
VILLAGE OF THORNTON
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

ORDINANCE
NUMBER 2025-011

AN ORDINANCE IMPLEMENTING A PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY FOR THE VILLAGE
OF THORNTON, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

MAXINE REYNOLDS, Village President
NIKKI KATAKIS, Village Clerk

TRUSTEES
ROSEMARY CUNNINGHAM
GINA GLASER
ERNEST “BO” KAYE
PHILLIP MIDDLEBROOKS
DEBRA PISARZEWSKI
MARTIN PRATSCHER

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VILLAGE OF THORNTON – 115 E. MARGARET STREET – THORNTON, ILLINOIS 60476

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**AN ORDINANCE IMPLEMENTING A PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY FOR THE
VILLAGE OF THORNTON, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

WHEREAS, the Village of Thornton, Cook County Illinois (the “*Village*”) is a home rule municipality pursuant to Section 6(a), Article VII of the 1970 Constitution of the State of Illinois, and as such may exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to its government and affairs (the “*Home Rule Powers*”);

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

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Trustees of the Village (the “*Corporate Authorities*”) may establish rules and regulations for which the public shall abide by when addressing the Corporate Authorities in a public meeting;

WHEREAS, the Corporate Authorities recognize the right to freedom of speech and have encouraged and will continue to encourage public comment at public meetings;

WHEREAS, the Corporate Authorities find the communication between the public and public officials of the Village an important and essential function of the government;

WHEREAS, the Corporate Authorities desire and believe it is in the best interest of the Village to implement rules and procedures for addressing public officials at Village meetings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Board of Trustees of the Village of Thornton, Cook County, Illinois, and through the Village’s home rule powers as follows:

Section 1. That the above recitals and legislative findings are found to be true and correct and are hereby incorporated herein and made a part hereof, as if fully set forth in their entirety.

Section 2. The Public Comment Policy, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit A, is hereby authorized and approved.

Section 3. If any section, paragraph, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be held invalid, the invalidity thereof shall not affect any other provision of this Ordinance.

Section 4. All ordinances, resolutions, motions or orders in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon its passage, approval and publication as provided by law.

(Intentionally Left Blank)

ADOPTED, by the Village President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Thornton,
Cook County, Illinois this 18th day of August 2025, pursuant to a roll call vote, as follows:

| | YES | NO | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|-------------------------------|------------|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| CUNNINGHAM | | | | |
| GLASER | | | | |
| KAYE | | | | |
| MIDDLEBROOKS | | | | |
| PISARZEWSKI | | | | |
| PRATSCHER | | | | |
| VILLAGE PRESIDENT REYNOLDS | | | | |
| TOTAL | | | | |

APPROVED by the Village President of the Village of Thornton, Cook County, Illinois
This 18th day of August 2025.

MAXINE REYNOLDS
VILLAGE PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

NIKKI KATAKIS
VILLAGE CLERK

EXHIBIT A

VILLAGE OF THORNTON
PROPOSED PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY
AUGUST 18, 2025

1. Members of the public shall have an opportunity to make comments to the Village Board at all public meetings during a specific time designated on the agenda. Public comments shall be related to matters pertaining to the Village. The manner in which individuals shall be recognized to make comments may include raising their hand, placing their name on a sign-in sheet, or submitting a request to the Village Clerk prior to the start of the meeting. The manner of recognition is at the discretion of the Mayor or presiding officer, and may be dependent on how many individuals are present at a given meeting. Notwithstanding the foregoing, once a manner of recognition is decided upon for a given public meeting, such manner of recognition shall be applied uniformly throughout the entirety of the applicable public meeting.
2. No member of the public shall address the Village Board without first securing the recognition of the Mayor or presiding officer. After being recognized by the Mayor or presiding officer, and before addressing the Village Board, the individual shall state his or her name for the record. All comments shall be directed to the Mayor or presiding officer. No questions shall be directed to a member of the Village Board, staff, or audience member without obtaining permission from the Mayor or presiding officer.
3. The Village Board may ask a member of the public to clarify a comment. However, the Village Board shall have no obligation to respond to a comment made by a member of the public. If an answer to a question cannot be provided during the meeting in which it was asked, the Village shall work diligently to provide an answer in a timely manner if so requested. The Village shall consider, but not be obligated, to provide an answer to a question in a manner for public consumption if, in the Village's estimation, the question pertains to more than just the questioner.
4. Comments shall be limited to five minutes per member of the public. Members of the public may not yield unused time to other members. Members of the public may not speak to the Village Board more than once during the public comment portion of a public meeting.
5. Members of the public, as an alternative to speaking, may submit written materials to the Village Board regarding any matter pertaining to the Village.
6. Any person who engages in threatening, slanderous, or disorderly behavior when addressing a meeting of the Village Board shall be deemed out of order by the Mayor or presiding officer. The Mayor or presiding officer shall have the right at any time to close comment by that person, when in the Mayor or presiding officer's discretion, such behavior violates the provisions of these rules, or is otherwise disruptive. The person violating these rules may be removed from the meeting at the discretion of the Mayor or Presiding officer.
7. Failure to adhere to the provisions of this policy shall not affect any ordinances, resolution, motion, or other action of the Village Board.