

Mr. Danny Edwards, Mayor

Mr. Danny Woodward, Mayor Pro Tem
Ms. Sarai Melendez, Councilwoman
Mr. Keith Pace, Councilman
Mr. Tyler Jordan, Councilman

Mr. Grant Keehn, Councilman
Mr. David Underwood, Councilman
Mr. Michael Kozlarek, City Attorney
Mr. Timothy B. Burton, City Administrator

AGENDA

WALHALLA CITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Sept 6, 2022

5:30 PM

Walhalla City Hall

206 N Church St, Walhalla, SC 29691

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

Mayor Edwards

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Edwards

PUBLIC INPUT (Public Comment is limited to 5 minutes and must be directed to Council, per City Ordinance 2020-17)

STAFF REPORTS

PARKS & RECREATION- Director John Galbreath

PUBLIC WORKS -Director Russ Price

POLICE DEPARTMENT- Chief Tim Rice

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT- Director Scott Parris

FIRE DEPARTMENT - Chief Will Bates

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Main Street- Director Libby Imbody
2. Codes/Zoning- Administrator Brandon Burton

GENERAL GOVERNMENT-Administrator Brandon Burton

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS (to include Vote and/or Action on matters brought up for discussion, if required)

1. Discussion of meeting and facility rules- General government

CITY OF WALHALLA

"MAIN STREET to the MOUNTAINS"

Mr. Danny Edwards, Mayor

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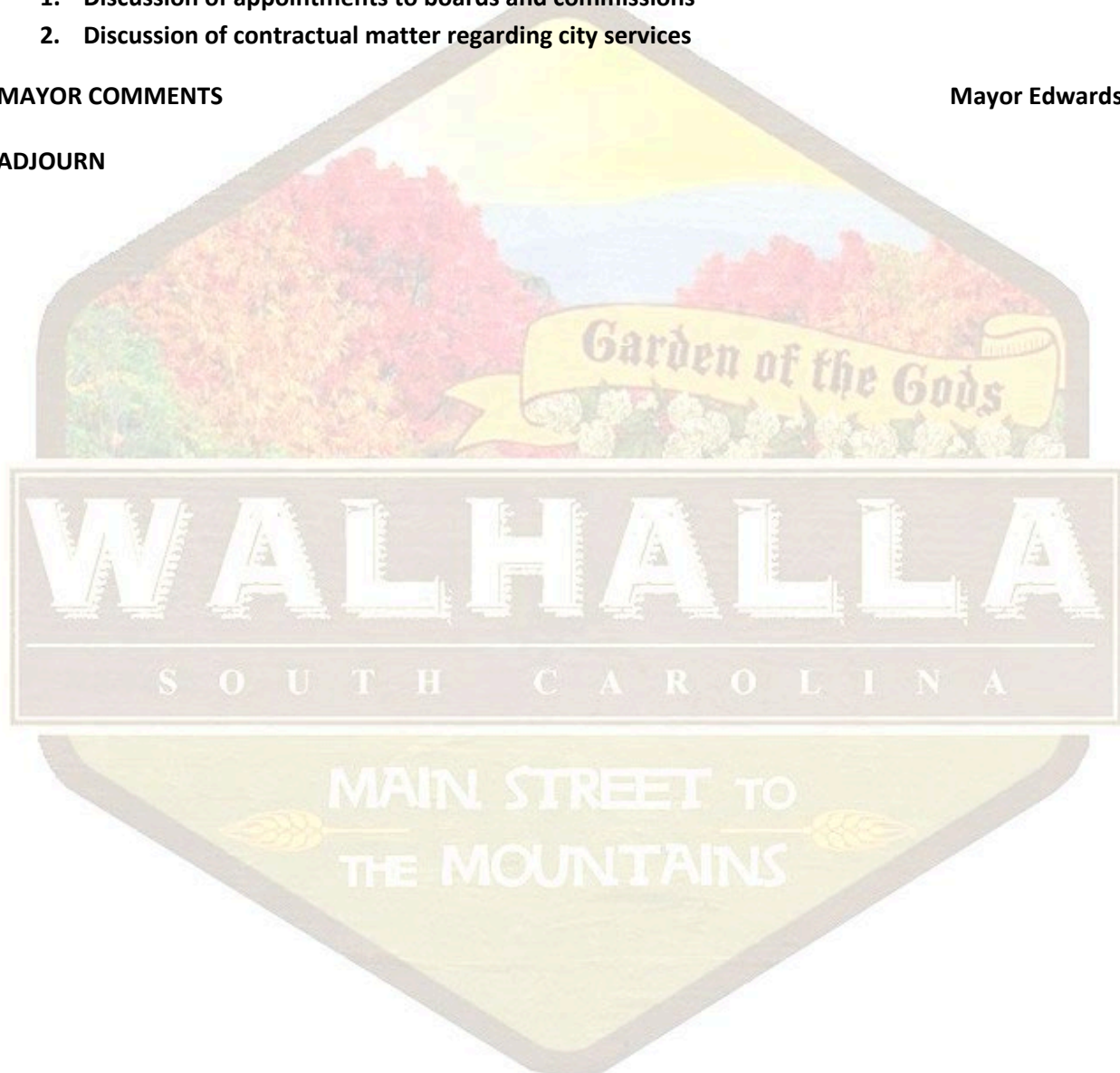
EXECUTIVE SESSION (to include Vote and/or Action on matters brought up for discussion, if required)

