

ORDINANCE 2019-02

**AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION
AT PUBLIC MEETINGS FOR THE CITY OF STREATOR,
LASALLE AND LIVINGSTON COUNTIES, ILLINOIS,**

Recitals

- A. Section 2.06(g) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act (“OMA”), 5 ILCS 120/2.06, directs that any person shall be permitted an opportunity to address public officials under the rules established and recorded by the public body.
- B. The City Council of the City of Streator, LaSalle and Livingston Counties, Illinois (the “City”) has previously adopted Ordinance 2013/14-06 adopting procedures for public discussion at public meetings.
- C. The City Council has historically always liberally and openly encouraged public comment and discussion at its meetings and meetings of the City’s boards, committees and commissions.
- D. The City Council believes it is in the best interest of the City to amend the procedures for public discussion at the City’s public meetings.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Streator, Counties of LaSalle and Livingston, State of Illinois as follows herein.

SECTION ONE: The Recitals are hereby incorporated into the body of this Ordinance and restated as though set forth herein.

SECTION TWO: In accordance with the requirements of Section 2.06(g) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2.06(g)), any person attending a public meeting of any City Council meeting or meeting of a City board, committee, subcommittee or commission shall be permitted to address the public officials during the public comment period, which shall be reserved for each meeting, subject to the following regulations.

- A. A period of time not to exceed thirty (30) minutes will be devoted to public comment at each meeting, unless the public officials, by a majority vote at the meeting, agree to allow the public comment period to exceed thirty (30) minutes for that particular meeting.
- B. Public comment shall be limited to three minutes per speaker. The three-minute time limit shall apply unless the public officials, by a majority vote, set a lower or higher time limit for public comment at a particular meeting or on a particular subject which shall apply to all speakers addressing the specified subject.
- C. Speakers may address the public officials when recognized by the Mayor or presiding officer and shall state their name to the public body at the start of his or her public comment.

- D. Each person may provide pre-prepared copies of his or her public comments to the public body prior to, during or after his or her public comment session.
- E. A group of three (3) or more individuals speaking on the same topic are asked to designate a single spokesperson to present the group's public comments.
- F. Members of the public body will not respond to the public comments at the public meeting, unless directed by the Mayor or Chair of the public body. The Mayor or Chair, or his/her designee, will respond to the public comments, as he or she deems appropriate, and may direct the person to the appropriate City official or staff member for assistance.
- G. Abusive, foul or other inappropriate language or conduct and/or personal attacks are not permitted when addressing the public officials and shall be deemed out-of-order by the Mayor or the presiding officer and the speaker's public comment session may be terminated.
- H. Public comment shall be allowed in a similar manner at all committee meetings or meetings of subsidiary bodies of the City.

SECTION THREE: Each section, paragraph, sentence, clause and provision of this Ordinance is separable and if any provision is held unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the remainder of this Ordinance nor any part thereof, other than that part affected by such decision.

SECTION FOUR: All ordinances, resolutions or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are, to the extent of such conflict, expressly repealed.

SECTION FIVE: This Ordinance shall be published in pamphlet form and shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval and publication as provided by law.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Streator, LaSalle and Livingston Counties, Illinois at a regular meeting thereof held on January 16, 2019, and as approved by me as Mayor on the same day.

APPROVED:


 Jimmie D. Lansford, Mayor

RECORD OF THE VOTE	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mayor Jimmie D. Lansford	√			
Councilwoman Tara Bedel	√			
Councilman Ed Brozak	√			
Councilman Brian Crouch	√			
Councilman Joseph Scarbeary	√			

ATTESTED:


 Patricia L. Henderson, City Clerk