

ORDINANCE NO. 824

VILLAGE OF BELLEVUE, ILLINOIS

ORDINANCE REGARDING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

WHEREAS, Section 2.06(g) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2.06(g)) provides that any person shall be permitted to address public officials under rules established by the public body; and

WHEREAS, the Village wishes to adopt rules regarding public participation in Village Board meetings and meetings of Village Board committees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BELLEVUE, PEORIA COUNTY, ILLINOIS, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Rules for public participation.

The rules set forth below shall apply when any person wishes to speak at a city council meeting or a meeting of any committee of the Village.

a. An individual wishing to address the village board or any committee of the Village are asked to sign up on a form available at the meeting location prior to the start of the meeting. Each individual shall speak only when recognized by the chair and shall give his or her name. All remarks shall be addressed to the council or committee as a whole and not to any individual. No questions may be asked except through the chair.

b. Except as set forth below, any individual wishing to address the city council shall do so only during the "public comment" section of the agenda. An individual wishing to address the village board regarding a specific agenda item may do so at the time of discussion of such agenda item by the village board only at the discretion of the chair.

c. Speakers shall be limited to three (3) minutes each unless granted additional time by the chair. Any grant of additional time shall be based on the following factors:

- The complexity of the issue.
- Whether the speaker possesses special expertise.
- Whether the speech reflects a matter of taste or personal opinion or concerns a disputed issue of fact.
- The degree to which the speech relates to matters under consideration by the village board or committee.
- Such other factors appropriate for the meeting.

Every effort should be made to ensure that parties in favor of and in opposition to any matter have an equal opportunity to speak. In limiting speech, the chair should resolve all doubts in favor of full and fair participation.

d. No individual may give his or her allotted time to speak to any other person.

e. No speaker or any other individual other than the chair shall interrupt any other speaker or individual. The chair may interrupt an individual only to enforce the provisions of this section or to maintain order.

f. Individuals are directed to be brief and concise in making their remarks and to address topics directly relevant to business of the meeting. The chair, after one warning, may rule any individual addressing the meeting out of order if the individual:

- Becomes repetitive;
- Exceeds the three-minute limitation;
- Makes personal attacks against others;
- Becomes threatening or boisterous;
- Engages in electioneering for candidate(s); or
- Otherwise interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting.

If ruled out of order and found by the chair to be out of order, the individual may be barred from further remarks at that meeting and barred from further attendance at that meeting. This ruling of the chair can be overridden by a two-thirds vote of the council or committee members present.

Nothing herein is intended to limit or restrain negative, positive or neutral comments about the manner in which an individual employee, officer, official or council member carries out his or her duties in public office or public employment of the city.

g. Discussion between speakers and members of the audience is not permitted.

h. Public comment is not intended to require the chair or any board or committee member or other person to answer any questions posed or otherwise respond to any public comment. After the individual has finished speaking, he or she shall be seated with no further debate, dialogue or comment, except at the discretion of the chair.

SECTION 3. That this Ordinance shall be published and made available in pamphlet form, and the same having been so published, it is as of the date hereof, in full force and effect.

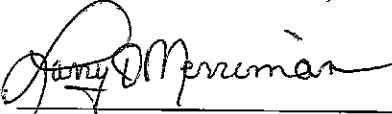
SECTION 4. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are, as to such

conflict, hereby repealed.

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| AYES | <u>5</u> |
| NAYS | <u>1</u> |
| ABSENT | <u>0</u> |

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 24 DAY OF OCTOBER, 2023

VILLAGE OF BELLEVUE, ILLINOIS

By: 
Larry D. Merriman, President

Attest: 
Susan Pesch, Village Clerk