1. Discussion of appointments to boards and commissions
2. Discussion of contractual matter regarding city services

MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Edwards

ADJOURN



Hispanic Heritage Month 2022
A Proclamation by
Mayor of the City of Walhalla

Whereas, throughout our city's history many Hispanic immigrants have come to Walhalla for a new opportunity; and

Whereas, Hispanics represent many countries and cultures, each adding unique perspectives to our city and communities; and

Whereas, Hispanic Americans have made tremendous contributions to the United States and continue to make advances and impacts through business, technology, politics, military, human rights, education, medicine, art, culture, and public service; and

Whereas, Hispanic Americans are dedicated public servants, holding posts at the highest levels of the federal government of the United States, including 1 seat on the Supreme Court of the United States; and

Whereas, Hispanic Americans represent one of the fastest growing ethnic groups in South Carolina, which make- up almost 7% of South Carolina's population; in addition, Walhalla's Hispanic population is 27% enriching our communities through their commitment to faith, work, and family; and

Whereas, many new and rising business owners in Walhalla are Hispanic Americans and contribute to our local economy; and

Whereas, President Johnson began the celebration in 1968 with Congress making it a month-long celebration in 1988; and

Whereas, The Hispanic Heritage Month national theme is "Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation." The theme encourages us to ensure that all voices are represented and welcomed to help build stronger communities and a stronger nation; and

Whereas, the City of Walhalla is proud to join the nation in celebrating the rich culture and history of Hispanic Heritage.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Danny Edwards, Mayor of Walhalla, S.C. hereby proclaim September 15-October 15, 2022, as **HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH** throughout the City of Walhalla and encourage our citizens to learn more about the rich Hispanic culture, traditions, and history, and celebrate the contributions that have been made to our country and community by Hispanic Americans.

Danny Edwards, Mayor

Attest

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)

COUNTY OF OCONEE)

ORDINANCE 2022-7

CITY OF WALHALLA)

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR RULES OF CONDUCT FOR CITY FACILITIES AND PROPERTIES

WHEREAS, The City of Walhalla desires to provide a safe environment for visitors, employees, citizens, and officials; and

WHEREAS, the City of Walhalla is committed to making its facilities and properties that safe environment; and

PURPOSE

The City Council (the “Council”) of the City of Walhalla (the “Municipality”) is committed to protecting the rights of citizens under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, while implementing policies and procedures that protect the health, safety, welfare, and personal privacy of the Municipality’s employees and the general public who do business with or use the services of the Municipality. This policy (this “Policy”) is intended to delineate those portions of the Municipality Property (as defined herein) that are accessible to and observable by the general public from those portions that are accessible on a limited basis, establish rules of conduct that are applicable to all Municipality Property, and specify procedures for Municipality employees who encounter those who wish to access Municipality Property for observational purposes.

