

**MORGANTOWN TOWN COUNCIL
ORDINANCE NO. 2024-03**

**AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A POLICIES OF
CONDUCT AT PUBLIC MEETINGS**

WHEREAS, in the 2024 Session, the Indiana General Assembly added I.C. 5-14-1.5-3.3 to expressly provide for the adoption of reasonable rules and policies governing the conduct of meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Morgantown Town Council has determined that it is in the best interest of the Town to adopt rules and policies to govern the conduct of its meetings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Morgantown, Indiana, as follows:

Section 1. Definitions: *Attendee* means a member of the public who is physically present at a Town Council meeting.

Presiding Officer means the town council president or the town council member presiding over a meeting in the president's absence or at the president's request.

Section 2. As provided in I.C. 5-14-1.5-3.3 of the Indiana Open Door Law, the Town Council hereby adopts the following rules and policies governing the conduct of its meetings, to maintain order and decorum and avoid disruptions.

Code of Conduct. Attendees of Town Council meetings shall:

- a. Respect all people, whether present or watching, or otherwise.
- b. Refrain from personal threats, attacks, or slander.
- c. Not use profanity or obscenity.
- d. Obey the direction of the Presiding Officer as to when and how long they may speak.
- e. Not otherwise disrupt the orderly conduct of the meeting.

Violations of the above Code of Conduct shall be considered "Disorderly Conduct".

Unless specifically listed on the meeting agenda or otherwise given permission to speak by the Presiding Officer, Attendees are not entitled to speak during meetings. At a hearing or during a designated public comment period of a meeting, members of the public desiring to speak shall have up to five (5) minutes each to present their comments. The Presiding Officer may designate the total amount of time allotted for the public or attendees to speak on a case by case basis.

The Council members may ask questions of any attendee, presenter, or speaker at any time.

Persons with questions may raise their questions during their presentation time, which questions shall be addressed to the Presiding Officer. The Presiding Officer, other Council members, or any other representatives of the Town are not obligated to answer any question.

A speaker may request additional time for good cause shown, which shall be decided at the discretion of the Presiding Officer. Additionally, the Presiding Officer may cut short any presentations that are irrelevant, repetitive, or constitute Disorderly Conduct.

If a speaker or any other Attendee violates any of the rules set forth in this Ordinance, or otherwise disrupts a meeting, the Presiding Officer, after issuing three (3) warnings, may direct:

- i. The Attendee to leave the meeting; and
- ii. A law enforcement officer to remove the Attendee from the meeting if the attendee refuses to leave.

Section 3. Nothing in this Ordinance may be construed to prohibit a law enforcement officer from immediately removing an Attendee from a meeting if:

- a. Removal of the attendee is necessary to maintain order or ensure the safety of another person;
- b. The attendee commits a criminal offense; or
- c. The attendee violates the rules or policies governing the conduct of the meeting as adopted by the Town Council.

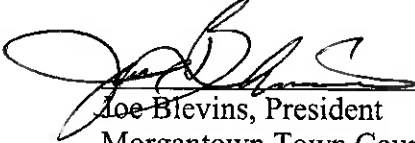
A Town police officer shall attend all meetings of the Town Council open to the public, unless the Presiding Officer determines that it is unnecessary for a particular meeting.

Section 4. This Ordinance, or the rules adopted herein, shall be posted at the entrance to meeting locations of the Town Council.

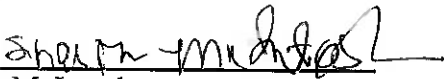
Section 5. The provisions of all other ordinances, resolutions, or the Morgantown Town Code in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are of no further force or effect. If any part of this Ordinance is held to be invalid, such part will be deemed severable and its validity shall have no effect upon the remaining provisions of this Ordinance.

This Ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

Introduced and adopted, by unanimous consent and the affirmative vote of at least four (4) member present, by the Morgantown Town Council, on the 12th day of August, 2024.


Joe Blevins, President
Morgantown Town Council

Attest:


Sharon McIntosh,
Clerk Treasurer