Allentown City Council
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Allentown City Council welcomes public participation and values the opportunity to hear directly from residents. Public comment is an important part of the Council meeting process and provides an opportunity for members of the community to share concerns, ideas, questions, and perspectives on matters affecting the City.

Council may not always have an immediate answer to a question or concern raised during public comment. When additional information or follow-up is needed, Council is happy to help direct your concern to the appropriate City department, official, or staff member. Our goal is to ensure that questions and concerns are heard and, when appropriate, forwarded to the right person for follow-up.

To help ensure that everyone has a fair opportunity to be heard and that meetings remain respectful, productive, and focused on official City business, the following guidelines apply to public comment:

- Interested speakers are offered the opportunity to speak during Allentown City Council meetings.
- Council Rules have established a three-minute time limit for speakers.
- Speakers are asked to state their name for the record.
- When a bona fide organization and/or its representatives are present at a Council meeting, one representative of the organization may speak for up to five minutes. If an organizational representative chooses to speak for five minutes, no other individual representing that organization or group may also speak during that public comment period.
- Speakers shall direct their comments to the President of Council, rather than to individual Council members, Council staff, members of the City's Administration, or members of the public.
- If a speaker wishes to address a Contract, Ordinance, or Resolution listed on the current agenda, the speaker should wait until that agenda item has been introduced before commenting on the matter.
- Council asks that all speakers maintain a respectful and professional tone. In addition, speakers shall not personally insult Council members, Council staff, members of the City's Administration, or members of the public.
- During this public meeting, speakers are expected to treat all individuals with dignity and respect. Comments that demean, harass, threaten, or discriminate against an individual or group based on characteristics such as race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, disability, age, or other protected status are not appropriate during public comment.
- Speakers must follow the direction of the Council President and refrain from interrupting or disrupting the meeting. Failure to comply may result in the speaker forfeiting the remainder of their time at the podium and being asked to return to their seat. Continued interruption of the meeting may result in the speaker being removed from council chambers.

These guidelines are intended to support meaningful public participation while allowing Council to conduct its official business in an orderly and respectful manner. Council appreciates the community's participation and encourages residents to continue sharing their perspectives, concerns, and ideas.

Meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers. Schedules, agendas, and additional information can be found at www.allentownpa.gov/citycouncil.
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