

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO CITY COUNCIL
RULES PERTAINING TO PUBLIC COMMENT

Meetings of the City Council are legislative sessions for the corporate authorities, held for the specific purpose of conducting the business of the City.

Pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, members of the public are welcome to speak at meetings of the City Council for the purpose of addressing the City Council with concerns of comments regarding issues of City Business. City Business means those matters for which the City Council has jurisdiction or authority to act. The Rules below have been adopted to provide an efficient forum for the public to comment on City Business.

When addressing the City Council, in public comment, the following Rules shall apply:

1. Speakers are to address the Council from the podium, clearly stating the speaker's name, and, by option of the speaker, the speaker's address, before commenting.
2. Each person desiring to speak shall be allowed a single period of comment, which may be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker, if such time limit is deemed needed to allow all members of the public an opportunity to speak.
3. A maximum of thirty (30) minutes of public comment will be accepted at each meeting; however, the Council may extent the comment period, at its discretion.
4. All public comment shall be addressed to the City Council as a whole. No comments may be addressed to individual members of the City Council, the City Administrator, the City Attorney, City Staff, or other members of the public.
5. There shall be no debate on any issue raised during public comment. Cross-examination of speakers shall not be allowed. Matters raised under public comment may be referred by the City Administrator to City Staff for review.
6. Should a speaker wish to, he or she may tender documents for purposes of adding to comment made orally. Such documents must be tendered to the City Administrator and shall become part of the record of the meeting at which comment was made.
7. All members of the public addressing the City Council shall, at all times, maintain proper decorum, which includes:
 - a. No person shall speak until recognized for such purpose by the Mayor.
 - b. All persons wishing to address the City Council shall do so from the podium. Statements shall not be made from the audience.
 - c. All comments shall be courteous and respectful to the City Council and other members of the audience.
 - d. Statements made shall not impugn motives, be contentious, slanderous or boisterous.
 - e. No obscene or insulting statements shall be allowed.
 - f. Threats or personal attacks on any member of the City Council, Staff or public are prohibited.

8. Any person ruled out of order by the Mayor shall immediately stop speaking and shall abide by the Mayor's direction. Should comment in violation of these rules persist, the speaker may be removed from the room by the Mayor, or his designee.