



TARRANT COUNTY, TX (<https://www.tarrantcountytx.gov/en.html>)



Language



(https://www.tarrantcountytx.gov/en/commissioners-court/rules-of-decorum.html#google_translate_element)

COMMISSIONERS COURT RULES OF DECORUM

The Tarrant County Commissioners Court (“Court”) adopts the following rules of decorum to govern regular and special meetings of the Court. The intent of these rules is to ensure the safety of the public, the staff, and members of the Court, and to maximize citizen participation, efficiently receive public input, and maintain respectful decorum during each meeting.

I. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

During the regularly called meetings of the Commissioners Court, members of the public shall have two opportunities to address the Court. One public comment period shall be exclusively for Proclamations, Resolutions, and Presentations and shall take place before said items. The second section for public comments shall be held prior to the Commissioners Court consideration of remaining agenda items. During the second public comment section, members of the public may address any remaining matter on the Commissioners Court agenda and may also deliver general public comments unrelated to topics on the agenda. Members of the public may address the Court once they are verbally recognized by the County Judge or, in the absence of the County Judge¹, the presiding officer. The County Judge will recognize a potential speaker during the designated “Public Comments” agenda item.

TIME LIMITS

i. The speaking time limit is up to three (3) minutes per speaker during a regular or special called meeting regardless of the number of agenda items which the speaker seeks to address. At the discretion of the County Judge, this time limit can be reduced for the purpose of efficiency based on the total number of public commenters registered to speak during the public comment periods. If there are thirty (30) to forty-nine (49) speakers signed up to speak during the public comment periods, the time limit will be reduced to two (2) minutes per speaker. If fifty (50) speakers or more are signed up to speak during the public comment periods, the time limit will be reduced to one (1) minute per speaker. In making such adjustments to speaker time limits, the County Judge shall act in a reasonable and non-discriminatory manner. If an adjustment is made to speaker time limits, such adjustment shall be applied equally to all speakers. The Deputy County Clerk, serving as Clerk of the Court, or another person designated by the County Judge shall keep the time for all speakers.

ii. If a person is addressing the Commissioners Court through a translator, the speaking time limit is up to six (6) minutes. In the event the time limit has been reduced, a person addressing the Commissioners Court through a translator shall be given twice the amount of time as a member of the public who does not require the assistance of a translator.

¹ As used in these rules, the term "County Judge" refers to the County Judge when acting as the presiding officer of the Court, or to the member of the Court who serves as the presiding officer in the absence of the County Judge.

iii. During public hearings, the Commissioners Court will listen to public comments after the County Judge has opened the public hearing and prior to taking any vote, if needed. Each speaker can use their full allotted time to discuss the matter before the Court at the public hearing, within any time limits set by Section I(a)(i). Public comments can be made while the Court is considering the public hearing item rather than during the designated comment periods. Registration to address the Commissioners Court during a public hearing is not required.

iv. At the conclusion of the speaker's time, the Deputy County Clerk or other person designated by the County Judge shall sound a buzzer, alarm, or other audible device to signal the conclusion of the speaker's time.

B. ONLINE PUBLIC COMMENT FORMS

For each Commissioners Court meeting, members of the public may submit public comment forms online at Commissioners Court Agendas and Videos

([https://www.tarrantcountytx.gov/en/commissioners-court/commissioners-court-agenda-videos.html?](https://www.tarrantcountytx.gov/en/commissioners-court/commissioners-court-agenda-videos.html?linklocation=Commissioners%20Court%20Meetings&linkname=Court%20Agendas,%20Videos%20a)

[linklocation=Commissioners%20Court%20Meetings&linkname=Court%20Agendas,%20Videos%20a](https://www.tarrantcountytx.gov/en/commissioners-court/commissioners-court-agenda-videos.html?linklocation=Commissioners%20Court%20Meetings&linkname=Court%20Agendas,%20Videos%20a) after the posting of the agenda. Alternatively, members of the public who need assistance submitting a form, may come to the County Administrator's Office located on the fourth (4th) floor of the Tarrant County Administration Building during normal business hours. Public comment forms are due no later than 5:00 p.m. the business day before the commencement of the regular or special Commissioners Court meeting. The County Administrator's Office is located at the following address:

Tarrant County Administrator's Office

100 E. Weatherford, Suite 404 Fort Worth, Texas 76196 Phone (817) 884-1267

Tcadmin@tarrantcountytx.gov (<mailto:Tcadmin@tarrantcountytx.gov>).

Written public comments are available to Commissioners Court upon submission.

C. GUIDELINES FOR SPEAKERS

i. Speaker order may be on a first-come, first-served basis (using the date and time the public comment form is received). However, speaker order is wholly up to the discretion of the County Judge. The County Judge may allow public commentators who are residents of Tarrant County to speak prior to commentators who are not Tarrant County residents.

ii. Speakers will be called to speak by the County Judge or presiding officer.

iii. A member of the public addressing the Court during regular and special meetings shall do so only from the podium.

- iv. Before addressing the Court, speakers may be asked their name, address or Commissioner precinct number, and the agenda item that they will be addressing, if any.
- v. Speakers shall stop speaking when the allocated time to speak has expired.
- vi. The County Judge maintains the right to interrupt and/or excuse a speaker when the allocated time has expired, if the speaker otherwise violates these guidelines, or for any other matter at the discretion of the County Judge.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT DURING THE AGENDIZED “PUBLIC COMMENTS” ITEM

During the specifically agendized “Public Comments” item on the agendas, public comments may not be addressed to staff or other members of the public; however, the Court may ask staff to review an issue. Members of the Court cannot respond to public comments on a non-agendized item except as permitted by

Texas Government Code Section 551.042.

II. GENERAL RULES OF DECORUM

Everyone attending a regular or special meeting of Commissioners Court must adhere to these general rules of decorum, so each meeting is conducted in a timely and orderly manner.

A. PROHIBITED BEHAVIOR

- i. Personal attacks, impertinent, profane, obscene, or slanderous remarks.
- ii. Threatening, disruptive, or unruly behavior.
- iii. Disruptive remarks or actions of approval or disapproval from the audience, such as feet stomping, snapping, whistling, yelling, clapping, verbal affirmation or rejection, or similar distractions, except that orderly clapping during the Proclamations, Resolutions, and Presentations section of the agenda is permissible.
- iv. Approaching the dais on which the members of the Commissioners Court sit beyond the speaker’s podium or to the immediate left or right of the podium, unless by the invitation of a member of the Commissioners Court.
- v. Wearing or displaying signs, flags, banners, props, placards, or similar items larger than 8 ½ by 11 inches. This includes items that can be illuminated or be attached to any pole, stick, or other device. This does not include words or symbols on personal apparel, such as shirts, hats, and other standard items of clothing.

B. CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES

All cellular phones, electronic devices, or other communication devices are to be on “silent” mode at all

times while Commissioners Court is in session.

III. FAILURE TO COMPLY

Failure to comply with any part of the Tarrant County Commissioners Court Rules of Decorum may result in sanctions, including but not limited to, the following:

- i. removal from the Court by the County Judge or presiding officer;
- ii. temporary prohibition from commenting in person during Court;
- iii. cancellation of a speaker's remaining time;
- iv. a finding of contempt of Commissioners Court pursuant to Texas Local Government Code Section 81.023 which is punishable by a fine of not more than twenty-five (25) dollars or by confinement of not more than twenty-four (24) hours;
- v. referral of matter for other civil sanctions and/or criminal charges as may be authorized under the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas.

