

City of Minden

P.O. Box 239, 325 N. Colorado
Minden, Nebraska 68959

phone 308.832.1820
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www.MindenNebraska.org



Resolution No. 1786

Public Participation Policy

WHEREAS, the City of Minden requires formal policies to guide the public's participation in meetings of the City Council and all of the City's various authorities, boards and commissions, and;

WHEREAS, the City Council has the authority and responsibility to make and enforce the rules and regulations regarding the conduct of persons attending and speaking at local public meetings;

WHEREAS, Resolution 1753 shall be rescinded;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Minden, Nebraska that the following City of Minden Public Participation Policy be adopted and enforced at all local public meetings.

City of Minden Public Participation Policy

In accordance with the Open Meetings Act of the State of Nebraska Neb. Rev. Statute 84-1407 et seq. (Act), which provides that every meeting of a public body shall be open to the public in order that citizens may exercise their democratic privilege of attending and speaking at meetings of public bodies, except as otherwise provided by the Constitution of Nebraska federal statutes, and the Open Meetings Act and which provides that a body may not be required to allow citizens to speak at each meeting but it may forbid public participation at all meetings, the Minden City Council has adopted the following policy for public participation at meetings of all the City's authorities, boards and commissions which qualify as a meeting under the Act.

1. Attendance

- a. Members of the public are permitted to attend meetings of the City Council and other authorities, boards and commissions which are open to the public.
- b. Members of the public will not be required to identify themselves as a condition for admission to a meeting.

2. Speaking

- a. For meetings at which a public comment period is offered as noted on the meeting agenda, the public comment period will generally be a maximum of three (3) minutes and will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis.
- b. The presiding officer shall have the discretion to adjust the amount of time set aside for public comment, and the amount of time set aside may, at the presiding officer's discretion, vary from meeting to meeting.

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- c. Every member of the public addressing the public body shall begin by stating his or her name, address (unless the address requirement is waived to protect the security of the individual) and the name of any organization represented by such person for the purpose of maintaining a proper record.
- d. Remarks shall be concise and limited to no more than three (3) minutes unless the presiding officer grants additional time.
- e. All remarks made shall be addressed to the Council, board or committee as a body and not to any individual member thereof.
- f. During the public comment section of a meeting, citizens may only address items on the agenda, not related to a public hearing.
- g. Citizens will be given an opportunity to discuss items related to a public hearing, during the public hearing.

3. Other

- a. The presiding officer of the meeting may designate a location for persons attending, videotaping, televising, photographing, broadcasting, or recording the meetings.
- b. All members of the public in attendance and those speaking are required to be courteous and respectful to others in attendance and to members of the public body. Members of the public are not allowed to interrupt other speakers or public body members, to threaten the safety of meeting attendees, or to behave in a hostile or disruptive manner.
- c. Persons in violation of this policy may be asked to leave or removed from the meeting.
- d. Members of the public may request a topic be placed on the agenda by submitting such a request to city hall, no later than 3 business days prior to the meeting.

The City Council may at any time, make and enforce other rules regarding the conduct of persons attending or speaking at local public meetings, that are not in conflict with current Federal Law, the Constitution of Nebraska or the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 16th day of October, 2023.

/s/ Larry Evans
Larry Evans, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Abbey Jordan
Abbey Jordan, City Clerk
(SEAL)