

Public Testimony at City Meetings

- **The City of Madison is committed to listening to all voices at our meetings.**
- **We do so in an inclusive manner, with open minds and hearts.**
- **We ask members of the public for their cooperation in allowing us to conduct our meetings and deliberations without disruption as we are charged with the challenging task of decision-making.**

1. Members of the public need to register to speak
2. Individuals registered to speak will be called by the chair
3. Each registrant is allotted 3 minutes to speak. Once the 3 minutes conclude, a buzzer will sound and registrants should conclude their testimony. One (1) minute additional time may be given if council members unanimously consent to the additional one (1) minute. (Note: Individuals communicating through an interpreter will be given 6 minutes.)
4. Remarks and actions that disrupt meeting: The presiding officer shall call an individual to order when/if that individual ignores time limits and disrupts meeting debate and discussion.

The following are examples of remarks and behavior that are not permitted:

1. Repeatedly interrupting a speaker who is addressing Council;
2. Repeatedly interrupting a Council Member who is speaking;
3. Shouting, and talking (either individually or in concert with others) in a manner that prevents a speaker or a Council member from being heard or that otherwise hinders the progress of the meeting;
4. Engaging in any conduct that prevents a member of the audience from seeing or hearing Council members during a meeting; standing on chairs or tables within the Council meeting room;
5. Threats of violence. If such disruption happens, the chair will ask the individual/s to maintain order. If disruption continues after 2 warnings, the Chair may ask designated civilian city staff members to approach the individual/s and ask them to continue the conversation outside so that the Council members can conduct and conclude the public meeting. If the disruption continues, the Chair may decide to ask all members of the public to leave the room and watch the deliberations through live streaming from another designated room

MADISON GENERAL ORDINANCES 2.07

PRESIDING OFFICER TO PRESERVE ORDER.

It shall be the duty of the presiding officer to preserve decorum; and if any member transgress the rules of the Council, the presiding officer shall, on her or his own or at any member's request, call such offending member to order. The Council, if appealed to, shall decide the matter. The Vice President or her or his designee shall serve as sergeant-at-arms and assist the presiding officer in preserving order.