IV. BAILIFF

The Tarrant County Sheriff or designee shall provide Bailiffs at all meetings of the Court. Bailiffs are charged with maintaining order in the courtroom and will remove any person from the courtroom who has violated the decorum of the Court at the request of the County Judge.

The Bailiff is permitted to issue criminal trespass warnings barring entrance to the premises of the G.K. Maenius Administration Building during meetings of the Court to members of the public who have: 1) caused a continuing series of disruptions over a single or multiple meetings of the Commissioners Court and have failed to comply with less restrictive means of correcting the disruptions; or 2) caused a substantial and serious disruption of a Commissioners Court meeting such that less restrictive means of correcting the

disruption would be futile. Any criminal trespass warning notice issued shall prevent entrance to the Commissioners Courtroom for a period determined by the Bailiff to be proportionate to the necessity to stop and remediate any misconduct, but shall be for no longer of a period than one hundred and eighty (180) days per incident that results in a criminal trespass warning. A member of the public who has been issued a criminal trespass warning by the Bailiff shall have the right to appeal the warning to the Tarrant County Civil Service Commission. Through the appeal, the Tarrant County Civil Service Commission may rescind the criminal trespass warning, reduce the amount of time for which it is in effect, or leave the warning in place.

V. COURTROOM CAPACITY

Members of the public are welcome to attend all public portions of Court meetings. In the event the courtroom is unable to accommodate seating for all members of the public or the fire safety capacity of the courtroom is reached, the Bailiff or Tarrant County Fire Marshal may close admission to the courtroom. If admission to the courtroom is closed, an overflow room shall be made available where members of the public can view a live video feed of the meeting as space permits. In addition, meetings of the Court are publicly streamed online.

VI. REQUESTS FOR ACCOMMODATIONS

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend Court and need accommodations, auxiliary aids, or services such as interpreters, readers, or large font size are requested to contact the Tarrant County Administrator's Office at (817) 884-1267. The request needs to be made at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the Commissioners Court meeting. If the County receives a request less than forty-eight (48) hours before the Commissioners Court meeting, the County will make reasonable attempts to provide accommodations.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For any questions or clarifications, please contact us at:

Tarrant County Administrator's Office

100 E. Weatherford, Suite 404

Fort Worth, Texas 76196

Phone: (817)884-1267

tcadmin@tarrantcountytexas.gov (<mailto:tcadmin@tarrantcountytexas.gov>)

This page was last modified on March 09, 2026

Southwest Tarrant County Democrats, the Stonewall Democrats, the Democratic Women's Club, and the Tarrant County Democratic Party.

4. I have been involved in local governance for several years. I began attending Tarrant County Commissioner's Court meetings four years ago in August 2022. I also attend Fort Worth City Council, Fort Worth City Independent School District Board of Trustees meetings, and Tarrant Appraisal District Meetings.

My Involvement In Tarrant County Commissioners Court

5. I regularly attend and speak at meetings of the Tarrant County Commissioners Court. Since January 2026, I have attended nearly every regular Commissioners Court meeting.

6. I am interested in the decisions and actions of the Tarrant County Commissioners Court because those decisions affect me and my community. Issues that are important to me include the deaths at the Tarrant County Jail, LGBTQ issues, public education, redistricting, voting and other matters affecting my community.

7. On multiple occasions I addressed the Commissioners Court concerning the County jail. I spoke about the death of a jail inmates, general jail conditions, and about audience-participation forms (May 21, 2024); about the Garza facility and its contract (October 1, 2024); and at the hearing on the Anthony Johnson Jr. jail-death lawsuit, I stated that funds for outside counsel will be spent in addition to the salaries already being paid to the civil district attorneys, who should already be working on mediation to resolve this case (November 12, 2024).

8. I spoke in support of County mental-health programs, including the jail mental-health alert system (May 22, 2024); the interlocal agreement with MHMR for the mental

health jail diversion center (December 3, 2024); and the Mental Health Diversion Program (February 4, 2025).

9. I commented on jail management and county facilities: the RFP for jail management services (October 15, 2024; March 18, 2025); the sheriff's handling of the NIC jail consultants' recommendations, including alternatives to solitary confinement (November 12, 2024); the construction manager-at-risk contract for the Cold Springs jail renovation (July 1, 2025).

10. I spoke regarding the bonds for the Tarrant County Senior Living Center (December 17, 2024); the legal services agreement with Brazil & Dunn LLP (May 6, 2025); the hiring of the Public Interest Legal Foundation for services related to the County redistricting (Jan 13, 2026); and the hiring of First Liberty Institute (March 10, 2026).

11. I spoke on matters of elections and voting: countywide voting locations (July 2, 2024); the amendment to the facilities-use policy, and voter registration in county buildings (September 4, 2024); and the reduction of Election Day polling locations from 316 to 224 (September 1, 2026).

12. I'm also passionate about LGBTQ issues because I have a trans son. I spoke against the proclamation for Carroll ISD in honor of their role in the Supreme Court case banning trans girls in sports (July 1, 2025). I spoke when Commissioner Simmons wanted to issue a proclamation to champion an organization that helps with AIDS and HIV testing (June 9, 2026), and I spoke when the LGBTQ community wanted to put up a plaque to commemorate the history of the LGBTQ community in Fort Worth (June 17, 2025).

13. All of these matters were important to me because the outcomes will affect my community.

My Observations of the Decorum Policy and Its Enforcement

14. I am familiar with the Commissioners Court's Decorum Policy. I keep a copy of the Decorum Policy in my folder when I attend Commissioners Court meetings.

15. I have never personally been removed from a Commissioners Court meeting. But I am aware of and have personally witnessed what has gotten people kicked out, ordered removed, or sent to jail based on their conduct or speech.

16. On I was present on July 2, 2024, when Reverend Ryon Price spoke eight seconds over his comment time limit. Within those eight seconds, I saw Judge O'Hare issue two warnings and order deputies to remove him.

17. On January 14, 2025, I was present when Dr. Charlie Hermes, Professor of philosophy at University of Texas at Arlington, applauded after I spoke. Judge Tim O'Hare directed that he be removed, and deputies approached and removed him from the meeting by physically manhandling him and hauling him out of the meeting.

18. Again, on January 28, 2025, I witnessed Dr. Hermes be removed and arrested for clapping. I also saw C.J. Grisham removed for saying profanities during public comment. The deputies again physically dragged him out of the meeting.

19. Again, On August 4, 2026, I witnessed an older woman who used a rollator physically manhandled by the deputies as she was removed from the meeting.

20. On December 9, 2025, I was also present when Bishop Mark Kirkland got up and spoke against how we weren't allowed to clap during Commissioners Court meetings. He got ousted from the meeting. I had spoken right before he did and personally witnessed what happened.

21. On August 4, 2026, I was in the overflow room when I saw that all the members of the public were forced to leave the room after Defendant O'Hare ordered everyone out following Ambika Sharma's statement, "You keep telling us not to California my Texas, while in reality, you keep Russia my Texas." On that occasion when Judge O'Hare cleared the courtroom, I had signed up to speak and was permitted to enter the courtroom to give my remarks. I remained in the courtroom afterward and I personally witnessed Lon Burnam being removed from a Commissioners Court meeting. He was, once again, violently hauled out of the meeting.

