Resolution 25-11-02

RESOLUTION ADOPTING RULES OF DECORUM FOR ALL MEETINGS OF PUBLIC BODIES OF THE TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH

WHEREAS, the Town Council desires to adopt Rules of Decorum to guide and govern the attendance and participation by members of the public in meetings of public bodies of the Town of Atlantic Beach to promote courtesy, civility, and mutual respect; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council that the following Rules of Decorum be adopted to be employed in all meetings of public bodies of the Town of Atlantic Beach:

1. Members of the public shall refrain from personal attacks and/or threats directed towards Town staff, elected or appointed Town officials, or other members of the public.

2. Members of the public shall be civil and courteous in their language and presentation. Insults, profanity, use of vulgar language or gestures, or other inappropriate behavior are not allowed. Members of the public shall refrain from engaging in harassing or intimidating behavior towards any person present in the meeting room.

3. Speakers shall limit their comments to matters that are germane to, or within the jurisdiction of the Town Council, Planning Board, or Board of Adjustment of the Town of Atlantic Beach, as the case may be.

4. Campaigning for political office shall be disallowed by the Chair.

5. Speakers shall address the Chair with any, and all public comments. Comments, questions, jeering, or other interruptions from the audience are not allowed. Speakers shall likewise not address or respond to members of the audience.

6. During Public Comment periods, speakers should not expect Board members to comment on or respond to their comments directly during the meeting. The Chair, or presiding officer may, however, request the Town Manager's office to follow up with a speaker after the meeting or provide additional information to the Board at a later date.

7. The Chair, or presiding officer, has the authority to enforce the Rules of Decorum. Failure to obey these Rules may result in the forfeiture of the remaining speaking time and possible criminal charges. Individuals who engage in egregious or repeated violations may be asked to leave the meeting. Speakers and members of the audience should note the following penalty set forth in North Carolina General Statutes § 143-318.17:

   "A person who willfully interrupts, disturbs, or disrupts an official meeting and who, upon being directed to leave the meeting by the presiding officer, willfully refuses to leave the meeting is guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor."

8. These Rules of Decorum shall apply to all members of the public while in the meeting room, whether before, during, or after the adjournment of the meeting of the public body. Members of the Town Council, Planning Board, and Board of Adjustment are present in the meeting room in their official capacity for the duration of their presence in the meeting room for meetings of the public body of which they are members.

9. North Carolina criminal laws prohibiting communicating threats, stalking, disorderly conduct, and failure to disperse when commanded shall also be enforced during public meetings of the Town of Atlantic Beach.

Adopted this the 24th day of November, 2025.

TOWN OF ATLANTIC BEACH

(seal)

ATTEST:

Danny Navey – Mayor

Sabrina Simpson, Deputy Clerk