A resolution to adopt rules and procedures for public participation at City Council meetings”.

RULES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
In the interest of fairness and time, the following guidelines are established, relative to public participation and discussion of any agenda item.

1. Prior to the vote of a particular item on the agenda, the presiding officer shall allow time for the public discussion of that agenda item.

2. All persons desiring to speak on a specific agenda item will request the attention of the presiding officer at the time the item is being considered.

3. After recognition, the participant is requested to give his/her name and address and duly noted in the minutes.

4. All questions and comments are to be address to the presiding officer only and shall be limited to the agenda item under consideration.

5. There shall be no indulging in personalities, no offensive or profane language shall be used and the participant must adhere to the item at hand, and the decorum of the Council.

6. When a person refuses to adhere to these policies, and the behavior interferes with or disrupts the normal order of business, the presiding officer may eject or request the removal of the disruptive or obstructive person or persons.

7. The presiding officer may limit the amount of time for public comment in the interest of an orderly meeting. Repetitive comments are discouraged.

8. The Council Clerk shall be the official timekeeper of the Council and shall interrupt discussion to advise the Council that any time limit has expired.

9. When called upon for a vote, each Council member present shall respond “yes,” “no” or “abstain.” A failure to answer shall be recorded as “abstain.”

10. During the period of a declared public health or public safety emergency, the number of persons attending the meeting in person may be limited or rules maintaining an appropriate distance from others may be imposed to comply with any emergency proclamation or in accordance with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Office of Public Health or the Louisiana Department of Health.  In such instances, or in order to comply with any emergency proclamation, the Council shall provide an alternate method for public participation and public comment such as via internet, video, e-mail, facsimile or telephone. The specific procedure for any alternate method of public participation and comment shall be contained in the public notice or agenda for the meeting.

11. Persons needing accommodations or assistance should contact City Council Clerk Tonia Banks at 985-277-5610. Requests should be made at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.