

TOWN OF MUNSTER, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA
RESOLUTION NO. 2134

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MUNSTER, INDIANA
ADOPTING AND ESTABLISHING RULES AND POLICIES FOR PARTICIPATION IN
PUBLIC MEETINGS FOR ALL GOVERNING BODIES OF THE TOWN OF MUNSTER**

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Munster, Indiana, is the duly elected legislative body of the Town of Munster, Lake County, Indiana (hereinafter the "Town"), a unit of local government, and is responsible for establishing policies and procedures for the Town; and

WHEREAS, the State of Indiana has recently adopted I.C. § 5-14-1.5-3.3 entitled *Public Participation in Governing Body Meeting – Adopting Reasonable Rules or Policies – Removal of Attendees*, which is effective July 1, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council deems it in the best interest of the town to set forth a uniform policy, procedure, and guidelines with regard to public participation in meetings and adopt reasonable rules/policies; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council deems it in the best interest of the town to set forth uniform rules and policies with regard to the conduct of public meetings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council establishes the following rules/policies with respect to all public meetings for the Town:

1. Comments from members of the public attending the meeting in person shall be taken at the beginning of public meetings prior to the governing body of that meeting taking final action on any topic. Comments from members of the public attending the meeting virtually via zoom (or other media) shall not be allowed.
2. Public comments shall be limited to two (2) minutes per attendee.
3. The total time allotted for public comment shall be twenty (20) minutes.
4. All public comments must be civil and constructive and related to public policy issues.
5. All members of the public commenting at a meeting must physically sign the Public Speaker Sign In Form and provide their name and address. Speakers will also be required to orally provide their name and address prior to commenting.

6. The president or chairperson of the governing body may, in his or her discretion, ask or recognize speakers with different points of view to speak at the meeting.

7. An attendee who disrupts a meeting will be issued a warning from the president or chairperson of the governing body. After an attendee receives three (3) warnings, the president or chairperson may, upon issuance of the third warning, direct the attendee to leave the meeting. If the attendee refuses to leave the meeting when directed, the president or chairperson may direct a law enforcement officer to remove the attendee from the meeting.

8. A law enforcement officer may immediately remove an attendee from a meeting if:

- (a) removal of the attendee is necessary to maintain order or to ensure safety of those attending the meeting;
- (b) the attendee commits a criminal offense; or
- (c) the attendee violates the rules or policies governing the conduct of the meeting as adopted by the Town.

9. The rules adopted by the Town Council as part of this Resolution shall be posted at the entrance of public meeting locations.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Munster, Indiana, on the _____ day of _____, 2024, by a vote of _____ in favor and _____ opposed.

**TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF
MUNSTER, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA**

David B. Nellans, President

ATTEST:

Wendy Mis, Clerk-Treasurer