

ORDINANCE 2024-8

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 30.34; CONTEMPT AND DISORDERLY CONDUCT

IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED by the Common Council of the City of Portland, Indiana that Chapter 30 is hereby amended;

WHEREAS, it has become obvious that it is necessary for a policy to be established to provide citizens an organized and effective way to bring their ideas and make comment upon other matters before the Council, and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland, Indiana believes that such a policy will lead to a more effective and usable communication with the citizens, and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland Common Council establishes this policy in an effort to provide its citizens and the general public an orderly and effective way to present opinions and proposals to the City of Portland Common Council.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that any individual of the general public wishing to make a statement or to present an idea or complaint to the City of Portland Common Council should contact the Clerk Treasurer's office the Wednesday prior to any regularly scheduled or special meeting and make arrangements to have their idea and name added to the agenda for the City of Portland City Council meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the individuals in favor of a particular matter being presented to the City Council as a part of the agenda for whom public input in appropriate shall be given five minutes to make that statement, and any individual opposed to that statement shall be given five minutes to make their opposition. Individuals on either side of a statements or other matter can bank any time not utilized as a part of their proposal or response, and utilize same for rebuttal.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if it is obvious from the number of people present, either in favor of or opposing a matter, that five minutes is an insufficient amount of time, each presenter or opposer shall limit their statement to the Council to three minutes in order to ensure that any party wishing to make a statement to the Council can do so. Provided that the Council shall require that in making said statements, the individual limit themselves to new ideas instead of merely repeating what other persons have said.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council believes that public discourse and discussion is an absolute necessary and constitutionally guaranteed right of the citizens of the City of Portland, but also, that

mutual respect and appropriate behavior and language is also a requirement of public discourse, and the Council reserves the right, if an individual is not behaving in a respectful manner or behaves in a manner that the Council deems is inappropriate in a Council meeting, that following a warning from the Presiding Officer, any individual can be told they have lost their right to make a statement or comment at said Council meeting, and go to the next person wanting to make a statement to the Council. If an individual continues to be disruptive or acting in a manner deemed by the Council to be inappropriate for a public meeting, the Presiding Officer, on the third warning, reserves the right to order its law enforcement officer to remove the disruptive attendees from the Council meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Portland Common Council believes strongly that the above policy is necessary in order to protect public discourse and appropriate public behavior and demeanor at its meetings and provide for an orderly and efficient method of providing input to the Council on important, if not very sensitive matters, which the Council may from time to time be asked to become involved. The Council strongly desires to provide and safe and cordial environment within which all its citizens and residents feel comfortable with presenting to the Council their opinion on any matter.

PASSES AND ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Portland, Indiana on the _____ day of _____, 2024

Jeff Westlake, Presiding Officer

ATTEST:

Lori Phillips, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved by me on the date of adoption

Jeff A. Westlake, Mayor