

# Rules of Conduct for City of Shamokin Council Meetings

Conduct at City Council meetings shall be in accordance with the following rules:

- (1) Unless addressing the City Council or entering or leaving the Council Chambers or other meeting place, all persons in the audience shall remain seated in the seats provided. No person shall stand or sit in the aisles or along the walls, unless permitted by the Council. No person shall block any doorways.
- (2) All demonstrations, including cheering, yelling, whistling, handclapping and foot stomping which disrupts, disturbs or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of the Council meeting are prohibited. Applause is permitted during the Awards and Presentations Period only.
- (3) No placards, signs, posters, packages, bundles, suitcases or other large objects shall be brought into the Council Chambers or other meeting place except with the prior authorization.
- (4) Smoking is prohibited in the Council Chambers or other meeting place.
- (5) There are two public comment periods on the agenda of each City Council meeting. The first provides an opportunity for members of the public to comment on matters of concern or comment on agenda items prior to legislative action being taken by City Council. The second public comment period is held at the end of the agenda and is reserved for any additional matters of new business not on the agenda to be brought to the attention of City Council.
- (6) It is requested that all persons wishing to speak to the Council shall state their name, address, and the subject matter upon which they wish to speak for the record. In the interest of facilitating the business of the Council, all persons addressing the Council shall be limited to three (3) minutes unless such period of time is extended to five (5) minutes by the City Council. If a group of citizens wishes to comment on an issue and/or topic, they are asked to select a spokesperson to speak on behalf of the group or organization.
- (7) All persons addressing the City Council shall speak in a civil and courteous manner and shall not yell, scream, or use foul or inappropriate language. Speakers shall make every attempt to keep their comments concise and focused upon the item under consideration and shall avoid repetition of the comments of previous speakers on the item. The purpose of public comment is to provide information and the speaker's views for City Council consideration. It is not an opportunity for members of the public to question Council Members or City Staff. No personal attacks on staff or council members will be tolerated. It is not a debate and public comment speakers should not expect a back and forth exchange with Council Members. Any questions raised by a speaker do not have to be answered by Council Members. The issue or topic may be designated to a Council Member or City Department for appropriate follow-up.
- (8) Animals are prohibited in the Council Chambers, except for trained K-9 police dogs and trained service animals as defined under State and Federal law.