

DISCOURSE WITH DIGNITY

We ask all attendees to review and follow these points to ensure discourse with dignity for all.

1

Participation from traditionally underserved and unheard-from voices is encouraged, and we are committed to making our spaces safe for these community members to be heard

2

Remember that some audience members or speakers may be attending their first public meeting or may feel uncomfortable speaking publicly, and their voices deserve to be heard. Please be respectful.

3

Disorderly conduct from the audience that disrupts or disturbs the meeting is not allowed; all participants deserve the opportunity to hear the meeting without interference by others.

4

Abusive language, threats, bullying, and personal attacks are discouraged. It's hard to get to the root of an issue if the content is buried within disruptive or harmful behavior.

5

For productive conversation, comments should address issues, not people; e.g. I'm bothered by this plan because... versus insulting or name-calling.

The Mayor or presiding officer has the authority to enforce the Rules of Procedure. Individuals who engage in disorderly conduct or disturb the public meeting may be ruled out of order by the Mayor or presiding officer. If a person continues to be disorderly and disrupt the public meeting, they may be asked to leave the meeting or the Mayor or presiding officer may request a recess of the public meeting to restore order and allow the business of the public body to proceed.

We at the City of Ferndale believe in the rights of all people to exercise their First Amendment right to free speech while maintaining dignity in our public meetings.

Thank you for helping us to achieve this important balance.

WHEN TO MAKE A PUBLIC COMMENT



CALL TO AUDIENCE

Council has set aside a strict 30-minute period for people to speak on any topic. Each person wishing to speak may do so for up to three minutes. If there are still persons interested in addressing Council after 30 minutes, the Mayor or presiding officer shall reopen Call to Audience immediately prior to Call to Council. Speakers should not expect Council members to remark on or respond directly to their comments during the meeting. The Mayor or presiding officer may request that the City Manager's Office follow up after the meeting or provide additional information to Council at a later date



PUBLIC HEARINGS

During a scheduled required public hearing, the Mayor or presiding officer will open public comment at the conclusion of staff's overview or presentation and persons may speak on the matter for up to three minutes.



REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

After a motion is made and seconded, the Mayor or presiding officer shall allow public comment on the agenda item for up to three minutes.

HOW TO MAKE A PUBLIC COMMENT

- Approach the podium during the public comment opportunity that best fits your comment and begin by providing your name and street name or address.
- Speak clearly into the microphone. Many public meetings are recorded and/or broadcast live, and digital viewers/listeners deserve to hear your comments. City staff will assist if you need accommodations to access the microphone.
- Direct your comments to the Mayor or presiding officer, not directly to City staff, other speakers, or residents.
- Each person's public comments are limited to three minutes per agenda item. Residents requested a clock timer to assist with time limits, which is now in use in City Council Chambers. Additionally, the Mayor or presiding officer will let you know when you've reached your limit.
- If you wish to submit written information, you may provide a copy to the City Clerk and/or other City staff as directed. Please ask for permission before approaching the dais (the table at the front of the room where the Council or commission or board is seated).
- You may speak once on each issue.
- You may not share or relinquish any remaining time to another speaker.