

City of Crest Hill

Public Comment Policy

The opportunity to speak to the Mayor and City Council is provided for those who have a question or comment on an agenda item of City of Crest Hill issue that will stimulate the thought so as to make the City Council deliberations more productive and meaningful. The Mayor and City Council appreciates hearing from our residents and your thoughts and questions are valued. The Mayor and City Council strives to make the best decisions for the City and public input is very helpful.

Respect for the duties of the Mayor and City Council and for the democratic process will be adhered to in regard, civility and sense of decorum will be strictly followed. Comments that are personally condescending will not be permitted. Therefore, speakers shall be courteous and should not make statements that are personally disrespectful to members of the City Council.

- I. MUST MAKE COMMENTS ONLY FROM THE PODIUM
- II. MUST ANNOUNCE NAME AND ADDRESS BEFORE COMMENCING
COMMENTS
- III. COMMENTS LIMITED TO THREE (3) MINUTES AND EACH CITIZEN
WILL BE PERMITTED TO SPEAK ONCE
- IV. COMMENTS MUST BE ADDRESSED TO MAYOR AS THE PRESIDING
OFFICER OF THE MEETING
- V. COMMENTS MUST BE PRESENTED IN A RESPECTFUL AND
NONDISRUPTIVE MANNER
- VI. REPETITIVE COMMENTS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE POLICY AND RULES REGARDING PUBLIC COMMENT AND NONOFFICIAL RECORDING OF ALL PUBLIC MEETINGS OF THE CITY OF CREST HILL

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Crest Hill has the authority to adopt ordinances and to promulgate rules and regulations that pertain to its government and affairs and protect the public health, safety, and welfare of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has from time to time determined that its Ordinances Policies should be updated or amended and is authorized to do so; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council welcome public comment and public participation at meetings of the City Council and meetings of the City's committees, commissions and advisory boards; and

WHEREAS, the Corporate Authorities of the City of Crest Hill are authorized under the Illinois Open Meetings Act to establish rules and policies providing for respectful public comment at public meetings and to allow attendees to have the opportunity to make comment or express their views; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and appropriate for the City establish rules governing the nonofficial recording of public meetings to that the right to record meetings is preserved without disruption or interference with the meeting and the conducting of City business and while at the same time preserving the rights of the members of the public body and the general public; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has previously adopted a Public Comment Policy; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the Public Comment Policy should be amended and updated.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CREST HILL, WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS, PURSUANT TO ITS STATUTORY AUTHORITY, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: The City Council hereby finds that all of the recitals contained in the preamble to this Ordinance are true, correct, and complete and are hereby incorporated by reference hereto and made a part hereof.

SECTION 2: The City of Crest Hill Public Comment Policy is hereby repealed in its entirety and replaced with the following:

SECTION 3: All meetings shall provide an agenda item for public comment. A maximum of 3 minutes during each meeting shall be allowed for any person to address the council,

committee, or commission on any public matter not on the agenda. In addition, the presiding officer shall permit any person an opportunity to address the board regarding an agenda item prior to the board voting on that matter.

Public comments shall be governed by the following rules:

The Mayor, presiding officer, or chair may prohibit the recording of any audience member who objects to being recorded.

The Mayor, presiding officer or chair may impose additional rules or limitations on any recording, as he or she deems necessary or appropriate to preserve the orderly operation and decorum of the meeting.

The Mayor, presiding officer or chair shall order the immediate termination of any recording that disrupts the meeting.

These rules shall apply to the council, committee or commission and to those subsidiary boards and committees of the Village to the extent they have not adopted rules for the conduct of public meetings and public comment.

SECTION 3: In the event that any provision or provisions, portion or portions, or clause or clauses of this Ordinance shall be declared to be invalid or unenforceable by a Court of competent jurisdiction, such adjudication shall in no way affect or impair the validity or enforceability of any of the remaining provisions, portions, or clauses of this Ordinance that may be given effect without such invalid or unenforceable provision or provisions, portion or portions, or clause or clauses.

SECTION 4: That all ordinances, resolutions, motions, or parts thereof, conflicting with any of the provisions of this Ordinance, are hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict.

SECTION 5: That the City Clerk is hereby directed to publish this Ordinance in pamphlet form.

SECTION 6: That this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval and publication in pamphlet form as provided by law.

[Left Intentionally Blank]

PASSED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2022.

	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Alderman John Vershay	_____	_____	_____	_____
Alderman Scott Dyke	_____	_____	_____	_____
Alderwoman Claudia Gazal	_____	_____	_____	_____
Alderman Darrell Jefferson	_____	_____	_____	_____
Alderperson Tina Oberlin	_____	_____	_____	_____
Alderman Mark Cipiti	_____	_____	_____	_____
Alderman Nate Albert	_____	_____	_____	_____
Alderman Joe Kubal	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mayor Raymond R. Soliman	_____	_____	_____	_____

Christine Vershay-Hall, City Clerk

APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2022.

