

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF GLOUCESTER, CAMDEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY ESTABLISHING RULES OF ORDER AND CONDUCT FOR ALL TOWNSHIP COUNCIL REGULAR, WORK SESSION AND SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL**

WHEREAS, The Township Council of the Township of Gloucester desires to establish standard rules of order and regulations for public participation at Township Council meetings for the purpose of promoting efficiency and a fair opportunity for public comment on issues and concerns when meetings are open to the public, and to assure that the business of the Township can be conducted within a reasonable time, and

WHEREAS, in order to assure that appropriate decorum is maintained during meetings when a member of the public comments to Township Council, it is necessary to establish reasonable guidelines.

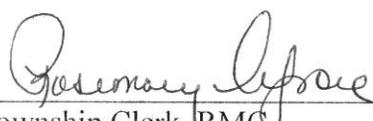
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Gloucester as follows:

1. The Township Council shall continue the policy of two (2) public portions at regular meetings of the Township Council.
  - A. The first public portion will be limited to agenda items (Resolutions) (Total of 15 minutes)
  - B. The second public portion will be open for any item of public concern. (Total of 30 minutes)
  - C. The Township Council hereby sets a reasonable time limitation for each speaker, when a portion of the meeting is open for public participation. The first public portion shall be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker with a limit of two speaking opportunities. The second public portion shall be limited to five (5) minutes per speaker, with a limit of two (2) speaking opportunities. The two (2) per person speaking opportunity shall not be consecutive so as to allow other members of the public to make an appropriate presentation to Township Council. The practice of yielding time to or borrowing time from others is not permitted.
2. The Township Council hereby sets a reasonable time limitation for each speaker when a portion of any work session or special meeting is open for public participation. The public portion shall be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker with a limit of two speaking opportunities. The two (2) per person speaking opportunity shall not be consecutive so as to allow members of the public to make an appropriate presentation to Township Council. The practice of yielding time to or borrowing time from others is not permitted. The public portion shall be open for a total of 15 minutes.
3. Foul, vulgar or coarse language shall not be tolerated.
4. At the sole discretion of Township Council, with the consent of the majority of members of Council present, on issues being presented, this time limitation may be relaxed or extended from time to time and such extension, relaxation or suspension of time limitation shall not constitute a binding precedent for other speakers on other issues, or at the discretion of any member of Township Council with the consent of the majority of Township Council present, the speaking time limitation may be relaxed or extended from time to time and such extension, relaxation or suspension of time limitation shall not constitute a binding precedent for other speakers on other issues.
5. A total of thirty (30) minutes shall be permitted at any public portion of the meeting. However, at the discretion of Township Council, with the consent of the majority of members of Township Council present, this time limitation may be relaxed or extended from time to time and such extension, relaxation or suspension of time limitation shall not constitute a binding precedent for other speakers on other issues.
6. Large groups on single issues are urged to select a spokesperson to present their concerns.
7. Any desired question to specific members of the Township Council shall be directed to Council President for recognition of specific members of Township Council. The intent is to avoid a "back and forth" exchange. Members of Township Council may or may not respond to any public presentment after there has been a completion of the public speakers presentment. Council President or Members of Council may refer specific questions to professionals or Department Heads as appropriate.

Adopted: January 3, 2017

  
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President of Council

ATTEST:

  
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Township Clerk, RMC