The city council has determined that it is necessary to regulate access to city facilities, grounds and property in order to ensure the safety and security of the public who visit these areas or the city employees who serve them. The conduct of persons who visit city facilities and/or who have contact with city employees must also be regulated to preserve public order, peace and safety. The regulation of access and conduct must be balanced with the right of the public to have reasonable access to public facilities and to receive friendly, professional service from city employees. These regulations apply to all city facilities as defined below, for and over which city council exercises control and regulation, and to the extent, only, not pre-empted by state or federal law.

DEFINITIONS

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this section, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this subsection, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Facility means any building, structure, or real property owned, leased, rented, operated or occupied by the city or one of its departments, offices, or agencies.

“Limited Access Area” means any designated area on Municipality Property that is not generally open to or occupied by the public; is open to or occupied by the public on only a limited, as-needed, or by-invitation basis; or is in an area generally open to or occupied by the public in close proximity to where private third parties conduct business with Municipality employees. Limited Access Areas may be designated by doors, physical barriers, building design features,

signage, reception desks or stations, stanchions, ropes, fencing, bollards, or other visible indications. The lack of visible indications shall not prevent the Municipality from considering or treating an area as a Limited Access Area. The Municipality shall retain the right to verbally instruct third parties that an area is a Limited Access Area. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, Limited Access Areas include but are not limited to the following:

- a) Employee offices.
- b) Employee workspaces including copy rooms, mailrooms, and break areas.
- c) Employee parking lots, storage areas, access points, or other outside areas marked for use by Municipality employees or vehicles only.
- d) Areas in close proximity to places, stations, desks, counters, or teller windows at which private third parties conduct business with Municipality employees.
- e) Hallways, staircases, restrooms, elevators, and other areas by purpose or function restricted to limited or transitory occupancy or providing access solely to other Limited Access Areas.
- f) Maintenance, storage, and warehousing facilities.
- g) Public works and public safety buildings, except for any designated waiting or reception areas therein.
- h) Water, sewer, and other public utility facilities.

“Municipality Official” means, for purposes of this policy:

- a) Any Municipality law enforcement officer.
- b) Any person providing security services in any Municipality Property pursuant to contract with the Municipality or with any person, firm, or corporation managing a Municipality Property on the Municipality’s behalf.
- c) With respect to any building, facility, area, or space assigned to a Municipality department, division, or agency, the director or manager of such department, division, or agency, or any person that such official specifically designates in writing.
- d) The Municipality Administrator, any Assistant Municipality Administrator, additional officer, or any person that such officials specifically designate in writing.

“Municipality Property” means any real property owned by the Municipality or in which the Municipality has a property interest or property management responsibility

“Public Area” means any area on Municipality Property that is generally open to general public access and occupancy that is not otherwise designated as a Limited Access Area.

“Rules of Conduct” means the specific guidelines set forth in this policy.

RULES OF CONDUCT ON MUNICIPALITY PROPERTY

To maintain an environment that promotes orderly administrative and business operations, and to take reasonable and prudent actions to protect the health, welfare, safety, and personal privacy of all persons at Municipality Property, the Rules of Conduct in this section apply and are to be enforced at all Municipality Property except where specific rules of conduct or prohibitions have been adopted for designated Municipality Property.