22. I was also there on June 3, 2025, when someone called Judge O'Hare a racist and he took offense to that and made the person leave. I remember Judge O'Hare saying something like, "we're not going to be called racist."

23. I don't think that Judge O'Hare runs the meeting fairly. He has shown partiality in favor of the people in support of his policies and allowed them to speak first, since the order of speakers is at his discretion. For example on June 3, 2025, during the meeting on redistricting, I witnessed Judge O'Hare call speakers first that he knew would support him and his policies. I have also seen him allow elected officials to speak first.

24. I don't remember ever seeing anyone ejected, removed, or arrested who was speaking in support of Judge O'Hare's actions and policies.

25. I am also aware, from attending these meetings, that speakers have faced consequences beyond simply losing the remainder of their speaking time, including citations and being prohibited from returning to Commissioners Court meetings for a period of time.

26. These incidents affect the way I speak before the Commissioners Court. Watching other speakers be removed has convinced me that I have to be very careful about the words I use because I do not want the same thing to happen to me.

How Enforcement of the Decorum Policy Affects My Speech

27. When I prepare to speak before the Commissioners Court, I consider the Decorum Policy and how they may be enforced against me. I keep a copy of the Decorum Policy in my folder and refer to it whenever I have a question about something I want to say.

28. I do not want to be removed from a Commissioners Court meeting, escorted out by deputies, arrested, cited, or prohibited from returning to future meetings. I therefore think about those possible consequences when deciding what I will say.

29. My concern about being removed is particularly significant to me because I'm over ninety years old and I've seen how the County officials don't really politely escort you out the door, they haul you. I have to hang onto somebody to stand up, and I can't walk out very fast, and I don't want that to happen to me. I fear for my physical safety. At best, it would be awkward and embarrassing.

30. I've also witnessed consequences of enforcement of the Decorum Policy, like the exclusion of all attendees, that could prevent me from being able to give my public comment during the meeting. For example, at the August 4, 2026 Commissioners Court meeting when Judge O'Hare ordered everyone out, I was still scheduled to speak. Because he was only letting people back in one at a time, I had to wait for a long time in the overflow room, and then in the hallway, where there were no chairs. I can't stand for a long time, so if I had not been let into Commissioners Court meeting room when I was, I would have had to leave without giving my public comment.

31. My concern about enforcement of the Decorum Policy has caused me to change what I say at Commissioners Court meetings. I ordinarily prepare my public comments in writing before I speak. When I first write my remarks, I write what I actually want to say, and

sometimes I write in anger. Before I deliver them, however, I review what I have written and sometimes cross out words or change my language because I am concerned about violating the Decorum Policy or triggering a response from Judge O'Hare.

32. For example, in preparation for my September 1, 2026 testimony at Commissioners Court, I edited my speech while watching how Judge O'Hare was handling earlier testimony. *See* Exhibit B. Although I had originally typed up talking points saying that Judge O'Hare "pretended to be outraged" I changed the language to say that Judge O'Hare "exhibited outrage." Although I had written that we "knew" that the cuts would have unfair consequences, I changed my speech to say that the residents "suspected" the consequences. I made those changes because I was afraid that I'd be removed from the meeting if Judge O'Hare felt I was attacking him in violation of the Decorum Policy.

33. I have deliberately refrained from calling Judge O'Hare a "racist," even if that was the word I wanted to use to express my criticism. I witnessed Judge O'Hare object when that term was used at a Commissioners Court meeting, and I do not want to risk the consequences I have seen other speakers face.

34. I have also written the word "bigot" in prepared remarks and then crossed it out before speaking because I was concerned about how Judge O'Hare would respond to that word.

35. I have also had to change my tone and tenor, significantly reducing the emphasis with which I advocate for issues that I am passionate about, especially when it comes to issues affecting the LGBTQ community.

36. These are not changes I make because I no longer believe what I originally wrote. I make them because I am thinking about the Decorum Policy, what I have personally observed

at Commissioners Court meetings, and what could happen to me if Judge O'Hare determines that my words are improper.

37. My concern about enforcement is ongoing. Each time I prepare remarks for Commissioners Court, I remain conscious of which words might result in Judge O'Hare interrupting me, ending my speaking time, directing deputies to remove me, or imposing some other consequence.

38. As a result, the remarks I ultimately deliver to the Commissioners Court do not always contain the same language I would use if I did not have these concerns.

How Enforcement of the Decorum Policy Affects My Conduct

39. My concern about how Judge O'Hare enforces the Decorum Policy also affects my conduct while attending Commissioners Court meetings.

40. For example, on September 1, 2026, Bishop Mark Kirkland stood silently in solidarity with something Commissioner Simmons was saying. I signaled to another attendee that we should stand with him. About seven or eight of us then stood silently.

41. We did not clap, yell, speak, or otherwise make noise while standing. Judge O'Hare immediately said, "Sit down." We complied even though we wanted to keep standing.

42. I complied because I did not want to risk being escorted from the meeting, arrested, or subjected to another consequence. I was aware of what I had seen happen to other attendees, and I did not want that to happen to me.

43. I'm not aware of any provision in the Decorum Policy that specifically prohibits members of the audience from standing silently in an expression of support. But I sat down when Judge O'Hare instructed us to do so because, based on what I had previously witnessed at

Commissioners Court meetings, I was concerned that I could be removed or arrested if I did not comply.

44. I'm really bothered by the prohibition on clapping. When you've spent hours trying to come up with the right words to speak to your elected officials and you have to fit it in a one-minute time limit, it's nice to have applause from fellow residents in honor of your effort you've put forward. I have spoken at other governmental bodies like the Fort Worth Independent School District Board and they allow clapping there. The Commissioners Court is unique in this particular bar. Because of the prohibition, I do not clap even though I would like to.

My Unfiltered Speech and Conduct Would Not Violate the Law

45. I would speak differently if I did not have these concerns. I would not be as careful about avoiding particular words when criticizing Judge O'Hare or other members of the Commissioners Court. I would express my criticism using the words I believe most accurately convey what I mean, including words I have previously crossed out or decided not to say.

46. I do not intend to threaten anyone, physically interfere with a Commissioners Court meeting, prevent another person from speaking, or prevent the Commissioners Court from conducting its business. I want to be able to express my views, including strong criticism of elected officials, through my words.

47. I want to be able to attend Commissioners Court meetings and criticize my elected officials without changing what I genuinely want to say because I am concerned that the words I use will result in my removal or other consequences.

48. I am digitally signing this document because of my lack of access to electronic scanning technology or similar technology, and because of the need for preliminary relief.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

/s/ Reed K. Bilz
Reed K. Bilz

September 24, 2026
Date

4. I am the co-founder and board chair of Justice Network of Tarrant County, a nonprofit organization committed to advancing justice in Tarrant County. I am also the prior justice committee chairperson for Broadway Baptist Church.

My Involvement in Tarrant County Commissioners Court

5. I regularly attend and speak at Tarrant County Commissioners Court meetings.

6. I am interested in the decisions and actions of the Tarrant County Commissioners Court because those decisions affect the Tarrant County community at large. I initially began to speak on issues like criminal justice, juvenile justice, law enforcement, and voting rights.

7. Since August 2, 2022, I have raised concerns to the Commissioners Court regarding the increasing prevalence of jail deaths at the Tarrant County Jail.

8. On November 11, 2025, I spoke out against the racial disparities of youth detained in Texas Juvenile Justice Department ("TJJD").

