. Borough Council members may, but are not required to, answer questions posed by members of the public during public comment. If a Borough Council member elects to answer a question raised during public comment period, the time limit of three (3) minutes shall not be extended as a consequence thereof.
15. If, in the collective judgment of Council, the period for public comment becomes unusually long, the atmosphere has become unruly, or the comments become repetitive, Council may move and vote to close public comment or defer all or portions of the public comment period to a subsequent meeting to be held in advance of the next regularly monthly meeting.

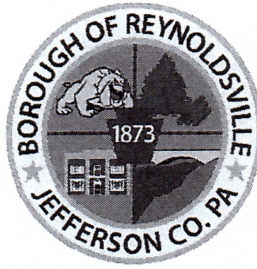
PASSED AND ADOPTED BY REYNOLDSVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL: JULY 21, 2025

ATTEST:

BOROUGH OF REYNOLDSVILLE


By:


By: Zach Garman, President



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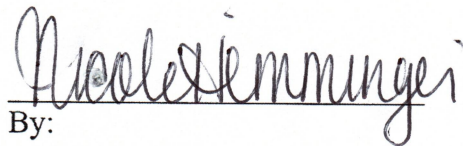
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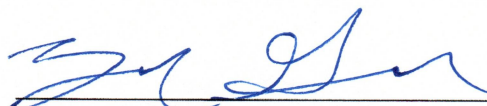
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