Rules of Conduct Applicable to All Municipality Property. The following Rules of Conduct shall apply at all Municipality Property, including both Public Areas and Limited Access Areas:

- a) No person shall enter, attempt to enter, or remain in any areas of Municipality Property for any purpose other than to conduct legitimate business with Municipality offices or tenants located at Municipality Property, to enjoy publicly accessible amenities in Public Areas, to lawfully assemble for social or public interaction in Public Areas specifically designated for such assembly, or to exercise other constitutionally protected rights. The appropriate Municipality Officials may adopt specific policies with respect to Municipality Property under their custody and control to manage conditions for use of such Municipality Property including without limitation to establish hours and terms of use, reservation protocols, use and user priority, and fees for use.
- b) No person shall engage in any activity on Municipality Property that would constitute a violation of federal, state, or local law or regulation.
- c) No person shall engage in activity that disrupts or interferes with the normal operation or administration of Municipality business at Municipality Property, lawful use by Municipality employees and authorized users at Municipality Property, or Municipality-permitted activities.
- d) No person shall stalk, harass, threaten, intimidate, or otherwise compromise the wellbeing and safety of Municipality employees or private third parties lawfully using Municipality Property. Photography, audio recording, or video recording does not, in and of itself, violate this Rule of Conduct. Likewise, conduct that would otherwise violate this Rule of Conduct shall not be permitted merely because the conduct involves photography, audio recording, or video recording.
- e) No person shall interfere or obstruct the free passage of Municipality employees or authorized third parties in or on Municipality Property, including without limitation by standing in, blocking access to, or occupying areas for purposes of photography, audio recording, or video recording.
- f) No person shall photograph, audio record, or video record in such a manner that would allow capture of, access to, or disclosure of private, personal, confidential, sensitive, or privileged information of private third parties. The Municipality may enforce this Rule of Conduct by imposing minimum standing or separation distances from areas, stations, desks, counters, or teller windows at which private third parties conduct business with Municipality employees.

Limited Access Areas The following Rules of Conduct shall apply at all Limited Access Areas:

- a) Limited Access Areas shall be accessible only to the following: (i) employees, elected officials, and appointed officials of the Municipality; and (ii) private parties but only on a limited, as-needed, or by-invitation basis, to include those private parties accessing a Limited Access Area for the express purpose of conducting business with Municipality employees.
 - b) Photography, audio recording, and video recording is prohibited in Limited Access Areas, except as follows: (i) any Municipality Official may authorize audio or video recording or photography in Limited Access Areas, for good cause shown, with the consent of all parties to be recorded or photographed, provided that any Municipality Official may impose appropriate and reasonable conditions on the recording or photography to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of confidential information; and (ii) audio and video recording and photography may be permitted in Limited Access Areas when specifically authorized by applicable law or agreements.
 - c) No person shall photograph, audio record, or video record any private third party lawfully entering into, using, or occupying a Limited Access Area without the express consent of such third party.
- (c) *Prohibited acts.* It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- (1) Utter loud, obscene, profane, threatening, disruptive or abusive language or to engage in any disorderly or disruptive conduct that impedes, disrupts or disturbs the orderly proceedings of operations of any department or function of the city government.
- (2) Bring, carry, or otherwise introduce any firearm, knife with blade longer than two inches or other dangerous weapon, concealed or not concealed, into any facility or meeting. This prohibition does not apply to law enforcement personnel or any other person whose official, governmental duties require them to carry such firearm, knife, or other weapon.
- (3) Engage in partisan political activity, including speech, not authorized and called for the purpose of partisan political activity and explicitly authorized for such purpose in the facility in which such activity is to be conducted, or refusing to cease such activity when the activity in question is partisan political activity and it has been directed that such activity stop.
- (4) Interfere with, impede, hinder or obstruct any city governmental official or employee in the performance of his duties, whether or not on city government property.
- (5) Enter any area of a city government facility, grounds or property when such entry is prohibited by signs, or obstructed or enclosed by gates, fencing or other physical barriers. Such areas include rooms if clearly marked with signs to prohibit unauthorized entry.
- (6) Enter by vehicle any area of a city governmental facility, grounds or property when such area is prohibited by signs or markings or are obstructed by physical barriers; or park a vehicle in such restricted areas; or park in a manner to block, partially block or impede the passage of traffic in driveways; or park within 15 feet of a fire hydrant or in a fire zone; or park in any area not designated as a parking space; or park in a handicapped parking space without proper placarding or license plate; or park in a reserved parking space without authorization.
- (7) Use any city governmental facility, grounds or other property for any purpose not authorized by law or expressly permitted by officials responsible for the premises.
- (8) Enter without authorization or permission or refuse to leave any city governmental facility, grounds or other property after hours of operation.
- (9) Obstruct or impede passage within a building, grounds or other property of any city governmental facility.
- (10) Enter, without legal cause or good excuse, a city governmental facility, grounds or property after having been warned not to do so; or, having entered such property, fail and refuse without legal cause or good excuse to leave immediately upon being ordered or requested to do so by an official, employee, agent or representative responsible for premises.
- (11) Damage, deface, injure or attempt to damage, deface or injure a city governmental property, whether real property or otherwise.
- (12) Enter or attempt to enter any restricted or nonpublic ingress point or any restricted access area, or bypass or attempt to bypass the designated public entrance or security checkpoint of a facility without authorization or permission.
- (13) Perform any act which circumvents, disables or interferes with or attempts to circumvent, disable or interfere with a facility's security system, alarm system, camera system, door lock or other intrusion prevention or detection device. This includes, without limitation, opening, blocking open, or otherwise disabling an alarmed or locked door or other

