

MICHIGAN CITY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY

RESOLUTION NO. 2823**POLICY TO ENCOURAGE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT USE OF PUBLIC COMMENT & PUBLIC INPUT TO ASSIST THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY**

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Indiana Open Door Law (I.C. 5-14-1.5, et seq.), all regular and special meetings of the Board of Public Works & Safety (hereinafter referred to as "Board") will be open to the public; and

WHEREAS, the Indiana Public Access Counselor has recently issued an Informal Opinion #21-INF-8 entitled "*The Intersection of Civility and Public Access*," wherein he acknowledges there is no legal mandate requiring public comment at government meetings, however, the Public Accessor Counselor advocates for the use of meaningful public comment at government meetings and recognizes that governing bodies have "...explicit power to craft rules and policies to maintain order in its facilities;" and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that public engagement is a vital component to the democratic process and it assists the Board in making effective decisions for the City and residents herein; and

WHEREAS, the Board reasonably believes that it should adopt rules to govern effective and efficient use of public comment and public input during its' meetings.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY as follows:

1. The aforementioned "Whereas" sections are included herein as if fully set forth herein.
2. Public comment will be listed on the Board's agenda at the end of each meeting. In addition, with the exception of administrative hearings conducted by the Board, public comment will be received before the Board takes final action on a specific matter.
3. When addressing the Board, every person shall give their name and address.
4. Public comment will be limited to three (3) minutes per person at the end of each meeting. In addition, public comment will also be limited to three (3) minutes before the Board takes final action on a specific matter.
5. All public comments will be directed to the Presiding Officer. No person may address or question Board members individually.
6. To help keep meetings effective and efficient, public comments must be germane to the business of the Board, and individuals must not be disruptive, threatening, or act in a discourteous manner. Public comments shall relate to matters within the purview of the Board. Comments shall relate to either items on the agenda or other matters relevant to the Board's work. The President retains the right to stop any speaker who raises issues that are not on the agenda or are not germane to the duties of the Board.
7. The Presiding Officer may prohibit comments, which are deemed frivolous, repetitive, or harassing. The Presiding Officer may interrupt, warn, or terminate a person's public comments when the statements are too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant and may request any individual to leave a meeting when that person behaves in a manner that is disruptive to the orderly conduct of the meeting.

CC: BOARD
CWP COUNSEL
MAYOR
DEPT. HEADS

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This Resolution shall be in full force and effect after passage by the Michigan City Board of Public Works & Safety

Adopted by the Board of Public Works & Safety of the City of Michigan City, Indiana by a vote of 30 this 14th day of DECEMBER, 2021.



Andrew White, President
Board of Public Works & Safety