Raymond R. Soliman, Mayor

ATTEST:

Christine Vershay-Hall, City Clerk

ORDINANCE NO. 6333

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PROCEDURES FOR
PUBLIC COMMENT AT CITY MEETINGS**

WHEREAS, the City of Peru ("City") is a home rule unit of local government pursuant to Article VII, Section 6, of the Illinois Constitution, 1970, and may exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to its government and affairs; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/1 et. seq., ("OMA") requires that any person shall be permitted an opportunity to address public officials under the rules established and recorded by the public body; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the right to Freedom of Speech and has historically always encouraged public comment at City Council, Committee, and other City meetings; and

WHEREAS, on September 22, 2014, the City passed Ordinance No. 6031 entitled: "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AT CITY MEETINGS"; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds and determines it is in the best interests of the City to revise its procedures for public comment at City meetings to ensure the public has a reasonable opportunity to address public officials at City meetings while maintaining civil, orderly, and productive meetings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PERU, LASALLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, A HOME RULE MUNICIPALITY, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: Recitals. The City Council finds the facts and statements contained in the preambles to this Ordinance are true and correct and are hereby adopted as part of this Ordinance.

SECTION 2: Amended Public Comment Procedures. Chapter 2, Article I, Section 2-29 of the City of Peru Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2-29. Public Comment at City Meetings.

(a) Authority.

Pursuant to Section 2.06(g) of the Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/2.06(g), any person shall be permitted an opportunity to address public officials under the rules established in this section.

(b) Purpose of Public Comment Rules.

The reasonable time, place, and manner regulations established in this section serve the City's significant government interests in holding civil, orderly, and productive meetings; conserving time, and ensuring that members of the public have a fair opportunity to speak.

(c) Public Comment General Rules of Order.

1. Any person shall be allowed to speak at any public meeting on any matter of public concern. No person shall be prevented from speaking on the basis of any prior speech.
2. Prior to the start of the meeting, anyone desiring to make public comment must sign their name to the public comment sheet and identify the agenda item or topic on which they would like to offer comment. Additional contact information may be provided but is not required. Speakers will be called to speak upon in the order they appear on the public comment sign in sheet.
3. Each person who wishes to speak will be allotted no more than three (3) minutes to make public comment unless additional time is authorized by the presiding members or with the consent of a majority of then present council, board, or committee members.
4. No person may allot his or her time to another speaker to increase that speaker's allotted time.
5. Each person offering public comment shall first be acknowledged by the presiding member and shall begin their comment by stating their name.
6. The total time for public comment shall not exceed thirty (30) minutes at any meeting.
7. In the event that the thirty-minute time period elapses before all speakers have an opportunity to be heard, those speakers on the public comment sheet still wishing to be heard shall retain their position on the list for the public comment portion at the next meeting.

8. Any person shall be permitted to address the public body or any member of the public body at any time via mail or email.
9. Each member of the public addressing the Council shall be expected to conform to conventional standards of decorum and shall refrain from making vulgar, insulting, or inappropriate remarks toward or about any member of the Council, any employee or officer of the City, or any member of the audience.
10. Each speaker must maintain civility and cannot disrupt an orderly meeting by using obscene or threatening language or gestures. Any person who poses a threat to public safety will be removed from the meeting.
11. The presiding member shall have the authority to direct that a speaker suspend his or her remarks for exceeding the prescribed time limit or for any other violation of these Rules of Order for Public Comment.
12. Public comment is not intended to require public officials to provide any answer to the speaker. After the speaker has used his or her allotted time or finished making their comment, he or she shall be seated with no further debate, dialogue, or comment.

SECTION 3: Severability. In the event that any section, clause, provision, or part of this ordinance shall be found and determined to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, all valid parts that are severable from the invalid parts shall remain to be valid in any one or more of its several applications. All valid applications that are severable from the invalid applications shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 4: Repeal and Savings Clause. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed; provided, however, that nothing herein contained shall affect any rights, actions, or causes of action which shall have accrued to the City of Peru prior to the effective date of this ordinance.

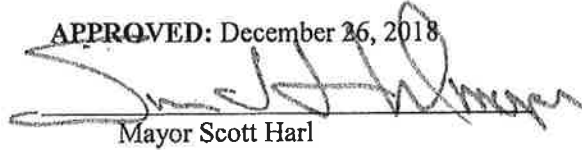
SECTION 5: Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effective immediately from and after its passage, and approval as provided by law.

PRESENTED, PASSED, AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Peru, Illinois, by an aye and nay roll call vote, with 7 voting aye, 0 voting nay,

1 absent, and Mayor Harl not voting, which meeting was held on the 26th day of December, A.D.,
2018.



