

ST. TAMMANY PARISH COUNCIL

ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE CALENDAR NO.: 7766

ORDINANCE COUNCIL SERIES NO.: 25-

COUNCIL SPONSOR: TANNER/SEIDEN

PROVIDED BY: CIVIL DA/COUNCIL OFFICE

INTRODUCED BY: MR. BURKE

SECONDED BY: MR. SMITH

ON THE 5TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2024

ORDINANCE TO AMEND ST. TAMMANY PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES, PART I, CHAPTER 2 – ADMINISTRATION, ARTICLE III – PARISH COUNCIL, SEC. 2-80 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION RULES, TO PROHIBIT DEFAMATORY COMMENTS AGAINST MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

WHEREAS, Parish Council meetings are open to the public and participation by the public is strongly encouraged as an essential element of the democratic process; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Louisiana Open Meetings Law, La. R.S. 42:12, *et seq.*, and St. Tammany Parish Code of Ordinances Sec. 2-75(f)(1), a member of the public may speak relative to any item on the agenda for up to three minutes; and,

WHEREAS, it is never proper or necessary for speakers to make defamatory comments or personal attacks against any member of the public who may or may not be present at the Council meeting; and,

WHEREAS, defamatory remarks about a member of the public will not be tolerated and will result in the forfeiture of any public speaking time and removal from Council Chambers for the duration of the meeting.

THE PARISH OF ST. TAMMANY HEREBY ORDAINS that St. Tammany Parish Code of Ordinances, Part I, Chapter 2– Administration, Article III – Parish Council, Sec. 2-80 – Public Participation Rules, be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2-80. Public participation rules.

- (a) All videos taken at any public meeting held in the council chambers, except those by parish staff, shall only be taken from an area designated in the chambers for said purposes by the chairperson.
- (b) All handheld signs brought into the council chambers by the public shall only be displayed in the area designated in the chambers for said purposes by the chairperson.
- (c) No solicitation of any kind may be conducted in the council chambers during any public meeting whatsoever.
- (d) Defamatory comments or personal attacks made by a speaker against any member of the public shall not be tolerated and will result in the forfeiture of any remaining speaking time and removal from council chambers. Any violation of these rules will subject the offender to immediate removal from the chambers.
- (e) Any violation of these rules will subject the offender to immediate removal from the chambers.

REPEAL: All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SEVERABILITY: If any provision of this Ordinance shall be held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions herein which can be given effect without the invalid provision and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This Ordinance shall become effective fifteen (15) days after adoption.

MOVED FOR ADOPTION BY: _____ SECONDED BY: _____

WHEREUPON THIS ORDINANCE WAS SUBMITTED TO A VOTE AND RESULTED IN THE FOLLOWING:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

THIS ORDINANCE WAS DECLARED DULY ADOPTED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ON THE 9TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2025; AND BECOMES ORDINANCE COUNCIL SERIES NO. 25-.

JOE IMPASTATO, COUNCIL CHAIR

ATTEST:

KATRINA L. BUCKLEY, COUNCIL CLERK

MICHAEL B. COOPER, PARISH PRESIDENT

Published Introduction: NOVEMBER 27, 2024

Published Adoption: _____, 2025

Delivered to Parish President: _____, 2025 at _____

Returned to Council Clerk: _____, 2025 at _____