9. On August 5, 2025, I asked the Commissioners Court not to reduce its meeting schedule to once a month because I believe regular meetings are important to meaningful public participation. More frequent meetings give members of the public opportunities to engage with the Commissioners and provide input on matters before the Court while that input can still affect the Court's decisions.

10. In both August and September of 2026, I spoke out at Commissioners Court in support of voting rights.

11. I'm also passionate about speaking out against how opaque the County's governance is.

12. All of these matters are of importance to me because the outcomes affect my community.

My Observations of the Decorum Policy and Its Enforcement

13. I am familiar with the Commissioners Court's Rules of Decorum ("Decorum Policy"). I review the Decorum Policy before I speak at Commissioners Court meetings so that I understand what conduct is permitted and prohibited.

14. As the co-founder of Justice Network, I also prepare members of our organization to testify by reminding them before every meeting to read the Decorum Policy. Specifically, our Jail and Criminal Justice Action Team hosts an agenda prep meeting on Zoom before each Commissioners Court meeting, and the email notice we send includes a reminder to read the Decorum Policy. We always want people to know what they're up against.

15. I understand the Commissioners Court's Decorum Policy to give the County Judge significant discretion to determine what speech and conduct is permitted during Commissioners Court meetings.

16. Because many of the restrictions are subject to the County Judge's discretion, I do not always know in advance what speech or conduct he may consider disruptive or prohibited.

17. Based on what I have observed at Commissioners Court meetings, I am concerned that speech or conduct that Judge O'Hare doesn't like could result in a member of the public being warned, interrupted, or removed from the meeting.

18. I attended Commissioners Court meetings when Glen Whitley served as County Judge, and my experience at those meetings was different. In my experience, Judge Whitley was respectful toward members of the public. The atmosphere under Judge O'Hare feels much more restrictive to me. I have seen him shush members of the public, prohibit people from clapping, prohibit people from laughing spontaneously, and direct that individuals be removed from meetings.

19. I understand that under the Decorum Policy members of the public may display signs only if they are no larger than 8.5 by 11 inches.

20. I also understand that under the Decorum Policy members of the public are prohibited from engaging in certain forms of expression during meetings, including clapping, stomping their feet, talking, and snapping their fingers.

21. The Decorum Policy also restricts remarks that are considered "impertinent." I do not know how to determine when criticism, disagreement, or strongly worded comments cross the line and become "impertinent" under the Rules.

22. This uncertainty makes it difficult for me to know in advance whether something I intend to say will be permitted. I may believe my comments are relevant criticism of the Commissioners Court or its officials, but I'm afraid that Judge O'Hare may consider the same comments "impertinent" and therefore prohibited.

23. I have also personally witnessed Judge O'Hare enforce the Decorum Policy against members of the public on multiple occasions, including by removing and/or arresting individuals at his discretion. Frankly, it often seems like if Judge O'Hare doesn't like your behavior, he can throw you out.

24. The Commissioners Court has also eliminated the opportunity for members of the public to speak separately on specific agenda items. Although members of the public may submit written comments, those who wish to speak are generally limited to a single public-comment period rather than being permitted to address individual agenda items when those matters come before the Court.

25. I think this restriction is to the detriment of the County. I believe speaking directly to the Commissioners about a particular agenda item when that matter is being considered is an

important part of participating in Commissioners Court meetings. In my experience, written comments are also not an adequate substitute for public speaking time. I believe that the Commissioners, County Judge, and others are much more likely to receive important messages through actual public speaking time.

26. The current structure limits my ability to provide that input at the time the Commissioners are considering and acting on a particular matter, and I am afraid of what will happen if I go even a few seconds over my time limit.

27. For example, on July 2, 2024, I am aware that Judge O'Hare held Reverend Ryon Price in contempt of court after Reverend Price exceeded his allotted speaking time by eight seconds. I understand that Reverend Price was initially banned from the Commissioners Court building for one year before the Sheriff's office granted his appeal and allowed him to return after a month and a half.

28. On another date, I am aware that Judge O'Hare directed that Karla Palomares be removed from a Commissioners Court meeting after she spoke out during the meeting.

29. I am aware that on August 4, 2026, former state representative Lon Burnam was arrested and carried out of the meeting for picking up the microphone during his testimony. I regularly review the Decorum Policy before speaking at Commissioners Court meetings, and I am not aware of any provision that expressly prohibits a speaker from picking up the microphone during the speaker's allotted testimony time.

30. I am also aware that on August 4, 2026, E.J. Carrion testified and was ordered to leave at the end of his testimony. About one week later, I learned that Mr. Carrion had been arrested pursuant to a warrant related to comments he made at Commissioners Court meetings.

31. Seeing these removals makes me feel outraged. I think there should be basic human respect for people. I also think it is part of the job of elected officials to receive critique from members of the public and to receive it with equanimity. In the face of the kind of public criticism Judge O'Hare receives, my sense is that equanimity is not in his emotional toolbox.

32. I don't remember ever seeing anyone ejected, removed, or arrested who was speaking in support of Judge O'Hare's actions and policies.

33. These incidents have also reshaped my understanding of how the Decorum Policy is enforced in practice. When I attend and speak at Commissioners Court meetings, I am aware that conduct or speech that I do not understand to be expressly prohibited by the written Decorum Policy may nevertheless result in a speaker being interrupted, removed, or subjected to other consequences.

How Enforcement of the Decorum Policy Affects My Speech

34. What I have witnessed really has affected my comfort level with speaking at Commissioners Court and caused a chilling effect. I am more cautious about what I say, how I say it, and how I behave while speaking because I am concerned about how Judge O'Hare may interpret and enforce the Decorum Policy against me.

35. For example, I have observed at least two individuals try to use a portion of their allotted public comment time to hold a moment of silence in remembrance of jail deaths. Judge O'Hare refused to let these attendees use their time in this manner. I was not aware these moments of silence were prohibited, as the Decorum Policy does not expressly prohibit them. Had Judge O'Hare not prohibited these moments of silence, I would have used my public comment time to do the same.

36. I also want to speak openly and boldly about matters that are important to me, including when I strongly disagree with Judge O'Hare or the Commissioners Court. At the same time, I fear what I say or how I express myself could result in my being removed from a meeting, arrested at the meeting, or even arrested later because of something I said or did during a meeting.

37. I don't want to be arrested. That fear is present whenever I am at Commissioners Court meetings.

38. Because of that fear, I write my remarks in advance and practice them with my husband before speaking at Commissioners Court meetings. As I prepare my remarks, I find myself struggling with how to say what I genuinely think and feel without risking being removed or arrested.

39. The current Decorum Policy and the way I have seen them enforced cause me to self-censor. I am reluctant to express myself as completely or forcefully as I otherwise would. For example, I'm not a provocative person, but when you're outraged, sometimes you do want to curse. There are times when words such as "shit," "damn," or "hell" would naturally express how I feel about an issue before the Commissioners Court, but I refrain from using those words because I am concerned about how Judge O'Hare might respond.

40. My concern is not limited to the words I use. When I'm outraged in my mind, I will imagine calling out some of the County officials. But as I'm writing, I self-censor. I think about whether my criticism is too direct, whether the way I express my frustration could be considered improper, and whether something I say or do could result in my removal or arrest, either at the meeting or later.

