

ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF
SOUTHAVEN, MISSISSIPPI ADOPTING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR CITIZENS
AGEDNA AND AUDIENCE DECORUM FOR MEETINGS OF THE
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Southaven, Mississippi ("City"):

WHEREAS, the authority to establish the dates and procedures for holding its meetings is vested in the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City by Sections 21-3-19 and 21-17-5 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen desire to establish rules and regulations for the City Citizens Agenda and audience decorum; and

WHEREAS, the rules and regulations are in conformity with existing State law; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Southaven Mississippi as follows:

TITLE 1, CHAPTER 2, SECTIONS 1-27 – 1-28 shall be amended as follows:

Section 1-27 – Rules and Regulations for Citizens Agenda.

- a. Speak clearly into the microphone at the Podium;
- b. Sign up with the Mayor's Office by 12:00 preceding the Friday before the City Board Meeting and provide the topic for discussion;
- c. If individual does not speak regarding the topic for discussion as provided when signing up for the agenda, the individual shall not continue to speak;
- d. Limit to three (3) minutes;
- e. There shall be no more than fifteen (15) minutes allotted for the Citizen Agenda;
- f. Individuals shall clearly state their name and address;
- g. Speak to the City Governing Authorities as a body, not to the Mayor or specific Board Member, staff or audience member;
- h. Any documents shared with the City Governing Authorities must be provided to the City Clerk by the Friday before the meeting at 12:00 p.m.;
- i. Reference staff by title and/or department;
- j. Speakers may be directed to meet with staff to resolve the issue or to get their questions answered;
- k. Speak in a civil and respectful manner;
- l. Refrain from using profanity; language likely to incite violence or outbursts from the audience, language that is disruptive to the orderly process of the

meeting; engaging in conversations with the Mayor or individual Board Members, making comments of a personal nature regarding others; shouting, yelling or screaming;

- m. This time on the agenda is not intended for a discussion between the City Governing Authorities and the speaker;
- n. Speakers will not continue to address the City Governing Authorities once they have left the podium;
- o. The Mayor is responsible for maintaining order and decorum and will not allow a speaker to make personal attacks or inflammatory comments and can ask the speaker to sit down. If the individual does not comply with the Mayor's request, they may be asked to leave, or if necessary, be escorted from the meeting.

Section 1-28 - Rules of Decorum for the Audience.

- a. Audience will refrain from commenting, clapping, shouting, booing, or other inappropriate and/or disruptive behavior;
- b. Audience will refrain from private conversations during meetings;
- c. Audience shall not address the City Governing Authorities in individual conversation or make comments to individual Board Members;
- d. The Mayor is responsible for maintaining order and decorum and will not allow a speaker to make personal attacks or inflammatory comments and can ask the speaker to sit down. If the individual does not comply with the Mayor's request, they may be asked to leave, or if necessary, be escorted from the meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED pursuant to Miss. Code 21-13-11, the City Clerk shall provide notice of the adoption of the Ordinance in the *Desoto Times* for one (1) time.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED pursuant to Miss. Code 21-13-11, this amended Ordinance shall be effective immediately for the good cause of establishing rules and regulations for ensuring public order at the City Board Meeting.

A motion to approve the foregoing Ordinance was made by Alderman Gallagher and was seconded by Alderman Jerome and brought to a vote as follows:

Alderman William Jerome	voted: YES
Alderman Judy Jenkins	voted: YES
Alderman George Payne	voted: YES
Alderman Joel Gallagher	voted: YES
Alderman Charlie Hoots	voted: YES
Alderman Raymond Flores	voted: ABSENT
Alderman John Wheeler	voted: YES

Having received a majority of affirmative votes, the Mayor declared that the Resolution was carried and adopted as set forth above on this the 15th day of September, 2026.

CITY OF SOUTHAVEN, MISSISSIPPI

BY: 
DARREN MUSSELWHITE, MAYOR

ATTEST:


CITY CLERK

