

ORDINANCE NO. O2026-0319

**AN ORDINANCE CREATING ARTICLE III OF THE VILLAGE CODE
PERTAINING TO RULES OF ORDER**

WHEREAS, the Village of Tilton ("Village") is a home rule unit of local government pursuant to Article VII, Section 6 of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, and may exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to its government and affairs; and,

WHEREAS, Section 2.06(g) of the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2.06(g)) provides "Any person shall be permitted an opportunity to address public officials under the rules established and recorded by the public body"; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Village Board believe it is important to receive public comment and input during public meetings regarding public business whether or not a specific matter of public business appears on a particular public meeting agenda; and,

WHEREAS, the First Amendment protects the rights of persons who provide public comment and input at designated portions of public meetings; and,

WHEREAS, the Village has the legal right to provide time, place and manner restrictions, including those pertaining to civility and time constraints, on public comment and input during public meetings consistent with the First Amendment so long as such restrictions are content neutral; and,

WHEREAS, consistent with the First Amendment, the Village has the lawful authority to bar from public comment and input abusive, threatening, harassing or defamatory language or behavior; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Village Board desire to establish rules for the public to address Village officials.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Board of Trustees of the Village of Tilton, Illinois as follows:

SECTION 1: Article III of the Village Code is hereby created as follows:

Article III Rules of Order

Section 1-20 Public Comment

- A. Any person who seeks to address the members of the Village Board or a commission, committee or other official body of the Village at any public meeting will be permitted to speak on any matter listed on the agenda or any other matter of public concern, subject to the following provisions:
1. Unless the agenda provides the time during a meeting for public comment, the presiding officer shall designate a time during the meeting at which the public may address the members. The presiding officer may require persons wishing to speak during the appropriate portion of the meeting to sign in before the start of the meeting and to provide their name, address and topic to be discussed.
 2. Prior to speaking, each person must be recognized by the presiding officer and must state his or her name for the record.
 3. Subject to subsection (a)(4), public comment is limited to no more than three (3) minutes per person and no more than one (1) hour per meeting, unless extended by consent of a

majority vote of the members present. The presiding officer or his or her designee shall monitor each speaker's use of time and shall notify the speaker when the time allotted has expired.

4. Whenever any group of persons wishes to address the members on the same subject matter, the presiding officer may ask that a spokesperson be chosen from the group. If additional matters are to be presented by other persons in the group, the presiding officer may limit the number of such persons and may limit the presentation to information not already presented by the group spokesperson.
 5. Persons invited by the presiding officer to address the members are subject to such time limitations as the majority of the members present may prescribe.
 6. Separate rules, as required by law or as otherwise provided in this Code, will govern the conduct of quasi-judicial hearings.
- B. The Village Clerk shall post the provisions of subsection (a) on the city's website.

Section 1-21 Decorum

- A. The protocol for public meetings is one of respect for the process of addressing the business of the Village.
- B. Obscene or profane language, or other conduct that threatens to impede the orderly progress of the business conducted at the meeting is unacceptable.
- C. No person shall interrupt, disturb or disrupt any regular or special meeting or study session of a public body.
- D. In order to maintain the efficient and orderly conduct and progress of a public meeting, the presiding officer of the meeting shall have the authority to raise a point of order and provide a verbal warning to a speaker who engages in the conduct or behavior proscribed in this section. Any member of the public body participating in the meeting may also raise a point of order with the presiding officer and request that they provide a verbal warning to a speaker. If the speaker refuses to cease such conduct or behavior after being warned by the presiding officer, the presiding officer shall have the authority to have such speaker removed from the meeting room or the building.

SECTION 2: This amendatory Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon its passage, approval and publication in pamphlet form.

PASSED this 19th day of MARCH, 20 26, by 6 ayes, 0 nays and 0 absent.

APPROVED:

By: *William A. Wood*
Mayor

ATTEST:

By: *Lein Fuld*
Village Clerk