How Enforcement of the Decorum Policy Affects My Conduct

41. Because of what I have witnessed, I am constantly aware of how I conduct myself while I am in the courtroom.

42. When I attend Commissioners Court meetings now, I generally feel that I need to sit quietly and refrain from reacting to what I hear, even when I strongly agree or disagree with what is being said and I want to express that with my actions. I avoid clapping, speaking out, or otherwise expressing my reactions because I am concerned that doing so could draw Judge O'Hare's attention, be considered a violation of the Decorum Policy, or result in my removal.

43. For example, at the September 2026 Commissioners Court meeting, several attendees raised their fists in a gesture of solidarity. One attendee apparently made a slightly different gesture, and I witnessed Judge O'Hare order his removal. I now fear that engaging in similar, peaceful gestures could result in my own removal or arrest.

44. The perceived risk and danger of speaking out among members of the Justice Network has become so significant that some have considered resigning because they fear future retaliation. Losing their participation would significantly affect our organization and our ability to carry out our work.

My Unfiltered Speech and Conduct Would Not Violate the Law

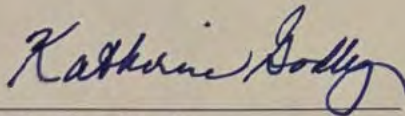
45. If I could say the things I really wanted to say, I do not believe that the way I would naturally express myself would be disruptive or disrespectful to the Commissioners Court. I generally communicate respectfully, even when I strongly disagree with someone or feel passionately about an issue. I do not go to Commissioners Court meetings intending to provoke anyone, disrupt the proceedings, or prevent the Court from conducting its business.

46. I am also not someone who is willing to risk arrest simply to make a point. I take the possibility of being removed, arrested, or jailed very seriously. My fear of those consequences causes me to exercise more restraint with my remarks and conduct during Commissioners Court meetings than I otherwise would.

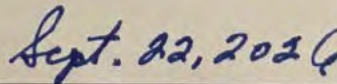
47. Without that fear, I would still be respectful, but I would be more candid, forceful, and expressive. I would use the words that naturally convey what I think and feel, react naturally to what occurs during the meetings, and criticize public officials as directly as I believe is appropriate without first trying to predict whether Judge O'Hare might consider my expression improper.

48. In other words, I do not want to disrupt Commissioners Court meetings. I want to participate fully in them. My concern is that I cannot always tell whether speech and expression that I consider respectful and appropriate will nevertheless be viewed as violating the Decorum Policy.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.



Katherine Godby



Date

4. I am an active member of community organizations, including the Republican Liberty Caucus, a grassroots group.

My Involvement in Tarrant County Commissioners Court

5. I regularly attend and speak at Tarrant County Commissioners Court meetings, either in person or virtually, depending on whether the Texas Legislature is in session.

6. I regularly attend Commissioners Court meetings because I want to understand what the County is doing and keep a closer eye on how the County spends public money.

7. For example, on September 4, 2024, I spoke on an agenda item regarding election staffing and administration.

8. Additionally, on February 10, 2026, I used my public comment time to ask the Court not to reduce their meeting schedule to once a month. I was concerned that meeting less frequently would give members of the public fewer opportunities to speak directly to the Commissioners about County business.

9. I believe it is important for members of the public to have a meaningful opportunity to provide public comment. Public comment gives me an opportunity to raise concerns directly with my elected officials, offer perspectives they may not otherwise hear, and speak about issues affecting my community before decisions are made.

My Observations of the Decorum Policy and Its Enforcement

10. I have read the Commissioners Court's Decorum Policy ("Decorum Policy") and am familiar with its requirements. Even after reading it, I do not find the Decorum Policy particularly clear. For example, I understand the Decorum Policy to restrict certain remarks that disparage or criticize members of the Court, but I have difficulty determining where permissible criticism ends and prohibited speech begins.

11. I also find the restrictions on clapping unclear in practice. I understand the Decorum Policy to permit applause during certain ceremonial portions of the meeting while prohibiting it during other portions. As a result, the same expressive conduct might be permitted at one point in a meeting, like during the Proclamations and Resolutions, but prohibited at other points.

12. Based on what I have personally observed, I do not believe the Decorum Policy is enforced consistently. I have seen Judge O'Hare tolerate certain conduct in some circumstances but respond differently to similar conduct if he perceives it as criticism or disagreement. Those experiences make it difficult for me to determine whether enforcement will depend on the conduct itself or on the message being expressed.

13. In January 2025, I watched the Commissioners Court meeting virtually and witnessed C.J. Grisham be removed for speaking out. I've also either witnessed in person or seen video of Judge O'Hare chastising members of the public, as well as many ejections, removals, and/or arrests of individuals—all at the direction of Judge O'Hare—including Reverend Ryon Price, Bishop Mark Kirkland, UTA professor Charlie Hermes, and former representative Lon Burnam, and other attendees.

14. In many of the instances I have observed, I haven't heard Judge O'Hare first tell the individual that they violated the Decorum Policy and give them an opportunity to leave voluntarily or otherwise correct their behavior so they could remain. Instead, he says, "Get them out of here," and law enforcement comes to take the person out.

15. To me, it seems like Judge O'Hare and the County enforce the Decorum Policy to ensure you can't disparage or criticize them, which is wild.

16. I don't remember ever seeing anyone ejected, removed, or arrested who was speaking in support of Judge O'Hare's actions and policies.

17. Because I cannot confidently know how the Decorum Policy will be enforced, I have to consider not only what the written policy says, but also how I believe Judge O'Hare may react to what I say or do. That uncertainty affects how freely I feel I can express myself, and ultimately what I say at Commissioners Court meetings.

How Enforcement of the Decorum Policy Affects My Speech and Conduct

18. Based on what I have personally witnessed at Commissioners Court meetings, I am concerned that if I speak at Commissioners Court in a way that Judge O'Hare finds offensive or objectionable, I could draw the attention of Court officials and law enforcement, be followed or monitored by them, and be removed from the meeting or arrested at a later date because of my speech. I also fear law enforcement retaliation.

19. That fear causes me to edit and limit what I say. I carefully consider my words before speaking, because I don't want to risk being removed from a meeting or physically handled by Court officials and law enforcement.

20. I am particularly concerned about being physically removed because I have a medical condition that can cause my joints to dislocate if my body is not handled properly. The possibility that law enforcement could place their hands on me or physically carry me out of a meeting causes me additional concern and further affects how I speak and conduct myself.

21. I am also afraid that I could be banned or otherwise prevented from attending future Commissioners Court meetings. The Decorum Policy says that if you get a criminal trespass warning, you could be banned for up to 180 days. It's important to me to continue attending these meetings and providing my perspective directly to the Commissioners and

County Judge in a way that my neighbors can hear. I think I have a perspective that isn't always heard in this County, and I would hate not to have the chance to speak, just as we missed out on hearing the perspectives of those who were barred and silenced in the past.

22. I view public comment as an important opportunity for members of the public to address matters that affect them and their communities. I want to continue using that opportunity to express my views, and the possibility that I could lose access to that forum contributes to my decision to self-censor. Although I sometimes want to really aggressively criticize my elected officials, I have to edit myself and think about how to avoid offending them.

23. Even when I do speak, because of the time limits and the fact that there is only one Commissioners Court meeting per month, I do not feel that I have sufficient time to fully and adequately address the issues that matter to me.

24. There are many issues affecting Tarrant County that I want to address publicly. These include deaths at the County jail, the County's use of ALPRs ("automated license plate readers"), the infrequency of Commissioners Court meetings, and the surveillance state.

