

The Denton City Council has adopted rules of procedure including a code of conduct that applies to citizens as well as Council members. These rules were enacted to promote an orderly process and to preserve decorum. Here is a brief review of the rules that ~~applies~~ apply to citizen's reports.

Citizens will have three (3) minutes to give a scheduled citizen report and four (4) minutes to give an "open mike" report. There will be an electronic bell when time has expired. If the remarks are not concluded by that time, the citizen will be asked to stop speaking. If the citizen does not cease, and a second request is made, the mayor will request to have the citizen removed from the council chambers.

Citizens are asked not to approach the dais. If a citizen has papers or other materials to hand out to the Council, please let the City Secretary know and she will have a staff member distribute the materials to the council.

~~The Attorney General has ruled that Council members may listen to citizens speak and may ask questions of citizens for clarification of the issue. Council members will not engage citizens in discussion of a topic, because to do so could potentially be a violation of the open meetings act.~~

For scheduled citizen reports, the Council has enacted a temporary pilot program whereby at the conclusion of a speaker's report, the Council may pose questions to the speaker or engage in discussion concerning the report. Such questions or discussion shall not exceed two (2) minutes. If the Council believes that a speaker's report requires a more detailed review, the Council will direct the City Manager to place the item on a future work session or regular meeting.

For non-scheduled "open mike" citizen reports, the Council may listen to citizens speak. However because no notice of the subject of the "open mike" report has been provided to the public in advance, the Texas Open Meetings Act limits any deliberation or decision by the Council to: (1) a proposal to place the item on a future agenda; (2) a statement of factual policy; or (3) a recitation of existing policy.

When speaking to the Council, citizens are to direct all remarks and questions to the Council as a whole and not to any individual member. Please refrain from making abusive, personal, impertinent, profane or slanderous remarks. Anyone who violates this Council rule of procedure will immediately be removed from the Council Chambers.

Citizens adherence to these rules will help make an effective presentation and will preserve the order and decorum of our proceedings. Copies of the rules of procedure are available from the City Secretary.