

A Resolution of the City of Plano, Texas, approving Rules Governing Public Comments in the City’s Public Meetings; and providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, the City Charter of the City of Plano gives the City of Plano (“City”) all powers of local self-government, including those memorialized through the Charter of the City of Plano, the Code of Ordinances of the City of Plano, or otherwise granted to the City of Plano by the Constitution of the United States or any laws of the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Plano (“City Council”) is tasked with conducting City Business emanating from all powers of local self-government, including those memorialized through the City Charter of the City of Plano, the Code of Ordinances of the City of Plano, or otherwise granted to the City of Plano by the Constitution of the United States or any laws of the State of Texas (“City Business”); and

WHEREAS, as a limited public forum, the City Council holds public meetings for the defined, focused purpose of conducting City Business; and the City Council welcomes public comments relating to this limited purpose; and

WHEREAS, the City Council takes seriously its role as City government and the importance of respecting citizens’ time and taxpayer resources; and

WHEREAS, conducting the City’s public meetings in an efficient, respectful, and professional manner reflects the excellence of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council asks individuals who participate in the City’s public meetings to show the same level of respect and decorum; and

WHEREAS, the City Council approved the content and scope of this Resolution during its public meeting on April 8, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the City Council now adopts these rules governing public comments in the City’s public meetings, including all Council, board, commission and committee meetings authorized by ordinance, charter or state law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PLANO, TEXAS, THAT:

Section I. The City Council hereby approves the Rules Governing Public Comments in the City’s Public Meetings, which is attached hereto as Exhibit “A”, and shall apply to all Council, board, commission, and committee meetings authorized by ordinance, charter or state law.

Section II. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage, and govern public comments presented by Zoom until the City Council resumes Meetings in City Council Chambers. The City Council may revisit the Resolution after it resumes Meetings in City Council Chambers.

PASSED AND APPROVED on the 13th day of May, 2024.

John B. Muns, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Lisa C. Henderson, CITY SECRETARY

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Paige Mims, CITY ATTORNEY

CITY OF PLANO
RULES GOVERNING
PUBLIC COMMENTS IN THE CITY'S PUBLIC MEETINGS
Effective 05-13-2024

1. Public comments made in the City's public meetings must relate to City Business and fall within the City Council's purview. Comments that do not relate to City Business and fall within the City Council's purview shall be directed to the appropriate local, state, or federal representatives or agencies.

2. Signs larger in size than 8.5 inches by 11 inches are prohibited during public comments in the City's public meetings. Signs presented in the City's public meetings must not block the view of any attendees. All banners and props are prohibited in the City's public meetings.

3. The following forms of speech or conduct are prohibited in the City's public meetings when they actually hinder, obstruct, interfere with, impede, or otherwise substantially disrupt orderly meetings:

- (a) Booing or hissing;
- (b) Foot stomping;
- (c) Shouting or yelling;
- (d) Ripping paper;
- (e) Amplifying sound other than City-provided microphones;
- (f) Playing music, videos, recordings, or using Artificial Intelligence;
- (g) Comments tending to incite outbursts, immediate threats, imminent violence, and/or illegal conduct;
- (h) Repetitive and/or irrelevant comments;
- (i) Creating or participating in a physical disturbance;
- (j) Speaking while not recognized by the Presiding Officer, or speaking beyond the allotted time;
- (k) Preventing others from speaking and/or observing the meeting; and
- (l) Engaging in personal attacks or insults that are not relevant to policy issues or other official City Business.

4. Public comments may also be directed to citycouncil@plano.gov.

5. Enforcement of Rules. The Presiding Officer shall exercise control over the City's public meetings and may enforce the Rules through any of the following:

- (a) Call the person to order, and advise the person of the violation of the City's rules or governing City or state law;
- (b) Advise that the violation must cease immediately or the person will forfeit the remainder of their time to present a comment;
- (c) Order the person to cease their comment, and turn off the microphone amplifying the comment;
- (d) Order the person to leave the meeting; and/or
- (e) Order the person removed for disrupting the meeting, as authorized by Texas Penal Code Sections 38.13, 42.01, and 42.05.