

**TOWNSHIP OF MANSFIELD
BURLINGTON COUNTY**

RESOLUTION 2022-1-9

**RESOLUTION TO AMEND EXISTING RESOLUTION 2020-10-1 ESTABLISHING
PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT DURING MANSFIELD TOWNSHIP
COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

WHEREAS, Resolution 2020-10-1, established procedures for public comment during Township Committee remote meetings; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with guidance from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs the Township Committee finds that it is the best interests of the public for an orderly process to be established for receiving public comment in accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2020-10-1, established procedures for public comment during Township Committee remote Township Committee meetings; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2020-10-1 did not specifically address in-person Township Committee meetings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Mansfield, County of Burlington, and State of New Jersey, that:

Section 1. Rules and procedures for public comment are hereby adopted to include all Township Committee meetings, both in-person and remote.

Section 2. Unless relaxed for good cause by the Chair, persons addressing the Township Committee shall be allowed a maximum of five (5) minutes for comment, and shall not be permitted to comment more than one time. Time cannot be shared with or allotted to other speakers.

Section 3. If the item on which the public comment is addressed is a matter on the Township Committee agenda for which there is a scheduled public hearing, all comments must be addressed to the Township Committee during the public hearing on that matter and not during the general Public Comment period of the Township Committee agenda.

Section 4. Unless relaxed for good cause by the Chair, the total time period for public comment during a Township Committee meeting shall not exceed 30 minutes.

Section 5. The committee takes comments, concerns and questions from the public very seriously. Public Comment by way of questions is welcomed, however, the Public Comment period is not designed to be a discussion nor is it a question-and-answer session. Accordingly, unless a question is routine in nature, the public should not expect the committee to respond to questions during the meetings. The committee may require sufficient time to process and research issues so that questions can be answered correctly and expeditiously. The committee will make every effort to respond to questions in a timely manner.

Section 6. The public will direct all comments to the Committee. Questions, concerns or requests are to be addressed to the Chair. As implied by the term "Public Comment", this portion of the meeting is for the public to speak and be heard. With the exception of the Chair, member of the committee will refrain

from commenting unless specifically directed to do so by the Chair.

Section 7. Questions or comments pertaining to litigation, personnel, or negotiations cannot be discussed in public.

Section 8. Members of the public addressing the Committee will identify themselves by stating their name, address, and group affiliation, if applicable.

MOTION: OCELLO

SECOND: SISZ

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: OCELLO, SISZ, MOJENA

NAYS: TALLON

ABSTAIN: NONE

ABSENT: GOLEND A

CERTIFICATION

I, LINDA SEMUS, RMC, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Mansfield, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and accurate copy of the resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Mansfield, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey at a meeting held on ~~January 3, 2021~~ at the Mansfield Township Municipal Complex.

LINDA SEMUS, RMC, CMR, Municipal Clerk