opening that would allow the entry of an unauthorized person into a facility or restricted access area of the facility.

- (14) Exit or attempt to exit a facility through an unauthorized egress point or alarmed door.

EXCLUSION

If a person violates these Rules of Conduct while in or upon Municipality Property, any Municipality Official may eject and direct such person to leave Municipality Property for a period of up to 24 hours. It shall not be necessary for such Municipality Official to allege any crime or other violation of applicable law other than these Rules of Conduct in order to support such notice of exclusion; *provided* that violation of such notice of exclusion may be deemed a trespass under applicable law. The notice of exclusion shall be in writing, given to the person excluded and signed by the Municipality Official. It shall specify the dates and places of exclusion and shall contain a warning of consequences for failure to comply with the notice of exclusion.

SECURITY PROCEDURES

- a) Any person may photograph, film, or record audio of any Public Area. Any such activity should be reported to a Municipality Official, preferably a law enforcement officer if possible.
- b) Municipality employees should refrain from engaging with photographers and videographers wherever possible. Municipality employees should monitor photographers or videographers on Municipality Property, but should refrain from engaging them unless they violate any Rule of Conduct. In the event that engagement is necessary, every effort should be made to respond calmly without escalating the encounter.
- c) A Municipality employee who does not wish to be photographed or recorded may retire to a Limited Access Area.
- d) Municipality employees are not required to respond to questions or demands from any photographer or videographer, and should refrain from doing so if possible.
- e) Municipality employees may invite a private third party conducting business with the Municipality and who do not wish to be photographed or filmed to retire to a more private Limited Access Area in order to complete any business or transaction.
- f) Municipality law enforcement officers may approach photographers and videographers upon a complaint from a member of the public or Municipality employees that the activity is suspicious or based upon their own observation that the activity is suspicious or inconsistent with this Policy. This Policy neither limits nor expands the authority of Municipality law enforcement officers to initiate and pursue investigations, to perform pat downs or frisks based upon reasonable suspicion, or to conduct searches based upon probable cause in accordance with legal authority. Photography, audio recording, or video recording does not, in and of itself, rise to the level of reasonable suspicion or probable cause.

Penalty for violation of section. Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be punished in accordance with applicable state statutes. In addition, vehicles that are improperly parked on any city property, facility, or other premises may be towed at the owner's expense.

Signatures follow on next page

NOW THEREFORE: it is ordained and enacted that: by the Mayor and Council members of the Municipality of Walhalla, in Council assembled:

AND IS DONE AND RATIFIED in Council Duly assembled this _____ Day of _____ 2022.

