

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-02**  
**RESOLUTION OF THE LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL ESTABLISHING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO PROTECT DECORUM AND FOSTER THE EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION OF PUBLIC MEETINGS**

WHEREAS, the LaPorte County Council (the "Council") serves as the fiscal body of LaPorte County, Indiana (the "County"); and

WHEREAS, the Council conducts County business during its regularly scheduled and, if necessary, special meetings, all of which are open to the public; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes for the effective order of business in light of Covid-19 and holding meetings in a hybrid fashion (in person and by video conference); and

WHEREAS, the Council believes it is in the best interest of performing County business, as well as those individuals who choose to attend public meetings of the Council to adopt standard policies and procedures for the administration of public meetings; and

WHEREAS, the policies and procedures adopted herein are intended to provide the general public with a clear and concise set of standards for public meetings held by the Council and, when applicable, rules regulating the conduct and decorum of members of the general public who wish to attend said public meetings; and

WHEREAS, in order to protect general meeting decorum and foster more effective administration of public meetings, the Council now desires to adopt standard policies and procedures applicable to public meetings held by the Council according to the general parameters stated herein.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF LAPORTE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT THE FOLLOWING POLICY IS ADOPTED:

**POLICY TO ENCOURAGE EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT USE OF PUBLIC COMMENT**

In accord with Indiana law, all regular and special meetings of the LaPorte County Council are open to the public. Notice of all meetings will be posted in accord with Indiana law.

Because the Council believes in hearing the views of citizens residing in LaPorte County and organizations located here, we seek to adopt a policy to encourage effective and efficient use of public comment and input to aid us in our decision making on various topics.

The following guidelines will assist the Council in hearing public comment while conducting effective meetings:

1. "Public Comment" will be listed on the agenda.
2. Each person shall give their name and address when addressing the Board.
3. As a routine matter, Public Comment will be confined to three (3) minutes per person, however a majority of the Council may, at their discretion, permit a longer time period for a given comment if they believe it is in the Public's interest for the normal time period to be extended.

4.a The Presiding Officer or his/her Designee may prohibit public comments which are deemed frivolous, repetitive, or harassing, vulgar, profane or direct personal attacks. The Presiding Officer or Designee may interrupt or warn a speaker they are violating, or potentially violating the rules, but only a majority vote can terminate a citizen's right to public comment. Any member of the Council can appeal the Presiding Officer's determination to restrict comment, and this appeal will be decided by a majority of Council members present at the meeting.

4.b For Zoom (or other teleconference) comments, a member of public shall raise their hand. There is a raise hand function in the Zoom platform Reactions Tab at the bottom of the Zoom screen. The speaker will then be called upon when it's their turn. The Presiding Officer or Designee may mute or censor the video of a speaker temporarily. However, under no circumstances should the member of the public be disconnected from listening and observing the Zoom conference. Any member of the Council can appeal the Presiding Officer's determination to restrict comment, and this appeal will be decided by a majority of Council members present at the meeting.

5. All comments shall be directed to the Council. No person shall directly make charges or complaints against individual employees of the county, other appropriate channels should be utilized for these allegations.

To assist persons who approach the podium with the process, there will be a "Cover Sheet" on the podium with the following information:

- \*Public Comment is limited to Three (3) Minutes per person.
- \*Please state your Name and Address before you begin.
- \*Please direct your comments directly to the Council.
- \*Please maintain a civil and respectful decorum during your comments.
- \*The board may vote to extend or limit your time based on the full rules.

This Resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

DULY ADOPTED by the LaPorte County Council at a regularly scheduled public meeting held on this, the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February 2021.

LAPORTE COUNTY COUNCIL

Randy Novak

Randy Novak, President

Terry Garner

Terry Garner

Mike Rosenbaum / g b s t a u e d

Michael Rosenbaum

MAY

Mark Yagelski, Vice-President

Mike Mollenhauer

Mike Mollenhauer

Earl Cunningham

Earl Cunningham

*NAK*

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Connie Gramarossa

Attest:

*Timothy J. Stalasz*  
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LaPorte County Auditor