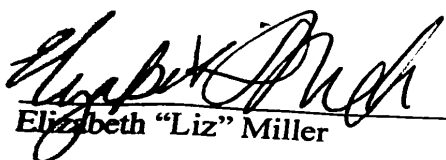
25. For example, on August 4, 2026, I wanted to speak about recent election-related matters before the Commissioners Court. I had a perspective that I did not hear expressed by many of the other speakers, many of whom were against it. I wanted to express my concern about the politicization of polling-location closures and encourage people to recruit individuals to serve as election judges. I didn't have enough time during public comment to say everything I wanted to say about those issues.

26. Additionally, on September 1, 2026, during my public comment I listed several of the subjects I wanted to address but did not have enough time to discuss. I remember struggling

with the question of which issue I was supposed to give up in order to fit my comments within the time allowed.

27. These are issues I want to discuss publicly, in front of both my elected officials and members of my community. When I do not have enough time to address them, there are views that I want to express publicly that I leave unsaid.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.


Elizabeth "Liz" Miller


Date

4. I was formerly employed by United Fort Worth and would regularly speak in front of the Tarrant County Commissioners Court in that role. Currently, I work for a non-profit organization that advocates for political change in Tarrant County.

My Involvement in Tarrant County Commissioners Court

5. I regularly attend and speak at Tarrant County Commissioners Court meetings.

6. I am interested in the decisions and actions of the Tarrant County Commissioners Court because those decisions affect the Tarrant County community at large. I initially began to speak on issues like the Tarrant County jail deaths, especially the conditions that community members and organizations were learning about at the jail, and the lack of health care and mental health care, and County immigration policy.

7. I was really driven to continue going to Commissioners Court after they changed meetings to once a month, and changed the sign-up procedures to the day before. As someone working for a nonprofit, I could advocate at the meetings, but I heard about a lot of other constituents who had difficulty signing up, and waiting hours for their turn to speak. It made me want to sign up more, since I felt like these changes were an intentional maneuver by the Commissioners Court to silence people by making it harder to attend the meetings. Outside of public comment, there is no regular way for us to talk to our County officials.

My Observations of the Decorum Policy and Its Enforcement

8. I am familiar with the Commissioners Court's Decorum Policy and have read and reviewed it multiple times.

9. I feel like the Decorum Policy is confusing, because of the many revisions that have been made, so it's hard to know what's prohibited. I don't know where the line is for what speech or expressive conduct could result in punishment, even if that speech or expressive conduct is

protected by the First Amendment. I think the Decorum Policy's prohibitions are an attack on our free speech rights.

10. I understand the Commissioners Court's Decorum Policy to give the County Judge significant discretion to determine what conduct is permitted during Commissioners Court meetings.

11. Based on what I have observed at Commissioners Court meetings, it seems like speech or conduct that County Judge Tim O'Hare doesn't like could result in a member of the public being warned, interrupted, removed from the meeting, or even arrested. I have seen this occur when members are speaking to criticize Judge O'Hare in his role as the County executive.

12. To me, Judge O'Hare takes a lot of liberties with his power. He has a very "I'll know it when I see it" attitude about violations of the Decorum Policy. I have witnessed multiple exchanges between Judge O'Hare and Commissioner Simmons where she challenges the Decorum Policy rules or asks Judge O'Hare to explain his reasons for enforcing it against certain speakers, and he dismisses her concerns or declines to provide any explanation for his decision.

13. On June 3, 2025, I know that there were several constituents who were removed from the chambers and building due to referring to Judge O'Hare, Commissioner Matt Krause, and Commissioner Manny Ramirez as racists. On this occasion, Commissioner Alisa Simmons inquired to Judge O'Hare about whether "racist" was in the Decorum Policy, and he responded that it violated it. Judge O'Hare also removed additional constituents from this meeting without explanation for pointing, gesturing, or expressing support for other constituents.

14. I've seen or heard of many people removed, without various degrees of retaliation, like E.J. Carrion, C.J. Grisham, Lon Burnam, Alex Montalvo, Stacey Mello, and many others. These individuals have been removed from the meetings on multiple occasions. Some are told to

leave the room, and others are told to leave the building. It has just continued to escalate, especially with increased law enforcement presence at Commissioners Court meetings.

15. I also have seen others kicked out for clapping, for giggling, for sighing, or making a gesture. For example, I witnessed Judge O'Hare throw out an individual who clapped in agreement with my remarks while I was speaking. I did not feel like their applause in any way disrupted my ability to make my public comment, or disrupted the ability of anyone in the audience or on the dais to hear my comment. On multiple occasions, Judge O'Hare has also cleared the entire chambers and even the entire floor. Judge O'Hare would then call people in one by one to speak without the support of the public, which also seems like an effort to intimidate or silence members of the public.

16. Sometimes I have heard Judge O'Hare say only, "Okay, you're gone." It leaves everyone in the room confused as to what the person did. It seems arbitrary when he removes people without saying what that person has done. I have witnessed multiple exchanges between Judge O'Hare and Commissioner Simmons where Commissioner Simmons asked Judge O'Hare to explain the reason for a removal, and he declines to do so. Since Judge O'Hare often removes people without an explanation, it feels like a gamble as to whether or not participants will be removed.

17. I have seen Judge O'Hare interrupt people and cut them off if he thinks part of their comment is irrelevant to the agenda item or the business of the Court. For example, I've seen individuals signing up to speak on whether to fund legal representation for law enforcement related to the jail deaths. During public comment, those individuals would say, "This is why we need accountability for the Sheriff" and Judge O'Hare would cut them off because he didn't think it was

relevant to him. To me, that is subjective, because the question of Sheriff accountability is absolutely relevant to whether taxpayers foot the bill for jail deaths.

18. I also have been punished for speech criticizing the County. On May 20, 2025, I spoke at the Commissioners Court against the redistricting, which I think is racial gerrymandering. I ended my testimony by saying, "And you're racist." Judge O'Hare said, "Remove her from the building, immediately. Immediately." Judge O'Hare did not provide an explanation for my removal, but I believe it's because he took offense to my comment.

19. I said that because I felt like the redistricting process was an inequitable decision rooted in racism and prejudice, under the guise of a political rationale. I think my comment was a valid expression of criticism of my elected officials and public affairs.

20. I grabbed my things, left the room, and walked straight out of the building. I found out later that I was followed by four sheriffs. I wasn't threatening anyone, and I complied. The fact that four sheriffs came after me also feels like intimidation for my speech.

21. Under the Decorum Policy, it seems like a witch hunt. The Decorum Policy seems to allow Judge O'Hare to police any critical voice or expression of dissent.

22. The removals and punishments make me feel disappointed, but unsurprised. I keep thinking: Why is this the norm? Why can't we trust and have faith in our County government to behave in the way we would expect them to and to tolerate criticism?

23. I don't remember ever seeing anyone ejected, removed, or arrested who was speaking in support of Judge O'Hare's actions and policies. I have observed Judge O'Hare enforce the rules differently for different people. For example, Judge O'Hare is more lenient to individuals who go over their allotted time when those individuals are voicing support for Judge O'Hare and the county. I have also observed Judge O'Hare sit silently and tolerate negative comments about

Commissioner Simmons and Commissioner Ramirez, when he does not tolerate, and will punish, similar negative comments directed towards him.

