

ORDINANCE NO. 1074

**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING RULES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AT
OPEN MEETINGS**

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso ("City") is a body politic and corporate, organized and existing pursuant to the Illinois Municipal Code, 65 ILCS 5/1- 1-1 et seq; and

WHEREAS, the City Council possesses full power and authority to approve and pass all necessary ordinances, resolutions, rules and regulations necessary for carrying into effect the objects for which the City was formed, in accordance with the Illinois Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, the City and its subsidiary committees are public bodies and as such, their meetings are subject to the Illinois Open Meetings Act ("Act"), 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.06 (g) of the Act provides that "[a]ny person shall be permitted an opportunity to address public officials under the rules established and recorded by the public body";

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and the City Council of the City of El Paso, Illinois, as follows:

SECTION ONE: That § 18-10 of the City Code of the City of El Paso be amended by deleting the present § 18-10 and inserting in place thereof the following:

§ 18-10 Public Participation.

No person other than the Mayor or a member of the Council shall address that body at any regular or special meeting except upon the consent of a majority of the members present. Upon obtaining the majority consent of the Council, such person may address the Council, subject to the following rules:

- A. Persons may address the Council only during the Public Comment portion of the agenda and after being recognized by the Mayor, or at such other time as may be permitted by the Mayor or Council members. The Public Comment portion of the agenda shall be limited to 60 minutes, unless extended by a majority of the Council. In the event not all persons are permitted to speak because of the one hour time limit, residents of El Paso shall be given priority before non-residents of El Paso.
- B. Upon being recognized, persons addressing the Council shall identify themselves by name and address. Comments shall be limited to five minutes per person addressing the Council. The Mayor may lengthen or shorten a person's opportunity to speak. No speaker may give their allotted five minutes to another person.

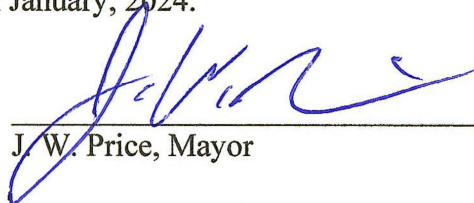
- C. All comments shall be limited to matters over which the Mayor and Council has supervisory, appointive or legislative authority, or matters involving redress of a citizen's grievance.
- D. Persons addressing the Council shall not expect an answer at the conclusion of the presentation.
- E. The Mayor shall have the authority to determine procedural matters regarding public participation not otherwise defined herein. All speakers, and the audience, shall respect the Mayor's directions in furtherance of maintaining proper order, respect, and decorum during the meeting. Any person who violates these rules or who otherwise disrupts the order and decorum of the meeting may be removed.

SECTION TWO: SEVERABILITY. If any section, paragraph or provision of this Ordinance shall be held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, the invalidity or unenforceability of such section, paragraph or provision shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this Ordinance.

SECTION THREE: REPEAL OF PRIOR ORDINANCES. All prior Resolutions and Ordinances in conflict or inconsistent herewith are hereby expressly repealed only to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency.

SECTION FOUR: EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage, approval and publication in pamphlet form as provided by law.

PASSED and APPROVED this 22nd day of January, 2024.



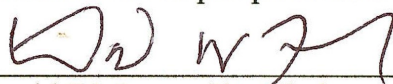
J. W. Price, Mayor

ATTEST:



David W. Fever, City Clerk

PASSED by the City Council on January 22, 2024.
APPROVED by the Mayor on January 22, 2024.
PUBLISHED in pamphlet form on January 23, 2024.



David W. Fever, City Clerk