

Proposed Framework for Improving Public Participation at Whitewater Common Council & Committee Meetings

Public Appearance Card

Public Meeting Appearance Cards (PMAC) shall be used by members of the public who wish to speak during public comment, public hearing or specific agenda item. This form would also be used for those individuals who do not wish to or cannot verbally address the Common Council/Committee during a meeting.

A person may provide comments and support or opposition for an agenda item on the form. Those requesting to speak during the meeting may indicate this on the form.

Prior to taking action on an item on the agenda, the presiding officer will request the City Clerk/Secretary to indicate any speakers who have signed up for that particular item. The Clerk/Secretary will read the name of the speaker and the speaker on-deck. The Clerk/Secretary will alternate between those in support and opposition.

After all of the speakers have been called, the Clerk/Secretary will indicate written support and opposition by reading the name and the position of the individual. The minutes will reflect the receipt of written comments in support or opposition by all registered individuals.

Time Limits

Public Comment – 3 minutes with a limit of 30 minutes total

Public Hearing – 5 minutes with a limit of 30 minutes for each support and opposed speakers

Per speaker time is the same. Provide support and opposed delineation.

Agenda Items – 3 minutes, with an ability for extension with consent of Common Council.

Per speaker time is the same. Provide clarification about extension of time.

Whenever a group of individuals wishes to address the Council/Committee on the same subject matter, those individuals may designate a spokesperson to address the Common Council/Committee. The spokesperson may ask for additional time when completing the PAMC, and with the consent of the Common Council/Committee, the presiding officer may extend the time allocation. Individuals are still welcome to complete a PMAC registering their support or opposition, and written comments will be entered into the record by the City Clerk/Secretary.

The presiding officer, with the concurrence of the Common Council/Committee, may extend or limit any of the enumerated time allocations based on the complexity of the item and the number of persons wishing to speak on the item

Meeting Conduct

Expectations of Speakers

- The speaker shall conduct themselves in a professional and respectful manner.
- All remarks shall be directed to the Common Council/Committee, as a body, and not City staff or any member of the public in attendance.
- The speaker shall not defame, intimidate, make personal affronts, make threats of violence, or use profanity.

Expectation of Public

Members of the public in the audience shall not engage in any of the following activities during a Common Council/Committee meeting:

- Shouting, clapping, unruly behavior, or speaking out when not recognized by the presiding officer.
- Defamation, intimidation, personal affronts, threats of violence, or profanity.
- Behavior that disrupts the orderly conduct of the meeting.

Expectation of Council/Committee Members

While the Common Council/Committee is in session, the members must preserve order and decorum. Each Council/Committee member shall conduct themselves with decorum and shall neither, by conversation or otherwise, delay nor interrupt the proceedings or the peace of the Common Council/Committee, nor disturb any member while speaking or refuse to obey the orders of the presiding officer.