

**COUNTY OF BERGEN
BOROUGH OF PARAMUS
ORDINANCE 2021-41**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND PART I, ADMINISTRATIVE LEGISLATION,
CHAPTER 6, ADMINISTRATIVE CODE
OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS**

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Paramus, County of Bergen and State of New Jersey, that Part I, Administrative Legislation, Chapter 6, Administrative Code, of the Code of the Borough of Paramus, is hereby amended as follows:

Section 1. The current text of Borough Ordinance, that Part I, Administrative Legislation, Chapter 6, Administrative Code, is hereby amended as follows:

§ 6-3 Presiding officer.

The Presiding Officer shall be the Mayor, or in their absence, the President of the Council and the Chairperson, or in their absence, the Vice-Chairperson or, in their absence, the most senior member. Seniority shall be determined by length of service on the Council. If two or more members have equal seniority, the determination shall be alphabetical

§ 6-26 Participation by Members of the Public:

- A. Any member of the public may address the Mayor and Council, Commission, or other municipal entity on a matter listed on their agenda or any subject of interest involving the Borough of Paramus.
- B. Those members of the public who wish to speak during a public meeting may address the Mayor and Council, Commission or other municipal entity only when the public portion has been opened by majority vote.
- C. No person shall begin addressing the Mayor and Council, Commission or other municipal entity without first being recognized by the Presiding Officer.
- D. Unless specifically provided by law, each person addressing the Mayor and Council, Commission or other municipal entity shall proceed to the microphone provided for the public, give their name and address in an audible tone of voice for the record, and state the subject they wish to discuss. Only the member of the public so recognized, members of the Mayor and Council, Commission or other municipal entity, and the Borough's legal representation are permitted to enter into a discussion. No question may be asked of Borough staff without the permission of the Presiding Officer who shall first confer with the Borough's legal representation.

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- E. Each person providing testimony to the Mayor and Council, Commission or other municipal entity whether during the public speaking portion of the meeting or during the public hearing on second reading of ordinances, shall limit their remarks to three minutes. After a person has spoken for three minutes, the Presiding Officer shall notify them that their time has expired. The Mayor and Council, Commission or other municipal entity may relax this time limitation in the interest of justice.
- F. Any group of persons with a commonality of interest may appoint a spokesperson to present on behalf of the group as a whole. The appointment of a spokesperson shall not preclude an individual from presenting on their own behalf. In order to promote governmental efficiency, the Presiding Officer shall have the right to interject when presentations become repetitive.
- G. After a motion has been made to close the public portion of a hearing, no member of the public shall address the Mayor and Council, Commission or other municipal entity from the audience on the matter under consideration without first securing permission by the Presiding Officer.
- H. No person in the audience shall engage in disorderly conduct such as hand clapping, stamping of feet, whistling, using profane language, shouting and other similar demonstrations which disturb the peace and order of the meeting.
- I. Any person making personal, slanderous or profane remarks or who willfully utters threatening or abusive language or otherwise engages in disorderly conduct shall be called to order by the Presiding Officer. If such conduct continues the Presiding Officer may, at their discretion, order such person barred from further participation during that meeting.
- J. If after receiving a call to order from the Presiding Officer, a person persists in disturbing the meeting, the Presiding Officer may order that person to leave the meeting. If the person does not voluntarily remove themselves from the meeting chambers, the Presiding Officer may order the Sergeant-at-Arms to remove them.
- K. Any active sworn officer of the Paramus Police Department shall be considered the Sergeant-at-Arms. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall carry out all orders given by the Presiding Officer for the purpose of maintaining order and decorum at the meeting.
- L. Any person who resists removal by the Sergeant-at-Arms shall be charged with violating N.J.S.A. 2C:33-8, Disrupting meetings and processions.
- M. Any person may videotape, audiotape or photograph the public portion of a municipal proceeding. Such conduct shall not to interfere with the

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proceedings. The Presiding Officer may direct the activities of such persons to ensure an orderly meeting.

Section 3. Any ordinance or part thereof inconsistent with this ordinance is repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect following adoption and approval in a time and manner provided by law.

ATTEST:



ANNEMARIE KRUSZNIS, RMC
Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF PARAMUS



RICHARD A. LABARBIERA
Mayor

Introduced: September 14, 2021

Final: September 29, 2021