



City of Watertown City Council Rules of Conduct for Public Meetings

Pursuant to the City of Watertown Resolution – Adopting Rules of Conduct for Public Meetings of the City Council adopted on July 7, 2025, the City Council sets forth the following rules of conduct to be followed by attendees during Privilege of the Floor and the duration of all City Council meetings:

Please note: the existing rules regarding Privilege of the Floor, as outlined in Watertown City Code §A3221-3(B), remain in full effect and shall apply in conjunction with the rules below.

These rules do not prohibit public criticism of City officers or employees, including criticism of any act, omission, policy, procedure, program, or service.

- Profane, vulgar, or threatening language is not permitted.
- Conduct which disrupts another speaker's presentation, such as interrupting, heckling or clapping, is not permitted.
- Signs, flyers and banners are permitted but shall not exceed the size of 12" by 12" and/or obstruct the view of other attendees. Signage with profane, vulgar or threatening language is not permitted.
- Backpacks, large bags, and sharp objects are not permitted.
- Food and beverages are not permitted, except for water.
- Cell phones and any other electronic devices must be placed on silent prior to entering Council Chambers.
- Attendees should minimize disruptions by limiting movement in and out of the room when possible. Reasonable accommodations will be made for medical or accessibility needs.
- Attendees are expected to remain seated. Standing is permitted if all seats are occupied or if an individual is addressing the Council.
- Attendees are expected to remain behind the barrier before, during, and after the meeting.

Individuals or groups failing to adhere to these rules will be asked to cease such disruptive conduct and failure to comply will result in their being subject to removal from the meeting.

Pursuant to New York Penal Law §265.01-e, weapons – are strictly prohibited in this building, which is designated as a sensitive location.