24. These incidents have also reshaped my understanding of how the Decorum Policy is enforced in practice. When I attend and speak at Commissioners Court meetings, I am aware that conduct or speech that I don't understand to be expressly prohibited by the written Decorum Policy may nevertheless result in a speaker being interrupted, removed, or subjected to other consequences.

How Enforcement of the Decorum Policy Affects My Speech

25. The Decorum Policy and the way it's enforced has impacted what I say. I feel that I now must spend a lot of time thinking, editing, and revising my testimony in advance. I have to soften my speech instead of saying what I really want to say.

26. First, I have been really affected by the new changes to the Decorum Policy that set a time limit of one minute. I have spoken at school boards and city council, where the norm is three minutes per item—the way the Decorum Policy used to be.

27. Now, we have to wait up to ten hours at some meetings to speak for even one minute, which is inequitable in my opinion. There have also been times where Judge O'Hare has called multiple recesses during public comment which I felt was intended to run out the clock. I think the time limits and recesses have really adversely affected how many people show up to speak.

28. It's very difficult to get a point across in one minute. In most of my public comments, I'm trying to speak as fast as I can just to say as much as possible in the little time I'm given. By the end of that minute, I am usually gasping for breath.

29. The Decorum Policy and the way it's enforced has also impacted what I choose to say in my one minute. I always think about whether I'll say something in a way that will be perceived as violating the Decorum Policy, even if I'm not aware of it. It has made me feel like I have to be really intentional and strategic about my wording. There are things I want to say that I don't say, because I want to avoid the punishments laid out in the Decorum Policy. For example, I have concerns about the Sheriff and want to say that he should be fired or should resign, but I hesitate to voice these concerns due to the Decorum Policy.

30. Because of Judge O'Hare's enforcement of the Decorum Policy, I started documenting everything I planned to say for the meetings so I could read it off faster, proofread it, and decide whether to cut any statements that he might see as divisive. Because the Decorum Policy is ambiguous, I even talk to other speakers beforehand about how they interpret the Decorum Policy in relation to my planned speech. Sometimes, I'll ask other meeting attendees to review my planned comments to get their feedback on whether I should edit any of my language, and I'll share my own feedback on their comments.

31. To me, even if I cut something to avoid the Decorum Policy, I shouldn't have to because I'm not threatening harm. I'm only using colorful language and criticizing my public officials, who are supposed to listen to what constituents have to say, even if it's dissent.

32. Both the Decorum Policy and the Commissioners Court members' behavior shows that they don't want us to dissent, no matter what form or language we use.

33. We shouldn't have to be so meticulous about our words. Public comment should be for the people.

My Unfiltered Speech and Conduct Would Not Violate the Law

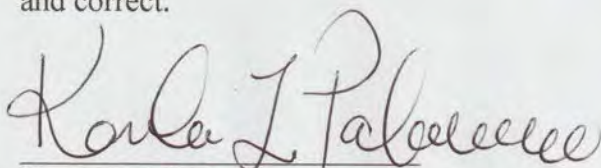
34. Even if I didn't censor myself, I don't think that the way I would naturally express myself would be disruptive or disrespectful. I generally communicate respectfully, even when I strongly disagree with someone or feel passionately about an issue. I don't go to Commissioners Court meetings intending to disrupt the proceedings, threaten harm, or prevent the Court from conducting its business.

35. I take the possibility of being removed, arrested, or jailed very seriously. My fear of those consequences causes me to exercise more restraint than I otherwise would. I have not signed up for public comment in a several months, and I have attended fewer meetings due to fear of repercussions.

36. Without that fear, I would still be respectful, but I would be more candid, forceful, and expressive. I would use the words that naturally convey what I think and feel, react naturally to what occurs during the meetings, and criticize public officials as directly as I believe is appropriate without first trying to predict whether Judge O'Hare might consider my expression too divisive or offensive.

37. In other words, I don't want to disrupt Commissioners Court meetings. I want to participate fully in them. My concern is that I cannot always tell whether speech and expression that I consider important for public discourse will nevertheless be viewed as violating the Decorum Policy.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.


Karla L. Palomares

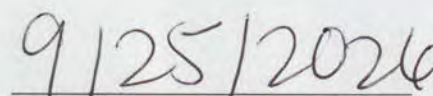

Date

CHART OF DECORUM POLICY SECTIONS AND RELATED ISSUES

Prohibited Behavior/Provision	Facially Overbroad?	Facially Void for Vagueness?
Personal attacks ¹	YES	YES
Impertinent remarks ²	YES	YES
Profane remarks ³	YES	YES
Obscene remarks ⁴	YES	YES
Slandorous remarks ⁵	YES	YES
Threatening, disruptive, and unruly behavior ⁶	YES	YES
Disruptive remarks or actions of approval or disapproval (e.g. feet stomping, snapping, whistling, yelling, clapping, verbal affirmation or rejection) ⁷	YES	NO
The County Judge maintains the right to interrupt and/or excuse a speaker when the allocated time has expired, if the speaker otherwise violates these guidelines, <i>or for any other matter at the discretion of the County Judge.</i> ⁸	YES	YES

¹ See App. 3.

² See *id.*

³ See *id.*

⁴ See *id.*

⁵ See *id.*

⁶ See *id.*

⁷ See *id.*

⁸ See *id.*

The following Resolution offered and adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. 56 OF 2021

A RESOLUTION REPEALING AND RE-ENACTING RESOLUTION NO. 5 OF 2020 FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CITY COUNCIL, PROVIDING RULES FOR THE COUNCIL AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

BE IT RESOLVED, By the City Council of the City of Bossier City, Louisiana, that the following procedural rules are hereby enacted:

MEETINGS

REGULAR ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS DURING THE TERM OF COUNCIL

Each newly elected Council shall meet in Council Chambers at their first meeting at which time it will elect from its membership a President Pro-tem and Vice President Pro-tem whom shall serve until July 1st of the following year. During the term of the Council, their successors will be elected yearly at the Regular Council Meeting in June and their elected successors shall automatically assume office on July 1st following their election. Such election procedures shall continue until the next elected Council takes office. When this occurs, the Council will again organize itself on the date it takes office as mentioned above.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS:

(1) Time – The City Council shall hold regular meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 3:00 PM. In the event there are 5 Tuesdays during a month, the Council will meet on the last Tuesday to consider any Emergency Items, Ordinances with final readings and/or Resolutions. However, when the day fixed for any regular meeting of the Council falls upon a day designated by law as a legal or national holiday, such meeting will be rescheduled by a vote of the City Council upon the adoption of their official Calendar each year.

(2) Place – All City Council Meetings shall be held in Council Chambers, Municipal Complex, 620 Benton Road, Bossier City, Louisiana.

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Special meetings may be held on the call of the Mayor, President Pro-tem of the Council or four (4) or more members of the Council and upon no less than twenty-four hours notice to each member. In the event of a Public Emergency, the Mayor, President-Pro-tem or (4) or more Council members may call a Special Meeting at whatever notice shall be convenient to give.

ROLL CALL:

Before proceeding with the business of the Council, the City Clerk shall call the roll of the members and the names of those present shall be entered the minutes.

QUORUM:

A majority of all members shall constitute a quorum, but a smaller number may adjourn from time to time and may compel the attendance of absent members in a manner and subject to the penalties prescribed by the rules of the Council.

