

RESOLUTION

City of Portland, Tennessee

No. 25 – 41

A RESOLUTION TO REPEAL AND REPLACE RESOLUTION NO. 24-21 AND DEFERRED RESOLUTION NO. 25-17 TO ADOPT UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

WHEREAS, the City deems it appropriate to adopt updated guidelines for public comment periods during public meetings in accordance with TN Code; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Portland that the following guidelines will govern public comment periods:

Section 1: Public Meetings

- a. All meetings of any City related governing body are declared to be public meetings, except as otherwise provided in accordance with TN Code.

Section 2: Reasonable Restrictions

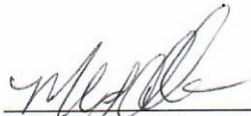
- a. In accordance with TN Code Section 8-44-112(b) the governing body may place reasonable restrictions on public meetings as stated below:
The governing body may put reasonable restrictions on the period for public comment, such as the length of the period, the number of speakers, and the length of time that each speaker will be allowed to provide comment. The governing body may require a person to give notice in advance of the desire to offer comments at a meeting. The governing body shall take all practicable steps to ensure that opposing viewpoints are represented fairly, if any.

Section 3: Public Comment Period Related To Agenda Items

- a. These guidelines apply to all public meetings of any governing body as it pertains to the City of Portland except where otherwise specified or provided; and
- b. Each meeting open to the public shall reserve a period for public comment on matters that are germane to the items on the agenda and comments shall be limited to a maximum of five (5) minutes per individual (which time is not transferable to other speakers) and the total time for public comments and individual speakers may be reduced by the presiding officer to allow for opposing viewpoints; and
- c. Speakers must give advanced notice of the desire to comment by signing the available sign-up sheet(s) before the posted start time of the meeting and must identify themselves by name, address, and item/topic to comment on when their name is called during the public comment portion of the agenda; and
- d. Speakers must adhere to the code of conduct prescribed for public comments such as:
The public comment period is a time for the speaker to express their thoughts in a

respectful way and is not intended to be a back-and-forth conversation; Comments must address issues, not individuals or personalities; Malicious comments or personal attacks will not be allowed or tolerated; Comments may support or oppose particular issues or measures, but the motives of those with differing views shall not be questioned or attacked; Speeches/comments for or against particular candidates running for public office shall not be allowed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Resolution shall become effective upon its passage, the public welfare requires it.



Mike Callis, Mayor



Attest: Tracy Kizer, City Recorder

Approved this 2nd day of June 2025.