

CURWENSVILLE BOROUGH POLICY

SECTION: COMMUNITY

TITLE: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

ADOPTED: AUGUST 14, 2014

REVISED:

	<p style="text-align: center;">PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN COUNCIL MEETINGS</p> <p>Purpose The Borough Council recognizes the value to public governance regarding Borough Business on financial and ordinance issues and the importance of involving members of the public in Council Meetings.</p> <p>Authority In order to permit fair and orderly expression of such comment, the Borough Council will provide a period for public participation at those open meetings of the Council during which official action or discussion may be taken and will formulate practices to govern such public participation in Council meetings.</p> <p>The Council shall require that all public comments be made at the beginning of each meeting.</p> <p>The presiding officer at each public Council meeting will follow the rules of the Council for conduct of public meetings in accordance with this policy. Where his/her ruling is disputed, it may be overruled by a majority of those Council members present and voting.</p> <p>Guests invited by the Council to make various presentations will not be subject to all the rules outlined below and will be included with the Borough's action agenda.</p> <p>The presiding officer shall be guided by the following rules:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participants must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface their comments by announcing their name, address, and group affiliation (if appropriate). 2. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to a three (3) minute duration.
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Public Participation (cont)

	<ol style="list-style-type: none">3. Participant may direct questions to the individual Council members, however, individual Council members may request from the presiding officer the opportunity to address the public's questions.4. The presiding officer may interrupt or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant, or not with the confines of the registered topic; may request the presence of law enforcement officials in the removal of a person or persons when the decorum of the meeting is hampered; may call for a recess or adjournment to another time when the lack of public propriety interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action.5. Electronic recording devices and cameras, other than those used as official recording devices will be permitted provided the presiding officer is notified before-hand.6. Tape recordings shall be erased four (4) months after the approval of the minutes at the next Council meeting.7. No place cards or banners will be permitted within the meeting room or on borough grounds without prior approval of council. <p>Statutory Authority:</p> <p>65 P.S. 701 et. seq. (aka "Sunshine Act")</p>
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