VOTING:

Voting will generally be by electronic vote unless there are technical malfunctions or one of the council members request that a roll call vote be taken and in such event the vote shall be taken according to a rotating system established by the City Clerk.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Unless a reading of the minutes of a Council meeting is requested by a member of the Council, such minutes may be approved without reading if the City Clerk has previously furnished each member with a copy thereof.

DUTIES AND AUTHORITY OF PRESIDENT PRO-TEM AND THE VICE PRESIDENT PRO-TEM

The President Pro-tem, and in his or her absence, the Vice President Pro-tem shall preside over all Council meetings. During the absence of the President Pro-tem at any Regular or Special called meeting, including committee meetings, the Vice President Pro-tem shall automatically become the Acting President Pro-tem. Further, in the event the President Pro-tem's temporary absence from the City or temporary inability to perform the duties of his or her office, he may by letter filed with the City Clerk, designate the Vice President Pro-tem as Acting President Pro-tem during such absences. Such absences shall not exceed thirty (30) days. Further, in the event the office of the President Pro-tem is vacant for any reason, the Vice-President shall become President Pro-tem for the remainder of the President Pro-tem's term of office and a New Vice President Pro-tem shall be elected.

The President Pro-tem may authorize Council operating expenditures for budgeted items not to exceed \$500.00 for any single expenditure.

CHAIRING THE MEETINGS:

The President Pro-tem shall assume the chair of presiding officer immediately after his or her election. He shall preserve strict order and decorum at the regular and special meetings of the Council. He, or the City Clerk if designated, shall state every question coming before the Council. He shall announce the decision of the Council on all subjects and decide all questions of order, subject; however, to an appeal to the Council, in which event a majority vote of the Council shall govern and conclusively determine such question of order. He shall vote on all questions. He shall sign all Ordinances and Resolutions adopted by the Council during his or her presence.

The President Pro-tem shall take the chair precisely at the hour appointed for the meeting and shall immediately call the meeting to order.

Promptly at the hour set by law on the day of each Regular Meeting, the members of the Council, the City Clerk and the City Attorney shall take their regular stations in the Council Chambers and the business of the Council shall be taken up for consideration and disposition.

RULES OF DEBATE:

The President Pro-tem may move, second and debate, provided the President Pro-tem relinquish the chair while debating, subject only to such limitations of debate as are by these rules imposed on all members and shall not be deprived of any of the rights and privileges of a Councilperson by reason of his or her acting as presiding officer.

Every member desiring to speak shall address the chair and upon recognition by the President Pro-tem, shall confine himself to the question under debate, avoiding all personalities and indecorous language.

A member, once recognized, shall not be interrupted when speaking unless it be to call him to order, or as herein otherwise provided. If a member, while speaking, be called to order, he shall cease speaking until the questions or order be determined, and if in order, he shall be permitted to proceed.

The Councilperson moving the adoption of any Ordinance or Resolution shall have the privilege of closing the debate.

A motion to reconsider any action taken by the Council may be only on the day such action was taken. It may be either immediately during the same session, or at a recessed or adjourned session thereof. Such motion must be made by one of the prevailing side, but may be seconded by any member, and may be made at any time and have precedence over all other motions or while a member has the floor; it shall be debatable. Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent any member of the Council from making or remaking the same or any other motion at subsequent meeting of the Council.

The Clerk may be directed by President Pro-tem, with consent of the Council, to enter in the minutes a synopsis of the discussion on any question coming before the Council.

Roberts Rules of Order are adopted by reference and will apply to any procedural question not covered by the Resolution, provided, such rule does not conflict with the City Charter or State Law.

DECORUM

BY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

While the Council is in session, the members must preserve order and decorum and a member shall neither, by conversation or otherwise, delay or interrupt the proceedings or the peace of the Council nor disturb any member while speaking or refuse to obey the orders of the Council or its President Pro-tem, except as otherwise herein provided.

BY PERSONS:

Any person making personal, impertinent or slanderous remarks or who shall become boisterous while addressing the Council shall be forthwith, by the President Pro-tem, barred from

further audience before the Council, unless permission to continue by granted by a majority vote of the Council.

SERGEANT-AT-ARM:

With the concurrence of the Council, the City Marshal or such member or members of the Marshal's Office and the Bossier Police Department, shall serve as Sergeant-at-Arms of the Council meetings. They shall carry out the orders and instructions given by the President Pro-tem for the purpose of maintaining order and decorum at the Council Meetings.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ADDRESSING THE COUNCIL:

Any Person desiring to address the Council shall first receive the permission of the Meeting Chair and will be limited to the current agenda item up for consideration. Each Add-on request, will also allow public comment prior comment prior to being added on to the current agenda. Any person wishing to speak must step up to the podium microphone and state their name and address for the record. They shall address the Council in an audible tone of voice for the record, and unless further time is granted by the Council, shall limit their address to three (3) minutes. A maximum of forty-five minutes will be set aside for addressing the Council and no more than 4 speakers per side of the argument discussion per Agenda item. All remarks shall be addressed to the Council as a body and not to any member thereof. No person, other than the Council or at Council request, City Attorney, and the person having the floor shall address the Council without the permission of the President Pro-tem. No question shall be asked a Councilperson or the Mayor except through the Meeting Chair.

FACT SHEETS FOR AGENDA ITEMS:

Fact sheets on forms prescribed by the Council shall be submitted to the City Clerk prior to the Council Meeting on every item requested on the Agenda by the Executive Branch, and where possible on items requested by a Council member. Each item requested by the Executive Branch will indicate that it has been approved by the Mayor. The completed Agenda Fact Sheet plus Ordinance/Resolution and any other pertinent data must be presented to the City Clerk by (12:00 noon) the Thursday prior to the Council Meeting unless that day is a legal holiday and then items must be presented at the City Clerks direction.

All Add-on request for the Agenda need to be to the City Clerk no later than noon on Regular Meeting days unless it's a true Public Emergency.

PREPARATION OF ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTIONS:

All Ordinances and Resolutions shall be prepared and/or approved by the City Attorney for form and legality. No Ordinance shall be prepared for presentation to the Council unless requested by the Mayor, a Council member or prepared by the City Attorney on his or her own initiative.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Minutes shall be prepared by the City Clerk and published in the manner prescribed by the City Charter.

Minutes of the Council meetings shall be prepared as soon as possible after each meeting. The City Clerk and the President Pro-tem, or in his or her absence the Vice-President Pro-tem, shall sign all Ordinances and Resolutions included in such minutes.

The City Clerk shall provide the Mayor with copies of all Ordinances and Resolutions included in such minutes prior to publication of the same. The minutes shall have the publication date noted thereon.

If the Mayor fails to approve or disapprove (veto) an Ordinance within ten (10) days after publication, it shall be deemed to have been approved by the Mayor as of the last day of such period.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Resolution 5 of 2020 is hereby recalled, set aside and repealed.

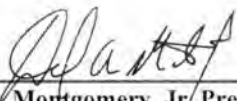
The above and foregoing Resolution was on motion of Mr. Jeffery Darby seconded by Mr. Don Williams and adopted on the 15th day of June 2021, by the following vote:

YES: Mr. Montgomery, Jr., Mr. Larkin, Mr. Irwin, Mr. Darby, Mr. Williams, Mr. Free and Mr. Harvey

NAYS: none

ABSENT: none

ABSTAIN: none



David A. Montgomery, Jr., President



Phyllis McGraw, City Clerk