

ORDINANCE NO. 2016-79

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of the City of Dothan, Alabama, as follows:

Section 1. That Chapter 2, Administration, Sec. 2-106, Public character of meetings; speaking by others and Section 2-107, Speaking time limits at hearings and privileges of the floor, of the Code of Ordinances is hereby repealed and that Section 2-111, Policy for decorum during commission meetings/privileges of the floor to read as follows:

Section 2-111. Policy for decorum during commission meetings/privileges of the floor.

- (a) Every petition, communication or address to the Commission at either a public hearing or privileges of the floor shall be in respectful language and is encouraged to be in writing.
- (b) Privileges of the Floor.
 - 1. Individuals or groups wishing to speak under privileges of the floor at a regular Commission meeting shall submit a written request to the City Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on Monday prior to the regular meeting date. The request shall include the speaker's name, address and the topic to be addressed. Any person wishing to speak on behalf of a group shall so indicate and shall identify the name and address of the group or organization.
 - 2. Privileges of the floor shall be for the purpose of allowing members of the public to present any matter which, in their opinion, deserves the attention of the Commission. They shall not serve as a forum for debate with the Commission.
 - 3. Remarks shall be addressed directly to the Commission and not to staff, the audience, or the media.
 - 4. The Mayor shall open the Privileges of the Floor.
 - 5. Speakers shall be resident citizens of the City of Dothan, Alabama.
 - 6. Each speaker shall clearly state his or her name, address and topic.
 - 7. There shall be a time limit for each individual speaker of three (3) minutes.
 - 8. A representative of a group shall identify the group at the beginning of his or her presentation. A group may have no more than one (1) spokesperson.
 - 9. The maximum number of speakers who will be allowed to speak during Privileges of the Floor is five (5).
 - 10. Speakers are not permitted to donate time to other speakers.
 - 11. There shall be no comment during Privileges of the Floor on a matter for which a public hearing is scheduled during the same meeting.
 - 12. There shall be no comment during Privileges of the Floor on a matter that has already been the subject of a previous public hearing where no final vote has been taken.
 - 13. Commission members shall not discuss issues raised by the public during Privileges of the Floor.
 - 14. Once the Commission has heard a presentation from an individual or organization on a particular subject, the individual or organization may not

make another presentation on the same subject during Privileges of the Floor within three (3) months of the first presentation unless permitted by the Mayor.

15. The above rules notwithstanding, members of the public may present written comments to the Commission or to individual Commission members.
- (c). No citizen, except the Mayor, Commissioners or City officials may speak unless permission is first granted by the Mayor during Privileges of the Floor.
- (d). No speaker's time shall be extended except by consent of a majority of the Commission members present during Privileges of the Floor.
- (e). Persons appearing before the Commission during Privileges of the Floor will not be allowed to:
1. Campaign for public office;
 2. Promote private business ventures;
 3. Use profanity or vulgar language or gestures;
 4. Use language which insults or demeans any person. Citizens have the right to comment on the performance, conduct, and qualifications of public figures;
 5. Make statements unrelated to their topic;
 6. Interrupt other speakers or engage in behavior that disrupts the meeting including but not limited to applause, cheers, jeers, yelling, shouting, etc.;
 7. Engage in behavior that intimidates others or incites violence or disorder;
 8. Address the Commission on issues that do not concern the services, policies or affairs of the City;
 9. Make unduly repetitive statements;
 10. Refuse to stop talking after the allotted time has expired;
 11. Address the Commission on a matter to which the speaker is a party and is currently pending before a court, quasijudicial body, board or administrative forum.
- (f). The Mayor shall preserve order and decorum at Commission meetings. Any citizen who fails to comply with the directive of the Mayor to comply with these rules may be held by the Mayor to be out of order and ordered to leave the speaker's podium. The Mayor may order the expulsion of any person who fails to comply with the Mayor's directive and who engages in disruptive behavior. Any person so expelled shall not be readmitted for the remainder of the meeting from which expelled.

Any person who has been so expelled and who at a later meeting again engages in behavior justifying expulsion may also be barred from attendance at future Commission meetings for a specified and reasonable period of time not to exceed six (6) months, or upon a still subsequent expulsion a period not to exceed one (1) year either by the presiding officer, subject to appeal to a majority vote of the Commission members present, or by motion passed by the Commission.

Section 2. After publication as required by law, this ordinance shall become effective immediately.

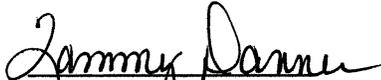
Ord. No. 2016-79 Repealing Chapter 2, Administration, Sec. 2-106, Public character of meetings; speaking by others and Section 2-107, Speaking time limits at hearings and privileges of the floor, of the Code of Ordinances and adding Section 2-111, Policy for decorum during commission meetings/privileges of the floor, continued.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED on March 15, 2016.

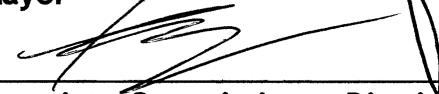


Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk



Associate Commissioner District 1

Associate Commissioner District 2

Albert Kirkland

Associate Commissioner District 3



Associate Commissioner District 4



Associate Commissioner District 5



Associate Commissioner District 6
BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS

I, hereby certify that the above Ordinance was published in THE DOTHAN EAGLE, a newspaper of general circulation and published in the City of Dothan, Alabama on Wednesday, March 16, 2016.



Tammy Danner
City Clerk