Danny Edwards, Mayor

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

Timothy B. Burton, City Administrator

Introduced By: _____

First Reading: _____

Public Hearing,
Second Reading
And Adoption: _____

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)

COUNTY OF OCONEE) ORDINANCE NO. 2022-8

CITY OF WALHALLA)

**AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR RULES OF DECORUM
AT PUBLIC MEETINGS**

WHEREAS, Section 5-7-250 of the South Carolina Code requires that the Council shall determine its own rules and order of business and shall provide for the keeping of minutes of its proceedings which shall be a public record; and

WHEREAS, a majority of Americans believe that our society is increasingly uncivil and that this problem is particularly acute and particularly detrimental in national, state and local political arenas where it threatens government’s ability to function democratically and effectively; and

WHEREAS, across the nation many groups have adopted policies and rules to enhance civility and decorum at public meetings; and

WHEREAS, in keeping with this national trend many cities have approved policies to promote civility and maintain decorum at local public meetings; and

WHEREAS, the defining characteristics of the City of Walhalla include its commitment to the democratic process, individual rights of expression, robust debate and tolerance for disparate views; and

WHEREAS, the Walhalla City Council, the City’s boards and commissions, other public bodies and various community groups all convene public meetings to address controversial issues that engender passionate and often conflicting opinions; and

WHEREAS, an atmosphere of incivility and disrespect at these meetings can stifle participation and debate, threaten the quality of decisions and undermine the local democratic process; and

WHEREAS, adopting rules of decorum applicable to all public meetings will help ensure that civic engagement and local democracy continue to flourish in Walhalla.

ARTICLE I

The purpose of the public comment/public hearing is to allow citizens of the municipality or others who have standing in the municipality an opportunity to tell members of city council their opinions or comments. It is not intended to be a debate or a dialogue. Therefore, no response by councilmembers during the public comment or public hearing should be expected. Meetings of the City Council shall be conducted, by the City Council, in an orderly manner to ensure that the City Council has an opportunity to hear members of the public and that the orderly and deliberative process of the City Council is maintained at all times by the City Council. The presiding officer of the City Council, who shall be the Mayor,

Vice Mayor or, in their absence, other member so designated by the City Council, shall be responsible for maintaining the order and decorum of meetings.

ARTICLE II

Rules of Decorum. While any meeting of the City Council is in session, the following rules of order and decorum shall be observed:

1. Councilmembers. The members of the City Council shall preserve order and decorum, and a member shall not by conversation or other means delay or interrupt the City Council proceedings or disturb any other member while that member, who has been recognized by the presiding officer to speak, so has the floor to speak.

- a) Members of the City Council shall not use or make inappropriate, vulgar, opprobrious words or offensive comments.
- b) Members shall maintain a civil and courteous manner and tone.
- c) Members of the City Council shall only speak to the matter currently under consideration by the City Council.
- d) During presentations, discussion or debate, members of the City Council shall refrain from communicating among each other, giving attention and due respect for the speaker or council member addressing the body.
- e) While a member of the City Council has the floor, members of council and members of the public shall not interrupt the speaker unless the speaker is ruled out of order.
- f) A member who violates any rule of decorum may be ruled out of order by the presiding officer.
- g) A member who violates the rules of decorum may be removed from the meeting according to applicable rules.

2. City Staff Members. Employees of the City shall observe the same rules of order and decorum as those which apply to the City Council.

3. Persons Addressing the City Council. Public comment/public hearing at the City Council meetings should not be a substitute for any item that can be handled during the normal working hours of the municipal government. The primary purpose of public comment/public hearing is to allow citizens the opportunity formally to communicate with the City Council as a body, solely for matters that cannot be handled during the regular working hours of the City government. Each person who addresses the City Council shall do so in an orderly manner and shall not make personal, impertinent, defamatory, or profane remarks to any member of the City Council, staff, general public, or otherwise generally. Any person who makes such remarks, or who utters loud, threatening, personal or abusive language, or engages in any other disorderly conduct which disrupts, disturbs, or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of any City Council meeting shall, at the discretion of the presiding officer or a majority of the City Council, be barred from further audience before the City Council during that meeting and/or any future meeting(s).

