RESOLUTION R015-2025

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
GLOUCESTER COUNTY

RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO PUBLIC PORTIONS OF WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETINGS

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Washington highly values the input of the citizens in making important decisions which affect the residents of our community; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Washington believes in the rights of citizens to observe Township Council Meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Washington wishes to ensure that all of its citizens have the opportunity to attend Township Council Meetings and offer comment; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Washington recognizes that freedom of speech is protected by the First Amendment and is the hallmark of our democracy; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act [N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(a)] Township Council is required to set aside a portion of each public meeting for public comment on issues which may be of concern to the public, the length of which portion to be determined by Township Council; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40:49-2(b) governing the procedure for passage of municipal Ordinances requires that all persons interested shall be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the Ordinance and the opportunity to be heard shall include the right to ask pertinent questions concerning the Ordinance by any resident of the municipality or any other person affected by the Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, Section 2-47 of the Code of the Township of Washington authorizes Township Council to determine the order of business, conduct of meetings, procedures, decorum and any other matters pertaining to the functions of Council by way of Resolution or Ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Washington, in the County of Gloucester and State of New Jersey, hereby enacts guidelines for making public comments as represented in Attachment "A".

BE IT RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be given to the Business Administrator, posted on the Bulletin Board, and Township Clerk for their records.

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON

By: _____
Peter Del Borrello, Council President

I, Christine Ciallella, do certify this to be a true copy of Resolution **R015-2025** adopted by the Township of Washington, Gloucester County, at the regular meeting held on January 3, 2025 and shall take effect immediately.

By: Christine Ciallella
Christine Ciallella, RMC/CMR
Township Clerk

Members	Motion	Second	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent	Recuse
Yerkes	X		X				
Harris			X				
Bennett			X				
Brown		X	X				
Del Borrello			X				

ATTACHMENT "A"

THE RULES OF CONDUCT AND DECORUM FOR COUNCIL MEETING

The Rules of Conduct and Decorum for public participation during Council meetings for addressing Township Council during public hearings on ordinances or resolutions which require public hearings or during the public portion of the Council meetings are as follows:

1. All members attending Township Council Meetings must treat each other the Mayor, Council and Township employees with respect.
2. Shouting out from the audience without being recognized to speak is strictly prohibited.
3. No person shall, at any time, engage in any personally offensive or abusive remarks to the Mayor, Council, Township employee or any other member of the public.
4. No person shall engage in any express or implied speech that involves any other person's race, color, religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin or ethnicity.
5. The President of Council or Presiding Officer may restrict, limit or prohibit any speech, remarks or questions that are repetitive or not germane to any matter not within the jurisdiction of Township Council.
6. Persons making public comment may not yield their time to another speaker and each individual is limited to speaking once during a particular public comment period for a period of time not to exceed five (5) minutes.
7. The Chief of Police or such other member of the Police Department as he may designate, shall be designated as the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Township Council meetings. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall carry out all orders and instructions given by the Presiding Officer of the Township Council meeting for the purpose of maintaining order and decorum at the Township Council meetings and enforcing these Rules.
8. The Township Solicitor shall be the Parliamentarian.
9. Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with these Rules and Roberts Rules of Order for items not covered in these regulations.
10. Members of the public who make comments or ask questions that are germane to an ordinance or resolution that is under consideration or during the general public portion of the Council meeting for matters which are within the jurisdiction of the Township Council shall be allowed to do so in an uninterrupted manner unless the member is not adhering to these Rules of Conduct and Decorum.
11. The Mayor, Members of Council, the Mayor and Township employees reserve the right to answer questions and respond to comments.
12. All questions and comments shall be through the Council President or Presiding Officer unless waived.