COUNTY COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. R-CC-25-1

RESOLUTION OF THE PERRY COUNTY COUNCIL TO RENEW POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO PROTECT DECORUM AND FOSTER THE EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

WHEREAS, the Perry County Council (the "Council") serves as the fiscal body of Perry County, Indiana (the "County"); and

WHEREAS, Indiana Code 36-2-4-10 empowers the Council to adopt rules for the transaction of business at its regularly scheduled, and, if necessary, special meetings, all of which are open to the public; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes it is in the best interest of the County, as well as those individuals who choose to attend public meetings of the Council, to RENEW its adoption of standard policies and procedures for the administration of public meetings in accordance with the general rules of parliamentary procedure as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised; and

WHEREAS, the Council previously passed Resolution No. 24-1 establishing Policies and Procedures to Protect Decorum and Foster the Effective Administration of Public Meetings of one (1) year duration and the Council now desires the renewal of the policies and procedures to continue to provide the general public with a clear and concise set of standards for public meetings held by the Council and, when applicable, rules regulating the conduct and decorum of members of the general public who wish to attend said public meetings; and

WHEREAS, in order to continue to protect general meeting decorum and to continue to foster more effective administration of public meetings, the Council now desires to RENEW the adoption of standard policies and procedures applicable to public meetings held by the Council according to the general parameters stated herein.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FISCAL BODY OF PERRY COUNTY, INDIANA AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Perry County Council hereby RENEWS its adoption of the following rules which shall apply to all individuals attending public meetings of the Perry County Council:

    a. Members of the general public in attendance at a public meeting of the Council have no rights with reference to the meeting except as otherwise provided by law.

    b. Although members of the general public have no right to speak during a public meeting, the Council intends to provide for a public comment period, during which time individuals may be given an opportunity to address the Council.

    c. Prior to any public comment period at an in-person meeting, individuals wishing to speak will be required to sign a speaker registration sheet and provide the speaker's name, address, and issue or topic they wish to address. Individuals will be called to speak in the order of which they have signed the speaker registration sheet.

    d. Prior to any public comment period at a virtual meeting, and up until 12 p.m. on the day of the meeting, individuals wishing to speak may e-mail or call the County Auditor at auditor@perrycounty.in.gov (812-547-6427) or the County Administrator at countyadmin@perrycounty.in.gov (812-547-2758) to sign-up to speak at the meeting. Included in the e-mail (or phone call) should be the individual's name, address, and issue or topic they wish to address. Individuals will be called to speak in the order of which they contacted the County.

e. For a virtual meeting, individuals who contacted the County to speak during the public comment period will receive a specific invite to the meeting. This invite is not to be shared with the general public. Members of the general public who do not wish to speak during the public comment period may view the meeting on the County's YouTube channel located at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChDrtxj69o5S1BUXLoIxl6Q.

f. Individuals who wish to speak and have signed the speaker registration sheet or have e-mailed or called the County Auditor or County Administrator may waive their opportunity to speak once called upon; however, an individual who waives their opportunity to speak will not be permitted to speak at a later time.

g. Once called upon, all speakers shall first state their name, their city/town of residence, and the issue upon which they wish to speak. During an in-person meeting, speakers should speak from the podium and must speak loudly and clearly into the microphone provided.

h. Any speaker wishing to provide documents to the Council at an in-person meeting shall provide one copy for each of the seven (7) Council members; however, speakers are encouraged to bring additional copies of any documents they intend to distribute during the meeting.

i. Each speaker may only speak once and will be given a maximum of four (4) minutes to speak unless a shorter or longer period of time is set forth by the Council President or in the absence of the President, the President Pro Tempore, at the start of the public comment period. Time may not be reserved or yielded to other speakers and once an individual is finished speaking, that individual's remaining time, if any, is waived.

j. Each speaker will be notified when their allotted time to speak is exhausted and any speaker that does not immediately conclude their remarks at the expiration of their allotted time will be deemed out of order and the speaker will be asked to stop.

k. Any speaker who is discourteous, argumentative, accusatory, or insulting will be deemed out of order and asked to stop.

l. Once a speaker is deemed out of order for any reason, that speaker's remaining time, if any, will be forfeited and the speaker will not be granted an opportunity to make any further comment or presentation.

m. All members of the general public attending a public meeting will be expected to adhere to these rules and, any person failing to do so will be deemed out of order.

n. The Council is authorized, and has sole discretion, to request any person deemed out of order to leave the meeting and, once requested to leave, the person must immediately leave the meeting room. In the event that the meeting is virtual, they must immediately leave the meeting.

o. In extreme cases, if a person refuses to leave the meeting after being asked to do so and that person continues to disrupt the proceedings in a way that is obviously hostile to the purpose of the meeting, the Council may order that the person be removed by members of the Perry County Sheriff's Office. If the meeting is virtual, the Council may order their microphone muted.

p. During its public meetings, the Council will continue to take all measures necessary under the circumstances to maintain order. In exercising this discretion, the Council will be guided by a judicious appraisal of the circumstances, including the conduct and decorum of members of the general public in attendance.

2. A copy of the rules stated herein have previously been posted outside the Commissioners' Room and are available to the general public through the internet website for Perry County, Indiana (https://www.perrycounty.in.gov/).

3. This resolution shall remain in full force and effect until further action of the Council.

DULY ADOPTED by the Council at its regularly scheduled meeting on this, the 23rd day of January, 2025.

Kelli Harding, President

Stan Goffinet, Councilmember

David Etienne, Vice-President

Gale Garner, Councilmember

Paul Brockman, Councilmember

Cory Filley, Councilmember

Keith Huck, Councilmember

ATTEST:

Kristinia L. Hammack, Auditor, Perry County, Indiana