

RESOLUTION 2020 - 7
BOROUGH OF NEW BERLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

WHEREAS, the Borough of New Berlin conducts monthly meetings and emergency and other meetings as needed to conduct Borough business and handle the affairs of the community and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania Sunshine Act, 65 Pa. C.S. §§ 701-716, requires agencies to deliberate and take official action on agency business in an open and public meeting in which citizens can attend and participate in, and

WHEREAS, in order for such public meetings to run in an orderly manner, it is necessary to have rules and guidelines for public participation in such meetings and guidelines for the Order of Business;

NOW THEREFORE, intending to repeal all previous resolutions and regulations in the Borough of New Berlin which set guidelines as to conduct and participation in public meetings and intending to enact new rules and regulations, the Borough of New Berlin enacts the following:

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

The Order of Business shall be conducted according to the Agenda and may include:

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Minutes of Previous Meeting
Treasurer's Report
Public Comment
Correspondence
Administrative Actions
Reports
Old Business
New Business
Adjournment

RULES FOR PARTICIPATION AT PUBLIC MEETINGS

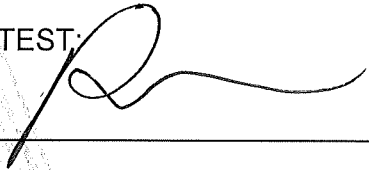
1. The Chairman/President of the Board shall preside over the public comment period.
2. Citizens attending Council meetings are expected to conduct themselves in a responsible and respectful manner that does not disrupt the meeting.
3. Citizens desiring to address the Council at its regular meetings may do so by providing notice in writing by providing their name, address and the subject matter to be discussed to the Borough Office any time before 5:00 p.m. on the day of the scheduled meeting or by printing their name, address and the subject matter to be discussed on a sign-up sheet found on the podium/table in Council Meeting Room between 6:45 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on the day of the scheduled meeting.
4. All sign-ups must be completed prior to the meeting being called to order. Those coming to the meeting after the meeting has started who have not given the notice required, and who wish to address council, will not be permitted to speak at the meeting.
5. Speakers will be given five (5) minutes each of speaking time and shall identify themselves at the start of their comment period.
6. Multiple speakers giving the same information to council as previous speakers will be asked to sit down as repetitive. If a group attends a meeting to support a certain topic, only one speaker on behalf of the group will be permitted to speak.
7. Those wishing to have conversations should do so outside the Council Meeting Place.

8. Public comment will occur only during the Public Comment period listed on the agenda. Those addressing council must stand (if physically able) at the podium/designated table and all remarks must be directed to Council as a body and not to any individual Council member or public or elected official or staff member in attendance. Clapping, calling out, and/or cheering when a speaker finishes his/her comments is not permitted.
9. Citizens may not approach the Council tables at any time during the meeting.
10. Residents must be prepared to quote their source of information presented and also refer to the specific ordinance they are addressing, if pertinent.
11. Citizens may direct questions at Council but Council is under no obligation to respond directly to any questions at the time of the meeting.
12. No speaker will be permitted to make negative, derogatory or perogative comments to the council members and/or staff. Any person making threats of any type, personally offensive or impertinent remarks or any person becoming unruly while addressing Council may be called to order by the Presiding Officer and may be barred from speaking, removed from Council Meeting Room and/or cited.
13. Citizens will not be permitted to make comments, ask questions or disrupt the meeting in any way after the Public Comment time of the meeting has passed.
14. Failure to abide by these regulations could result in removal from Council Meeting Room and/or a citation. These regulations are meant to avoid disruptions at the meeting and they are not meant to interfere with public participation.

15. If there is not enough time for public comment at a meeting, the Board, at its discretion, may defer the public comment period at a meeting until the next regular or special meeting.

NOW THEREFORE, the Borough of New Berlin on this 12th day of August 2020 hereby approves the provided resolution.

ATTEST:



New Berlin Borough Council

BY: Betty Kratzer

Lynda Frederick