

*Ordinance Amending Chapter __, Section 2-45
of the Mount Olive Code of Ordinances
Regarding Rules of Procedure*

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Mount Olive has statutory authority pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes to amend the Code of Ordinances and to organize and establish rules for debate and proper decorum to be observed by citizens and the public appearing at board meetings; and

WHEREAS, Board of Commissioners wishes to amend and clarify Section 2-45 of the Code as is presently written.

NOW THEREFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE TOWN OF MOUNT OLIVE AMENDS SECTION 02-45 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

Section 02-45 - Rules of Procedure/Rules of Decorum.

(a) All reports, ordinances, resolutions, documents or other matters for the Boards' consideration shall be delivered or submitted to the Town Clerk by Wednesday prior to each regular board meeting.

(b) **Rules of Debate.**

1. **Public Forum.** The Board shall provide at least one period for public comment per month at its regular meeting. The time allotted to each speaker shall be three (3) minutes. Each speaker shall provide their name, address and telephone number. When numerous speakers are present supporting or opposing an issue, the Mayor or presiding officer may, in his or her discretion, require each group to designate a spokesperson.

2. **Addressing Items on the Agenda.** Individuals who have had an item placed on the Board's Agenda may speak concerning that matter for ten (10) minutes. If several individuals have had the item placed on the agenda, the Mayor or presiding officer may, in his or her discretion, require these individuals to designate a spokesperson.

3. **Rules of Decorum.**

a. Each speaker during Public Forum shall have three [3] minutes to speak. Speakers who have had items placed on the agenda shall have ten [10] minutes to speak. The Mayor or presiding officer may, in their sole discretion, increase the

allotted time.

b. A speaker may not share or relinquish any remaining time they have to another speaker.

c. Speakers shall address the Mayor or presiding officer and confine their remarks to the issue under consideration, avoiding all personalities, offensive language, personal attacks and/or threats directed at town staff, the public or town officials.

d. Speakers should not expect Commissioners to comment on or respond to their comments directly during the meeting. The Mayor or presiding officer may request the Town Manager to follow up with the speaker on their concerns and provide the board additional information.

e. The Mayor or presiding officer shall have the authority to enforce these Rules of Decorum. Failure to obey these Rules may result in the forfeiture of the remaining speaker's time. Speakers [Individuals] who engage in egregious or repeated violations of these rules may be asked to leave the board room and upon their willful failure to do so, may be charged pursuant to NCGS Sec. 143-318.17.

f. A speaker, once recognized, shall not be interrupted when speaking, unless it is to call him or her to order. If a speaker is called to order, he or she shall cease speaking until the question of order is determined and, if in order, he or she shall be permitted to proceed with their remarks.

g. All questions of order shall be decided by the Mayor without debate, subject to an appeal to the full board.

h. When any point of procedure/order shall arise, the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order as contained in the North Carolina City Council Procedures manual shall determine the question of procedure/order.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this ordinance amendment shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption.

ADOPTED this __ day of January, 2023.

Kenneth K. Talton, Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk