

ORDINANCE NO. O20-16

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA; TO AMEND CHAPTER 2 – ADMINISTRATION, ARTICLE II. – CITY COMMISSION, DIVISION 1. – MEETINGS, SECTION 2-65 – ORDER OF BUSINESS AND AGENDA, AND SECTION 2-67 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO PROVIDE FOR RENUMBERING OR RELETTERING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the City Commission desires to amend the order of business and agenda items for all regular meetings of the City Commission; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission also desires to amend the provisions of the Code of Ordinances to address speakers at regular and called meetings of the City Commission and also speakers at the City's Commission's work session: and

WHEREAS, the issue has been duly considered by the Commission of the City of Waycross, Georgia;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Commission of the City of Waycross, Georgia and it is hereby ordained by the authority of the same as follows:

SECTION 1. The City of Waycross Code of Ordinances, **Chapter 2 – ADMINISTRATION, ARTICLE II. – CITY COMMISSION, DIVISION 1. – MEETINGS, SECTION 2-65. – ORDER OF BUSINESS, AGENDA, AND SECTION 2-67. – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION** are hereby amended to read as follows

Sec. 2-65. - Order of business; agenda.

All regular meetings of the city commission shall follow the following order of business:

(1)The agenda. After the mayor calls the meeting to order, the meeting proceeds as follows, if there are items to be discussed under matters:

- a. Call to order.
 - 1. Invocation.
 - 2. Pledge of Allegiance.
- b. Executive duties.
 - 1. Schedule hearings and meetings.
 - 2. Appointments.
- c. Official reports.
 - 1. City manager's report.
 - 2. Mayor's report.
 - a. Public service announcements.
- d. Public remarks on official actions.
- e. Consideration of official actions.
 - 1. Consent calendar
 - a. Approval of Minutes.
 - b. Ordinance Second Readings.
 - c. Privilege License Renewals.
 - 2. Privilege Licenses.
 - 3. Bids.
 - 4. Ordinances.
 - 5. Resolutions.
- f. Guests.
- g. Last call and/or Adjourn to Executive Session
- h. Adjournment.

(2) After the agenda is set and submitted to the news media, the agenda may be changed by action of the city commission and consistent with the Georgia Open Meetings Law (O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 et seq.) and other applicable provisions of law.

Sec. 2-67. - Public participation in meetings of the city commission.

(a) Persons who wish to address the city commission at a regular or called meeting of the city commission under the "Public Remarks on Official Actions" agenda item must register in writing with the city clerk before the meeting begins and state the subject matter on which the speaker wishes to speak. The following rules shall apply:

- (1) The speaker must begin the remarks by stating his name, address and organization represented, if any.
- (2) The speaker must address all remarks to the mayor, and not to any individuals.
- (3) The speaker's comments must be pertinent to the agenda item or items for which the speaker has signed up.
- (4) The speaker must avoid personal comments, political comments, and must avoid repetition and argument.
- (5) The speaker's comments shall be limited to five minutes.
- (6) After the city commission begins discussing an agenda item, only the mayor, the commissioner and persons requested to speak by the city commission will be allowed to speak.
- (7) Except for unusual circumstances and only after a vote by a majority of the city commissioners present at such meeting will a person who has not signed up in advance of the meeting be allowed to speak.
- (8) All speakers must conduct themselves in a respectful manner, and avoid vulgar, obscene and profane language.
- (9) The city commission, by majority vote of the members present, may suspend all or any of these rules.

(10) Any person who violates any of these rules may be removed from the meeting.

(11) Any speaker or proposed speaker who violates these rules after first being warned by the mayor or the city commission, either or both, to cease such violation shall, upon conviction in the municipal court, be guilty of an offense and punished as set forth in section 1-9.

(b) Any citizen of the city shall have the right to address or speak to the city commissioners at a regular or called meeting of the city commission for not longer than five minutes on official actions or other topics relating to the business of the city commission. Persons who wish to address or speak to the city commission under the "guests" agenda item must register in writing with the city clerk no later than the beginning of the meeting at which he desires to address or speak to the city commissioners, and must state the subject matter of the speaker's remarks. The following rules shall apply:

(1) The speaker must begin the remarks by stating his name, address and organization represented, if any.

(2) The speaker must address all remarks to the mayor, and not to any individuals.

(3) The speaker's comments must be pertinent to the subject matter listed by the speaker upon registration.

(4) The speaker must avoid personal comments, political comments, and must avoid repetition and argument.

(5) The speaker's comments shall be limited to five minutes.

(6) Except for unusual circumstances after a vote by a majority of the city commissioners present at such meeting will a person who has not satisfied the sign up requirements be allowed to speak.

(7) All speakers must conduct themselves in a respectful manner, and avoid vulgar, obscene and profane language.

(8) The city commission, by majority vote of the members present, may suspend all or any of these rules to the extent permitted by law.

(9) Any person who violates any of these rules may be removed from the meeting.

(10) Any speaker or proposed speaker who violates these rules after first being warned by the mayor or the city commission, either or both, to cease such violation shall, upon conviction in the municipal court, be guilty of an offense and punished as set forth in section 1-9.

(c) Persons who wish to address the city commission at a work session shall have the right to address or speak to the city commissioners on official actions or other topics relating to the business or interest of the city. Persons who wish to address or speak to the city commission must register in writing with the city clerk no later than the beginning of the work session at which he desires to address or speak to the city commissioners, and must state the subject matter of the speaker's remarks. The following rules shall apply:

(1) The speaker must begin the remarks by stating his name, address and organization represented, if any.

(2) The speaker must initially address all remarks to the mayor, and not to any individuals.

(3) The speaker must avoid personal comments, political comments, and must avoid repetition and argument.

(4) All speakers must conduct themselves in a respectful manner, and avoid vulgar, obscene and profane language.

(5) The speaker's comments shall be limited to five minutes.

(6) Any commissioner, the city manager or the city attorney may, after receiving permission from the mayor, ask questions of the speaker. The asking of questions by any commissioner, the mayor, city manager or city attorney shall automatically suspend the five minute time limit.

(7) Persons who have not satisfied the sign up requirements will not be allowed to speak unless there is a consensus of commissioners to allow the person to speak.

(8) The city commission, with the consensus of the members present, may suspend all or any of these rules to the extent permitted by law.

(9) Any person who violates any of these rules may be removed from the meeting.

(10) Any speaker or proposed speaker who violates these rules after first being warned by the mayor or the city commission, either or both, to cease such violation

shall, upon conviction in the municipal court, be guilty of an offense and punished as set forth in section 1-9.

SECTION 2. This Ordinance shall take effect and be enforced from and after the date of its final approval after second reading by the Commission of the City of Waycross, Georgia.

SECTION 3. If any portion of this ordinance shall be held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect or impair the remaining portions unless it clearly appears that such other parts are wholly and necessarily dependent upon the part held to be invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 4. All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 5. It is the intention of the City Commission and it is hereby ordained that the provisions of this Ordinance shall become part of the Code of the City of Waycross, Georgia and the sections of this Ordinance may be renumbered to accomplish such intention.

SO ORDAINED, this 20th day of October, 2020.

CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA

BY:

+ Michael-Angelo James
MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor

ATTEST:

Michelle Love
MICHELLE LOVE, City Clerk

Read First Time: 10/06/2020

Read Second Time and Approved: 10/20/2020