

**CITY OF HAMPTON  
STATE OF GEORGIA**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-05**

**A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A DECORUM POLICY FOR CITY MEETINGS; TO PROVIDE FOR REPEAL OF CONFLICTING RESOLUTIONS; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER LAWFUL PURPOSES.**

**WHEREAS**, the duly elected governing authority of the City of Hampton, Georgia is the Mayor and Council thereof; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council meetings have been conducted without rules on public participation; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council is granted the authority pursuant to Section 2-47(a) of the City Code to adopt a resolution that governs public participation at meetings; and

**WHEREAS**, the adoption of the attached rules to govern decorum in the City shall not interfere or diminish the First Amendment rights of anyone speaking at a City meeting, but rather are adopted to establish order; and

**WHEREAS**, the attached decorum policy, incorporated by reference, shall be adopted and may be revised by a majority vote of the Mayor and Council.

**WHEREAS**, City Code § 2-46 shall remain in full force and effect in addition to the attached.

**BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the City of Hampton, Georgia, and by the authority thereof vested in Section 2-47(a) of the City Code that the Decorum Policy, attached hereto and incorporated by reference, be adopted and effective immediately.

SO RESOLVED, this 12 day of June, 2018.

**CITY OF HAMPTON, GEORGIA**



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**STEVE HUTCHISON**, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
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**TIFFANY WILSON**, Deputy Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

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**L'ERIN BARNES WIGGINS**, City Attorney

## City of Hampton's Decorum Policy

### *I. Purpose of these rules.*

*It is not the intent of these rules to in any way hinder or impair the full and free expression of all competing viewpoints in discussions and debates. Instead it is the intent of this section to foster confidence in government through encouraging civil and respectful meetings. The failure to strictly observe these rules and procedures shall not affect the jurisdiction of the governing body and shall not be deemed to in any way invalidate or impair the legal validity and effect of official action taken by the governing body at any meeting that is otherwise held and conducted in accordance with law.*

### *II. Public comments.*

*(a) Public comments will be allowed only during the "public comments" period of each regular meeting of the governing body at the time shown on the agenda. Members of the public are not allowed to participate in any debate or discussion being conducted by the members of the governing body.*

*(b) Public comments will be limited in time to a total of three (3) minutes per speaker, and a total time limit at any one meeting of fifteen (15) minutes. If more than five (5) potential speakers sign up to make public comments, then the total amount of time permitted for each individual speaker will be reduced by an announcement of the presiding officer, so as to limit the total time to fifteen (15) minutes.*

*(c) No person may sign up more than once in an effort to gain more time for a public comment.*

*(d) Public comments during a meeting of the city governing body will only be allowed to residents of the City of Hampton or to owners of businesses maintaining a business site physically situated within the corporate limits of the City of Hampton.*

*(e) Persons not residing within the City of Hampton who do not own a business as specified in subsection (d) above who wish to address the governing body during any regular meeting must first request that they be placed on the agenda for the upcoming regular meeting, such request to be made in writing by close of business at city hall on the Wednesday immediately preceding the regular meeting at which they wish to speak.*

*(f) All public comments must be limited to matters on the agenda or over which the governing body has jurisdiction.*

*(g) Nonresidents who do not own a business as specified in subsection (d) above will also be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker, and a total of fifteen (15) minutes for an entire group of speakers at any single meeting, whether they are speaking on the same topic or not. If more than five (5) potential nonresident speakers are placed on the agenda in order to address the governing body, the time permitted for each individual speaker shall be reduced so as to limit the total time for speaking for such nonresidents to fifteen (15) minutes at any one (1) meeting.*

### *III. Addressing the city council and citizens.*

*(a) Speakers may raise any point of concern regarding any matter on the agenda or any matter over which the governing body has jurisdiction, but each speaker must maintain a decorous demeanor and refrain from personal attacks upon members of the governing body, shouting and using obscene language.*

*(b) The presiding officer may interrupt and take the floor away from individuals who violate subsection (a) above.*

*(c) Comments which are redundant or repetitive from previous statements made in the same meeting may be ruled out of order and terminated by the presiding officer.*

*IV. Removal for violation of these rules.*

*Any person who violates these rules must first be orally warned by the presiding officer, and if the same person then interrupts another speaker or speaks out without being recognized, or violates these rules in any other way for a second time in a single meeting, then the presiding officer may ask the sergeant at arms (a sworn City of Hampton Police Officer) to remove the offending person from the city council chambers for the remainder of the meeting.*