



CITY OF GROVER BEACH

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR CONDUCT AND DECORUM AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

(Pursuant to Resolution No. 07-44, adopted 04-16-07)

1.0 DECORUM AND ORDER – COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council Members shall accord the utmost courtesy to each other, to administrative staff and to the public appearing before the City Council and shall refrain at all times from rude, abusive, and/or derogatory remarks or those that reflect upon a person's integrity, motives or personality.

2.0 DECORUM AND ORDER – STAFF

2.1 City Manager Responsibilities

The City Manager is responsible for ensuring that members of the administrative staff observe the rules of decorum and order set forth in this Policy.

2.2 Addressing the City Council

Any administrative staff member desiring to address the City Council or members of the public shall first be recognized by the Mayor/Presiding Officer. All remarks shall be addressed to the Mayor/Presiding Officer and not to any individual Council Member or member of the public. Administrative staff members shall accord the utmost courtesy to the City Council, other administrative staff members and the public.

3.0 DECORUM AND ORDER – MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

3.1 Addressing the City Council

Any member of the public desiring to address the City Council or members of the public shall first be recognized by the Mayor/Presiding Officer at the appropriate place on the agenda. All remarks shall be addressed to the Mayor/Presiding Officer and not to any individual Council Member, member of the administrative staff or member of the public.

3.2 Time limitation for addressing the City Council

Public comment when addressing the City Council shall be generally limited to three (3) minutes per speaker. Depending on the extent of the agenda and the number of persons desiring to speak on an issue, the Mayor/Presiding Officer may, at the beginning of the hearing, set a different time limit for each speaker. Any person may speak for a longer period of time upon approval from the Mayor/Presiding Officer, when deemed necessary, for instance when a person is speaking on behalf of a group, or has a graphic or slide presentation requiring more time.

3.3 Removal

Any member of the public making personal, impertinent, and slanderous or profane remarks or who becomes boisterous while addressing the City Council, staff or general public or while attending the City Council meeting and refuses to come to order at the direction of the Mayor/Presiding Officer, shall be removed from the Council Chambers by the sergeant-at-arms and may be barred from further attendance before the Council during that meeting. Unauthorized remarks from the audience, stamping of feet, whistles, yells, and similar demonstrations shall not be permitted by the Mayor/Presiding Officer. The Mayor/Presiding Officer may direct the sergeant-at-arms to remove such offenders from the room.¹

3.4 Prosecution

Aggravated cases shall be prosecuted on appropriate complaint signed by the Mayor/Presiding Officer.

4.0 ENFORCEMENT OF DECORUM

In extreme cases, such as when a meeting is willfully interrupted by a group or groups of persons so as to render the orderly conduct of such meeting unfeasible and order cannot be restored by the removal of individuals as provided for in this Policy, the Mayor/Presiding Officer may order the meeting room cleared and continue in session. Only matters appearing on the agenda may be considered in such a session. Duly accredited representatives of the press or other news media, except those participating in the disturbance, shall be allowed to attend any session held pursuant to this Section. Nothing in this Section shall prohibit the City Council from establishing a procedure for readmitting an individual or individuals not responsible for willfully disturbing the orderly conduct of the meeting.

¹ Govt. Code § 36813, 54957.9 (Council may establish rules of conduct; removal of disorderly persons from public meetings)