APPROVED: December 26, 2018


Mayor Scott Harl

ATTEST:

David R. Bartley
Peru City Clerk

<u>Aldermen</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Potthoff	X		
Ferrari	X		
Waldorf	X		
Lukosus	X		
Radtke	X		
Sapienza	X		
Payton			X
Ballard	X		

§ 43.01 POLICY.

It shall be the policy of the village that any person shall be allowed to address public officials at any board, committee, or commission meeting subject to the Illinois Open Meetings Act. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that citizens are allowed time to present their views pertaining to issues concerning the village while permitting the board, committee or commission to conduct their meetings in an effective manner. During a designated public comment period, and the following rules shall apply to all such public comment periods:

(A) A person shall be permitted to speak upon being recognized by the Chairperson. All comments shall be received from the podium, if possible.

(B) All public comments are limited to six minutes, and each person shall only be permitted to speak once; however, at regular and special village board meetings, each person shall be allowed to speak once in accordance with this policy, on each agenda item other than consent agenda items that are presented for final adoption. All public comment at special village board, special commission, or special committee meetings must be germane to items on that particular special meeting. At the discretion of the Chairperson, the person providing public comment may be allowed to comment further than six minutes or speak more than once. The Chairperson may direct the person to submit further comments to the Chairperson in writing for the distribution to village officials at a later date.

(C) The total time allotted for public comment shall generally be 60 minutes, unless a majority of the board agrees to extend the time allotted for that specific meeting.

(D) The board will not necessarily respond to public comments provided at the same time comment is given. Consideration will be given to the public comment and further research and referral to village staff may be required before the board takes any action or responds to the public comment.

(E) The Chairperson shall preserve order and decorum. Any person who engages in threatening or disorderly behavior when addressing a board, commission, or committee shall be deemed out-of-order by the Chairperson and their time ceased to address the board, commission, or committee at said meeting.

(F) Any member of the public may address the board in public comments and public hearings regardless of residency.

(G) Each meeting agenda will have a designated public comments section provided. This is the only time comments from the public are allowed unless called upon by the Chairperson or during a public hearing.

(Ord. 2016-O-046, passed 7-5-16; Am. Ord. 2019-O-021, passed 5-7-19; Am. Ord. 2019-O-077, passed 12-3-19)

- **Sec. 2-23. - Addressing meetings.**

[SHARE LINK TO SECTION](#)[PRINT SECTION](#)[DOWNLOAD \(DOCX\) OF SECTION](#)[EMAIL SECTION](#)

In order to secure the rights of the citizens of the City of Centralia to fair and just representation before their elected officials, and to guarantee order at public meetings of the Centralia City Council, the following rules are established:

(1)

Any person who seeks to address the members of the city council at any public meeting will be permitted to speak on any matter listed on the agenda or on any other matter of public concern, subject to the following provisions:

a.

The mayor shall designate a time during the meeting at which the public may address the city council. The mayor may require persons wishing to speak during any portion of a meeting to sign in before the start of the meeting and to provide their names, addresses, and topics to be discussed.

b.

Prior to speaking, each person must be recognized by the mayor, or given consent to address the city council by a majority of the members present.

c.

Prior to speaking, each speaker must state his or her name for the record. The speaker shall not be required to state his address for the record.

d.

Subject to subsection (1)(e), public comment is limited to no more than five (5) minutes per person and to no more than forty-five (45) minutes per meeting, unless extended by consent of a majority vote of the city council members present. The mayor or his or her designee shall monitor each speaker's use of time and shall notify the speaker when the time allotted has expired. A speaker cannot give his or her allotted minutes to another speaker to increase that person's allotted time.

e.

In order to expedite council business and to avoid repetitious presentations, whenever any group of persons wishes to address the council on the same subject matter, it shall be in order for the mayor to encourage that a spokesperson be chosen from the group to address the council. If additional matters are to be presented by any other members of the group, the mayor may limit the number of such persons and limit the presentation to information not already presented by the group spokesperson.

f.

Persons invited by the mayor to address the members are subject to such time limitations as the majority of the members present may prescribe.

g.

Speakers will be well-mannered in their language and presentation. Any person who engages in threatening or disorderly conduct when addressing the city council shall be deemed out-of-order by the mayor and their time ceased to address the city council at said meeting.

(2)

Other than as provided in this section, no person other than a council member, city attorney or city official shall address the council.

(3)

Public comment is not intended to require the mayor, city council members, or any city official to provide any answer to the speaker. Discussions between speakers and members of the audience will not be allowed.

(Code 1963, § 2-2-8; Ord. No. O14-36, § 1, 9-22-14)

(Code 1964, § 2.208; Code 1988, § 2.08.150)