

CITY OF SANDY OAKS, TEXAS

ORDINANCE NO: 2016-54

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A POLICY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 2014-8.

WHEREAS, Texas Local Government Code §22.038(c) authorizes the City Council to establish rules to govern its proceedings; and

WHEREAS, Sandy Oaks Ordinance 2014-2 establishes procedures for posting of agendas and for procedures for calling special meetings; and

WHEREAS, Sandy Oaks Ordinance No. 2014-8 establishes a recurring agenda item for Citizens to be Heard on all regular City Council meetings and provides a policy thereof, but does not provide for a policy for Citizens to be Heard at special called meetings; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to repeal Ordinance No. 2014-8 establishing a recurring agenda item on all regularly stated meetings for Citizens to be Heard and replace it with this Ordinance regarding Citizens to be Heard; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 2014-8 requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the City Council to amend, abolish or supersede it.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANDY OAKS, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. PERMENANT AGENDA ITEM ESTABLISHED.

All regular meetings of the Sandy Oaks City Council called under the authority of Sandy Oaks Ordinance 2015-8 shall contain an agenda item entitled "Citizens to be Heard" to allow for public comment.

SECTION 2. AGENDA ITEM FOR SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS.

Either the Mayor calling for or the City Councilmembers petitioning for a special meeting as provided in Section 5 of Ordinance No. 2014-2 may include an agenda item of "Citizens to be Heard" to allow for public comment at the special meeting.

SECTION 3. SIGNUP REQUIRED.

The City Clerk, or in his/her absence or vacancy, the Mayor or his/her designee, shall make available a signup sheet for citizens wishing to speak. The sheet shall ask for the speaker's name, whether or not they are a resident of the City, the agenda item(s) or other item(s) the speaker intends to speak on, and whether they are "for" or "against" the item they wish to speak on. The sheet shall be collected fifteen (15) minutes before the start of the meeting.

SECTION 4. TIME ALLOTTED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.

The time allotted for public comment shall be thirty (30) minutes.

SECTION 5. TIME ALLOTTED TO EACH SPEAKER.

Each speaker shall be allowed ~~three~~ (3) minutes to speak. If ten (10) or more persons sign up to speak, each speaker shall be allowed two (2) minutes to speak, in order to allow more persons to address the Council.

SECTION 6. WRITTEN TESTIMONY.

Citizens may opt to provide written, rather than oral testimony. Speakers who are unable to address the Council orally due to time limitations may also testify in writing.

SECTION 7. COUNCIL ACTION PROHIBITED.

No matter brought before the Council during "Citizens to be Heard" may be acted upon by the Council unless the specific matter appears on the posted agenda as provided by law.


SECTION 8. OFFICIAL RECORD.

The speaker signup sheet shall be incorporated into the official record of the meeting as an exhibit to the minutes.

SECTION 9. AMENDMENT OR REPEAL.

A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the City Council shall be required to amend, abolish or supersede this ordinance.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 12TH DAY OF MAY, 2016.


Micki L. Ball, Mayor

ATTEST:


Charlotte Rabe, City Clerk