4. Members of the Audience. A person in the audience at a City Council meeting shall not engage in disorderly or boisterous conduct, including the utterance of loud, threatening or abusive language, whistling, applause, booing, stamping of feet, or other acts which the presiding officer and/or the City Council deem to disturb, disrupt, or otherwise impede the

orderly conduct of any City Council meeting. Any person who conducts him or herself in the aforementioned manner shall, at the discretion of the presiding officer or a majority of the City Council, be barred from further audience before the City Council during that meeting and/or any future meeting(s).

5. Addressing the City Council. A person wishing to address the City Council regarding an item which is on the City Council meeting agenda shall submit a request on the form provided, or that person may orderly seek recognition by the presiding officer of the City Council during discussion of any such item. Persons wishing to discuss a non-agenda item may seek recognition by the presiding officer during the public comment/public hearing portion, if any, of the meeting. No person shall address the City Council without first being recognized by the presiding officer. The following procedures shall be observed by persons addressing the City Council:

- a) Each person shall step to the podium, if one is provided for the use of the public, or otherwise step to a place generally viewable by all members of City Council near the center of the meeting room, shall state the person's name and address, the organization, if any, which that person represents, and the subject that person wishes to discuss.
- b) Each person shall confine that person's remarks to the City Council agenda item or approved public comment/public hearing subject being discussed.
- c) Each person shall limit that person's remarks to three minutes, unless further time is granted by the presiding officer. The total time allotted for all public comment/public hearing is 20 minutes per meeting.
- d) All remarks shall be addressed to the City Council as a body and not to any single member thereof, unless in response to a question asked by a City Council member of the person speaking.
- e) No question may be asked of a member of the City Council or of the City staff without permission of the presiding officer.
- f) The presiding officer may determine the subject of a person's comments are not relevant for consideration and may direct the person speaking to suspend comments on that particular subject or otherwise to yield the floor.

No person, other than a Member of City Council and the speaker, shall be permitted to enter into any discussion, either directly or through a member of City Council, without the permission of the presiding officer. Failure to comply with this rule by those in attendance may lead to the termination of the public comment and/or the public hearing.

ARTICLE III

1. Enforcement of Decorum. The rules of decorum set forth above shall be enforced in the following manner:

2. Warning. The presiding officer shall request that any person who is breaching the rules of decorum be orderly and silent. If, after receiving a warning from the presiding officer, any person persists in disturbing the meeting, then the presiding officer shall order that person to leave the City Council meeting. If the person directed to leave fails to do so immediately, then the presiding officer may order any available City law enforcement

officer to remove that person from the City Council meeting. The presiding officer is entitled to warn and remove the entire audience from any City Council meeting.

3. Removal. Any available City law enforcement officer shall carry out all instructions given by the presiding officer for the purpose of maintaining order and decorum at the City Council meeting.

4. Resisting Removal. Any person who resists removal from a City Council meeting shall be charged with a violation of this section.

5. Penalty. A person who violates any provision of this Ordinance shall be criminally charged with a violation of South Carolina law with, for example, disorderly conduct, breach of peace, and assault.

6. Motion to Enforce. If the presiding officer of the City Council fails to enforce any portion of this Ordinance, then any member of the City Council may move to require the presiding officer to do so, and an affirmative vote of a majority of the City Council shall require the presiding officer to do so. If the presiding officer of the City Council fails to carry out the will of a majority of the City Council, then the majority may designate another member of the City Council to act as presiding officer for the limited purpose of enforcing this Ordinance.

7. Adjournment. If a meeting of the City Council is disturbed or disrupted in such a manner as to make infeasible or improbable the restoration of order, then the meeting may be adjourned or continued by the presiding officer or a majority of the City Council, and any remaining City Council business may be considered at the next meeting.

ARTICLE IV

Repeal of Conflicting. If anything in this ordinance conflicts with prior ordinances, that is repealed and replaced by this ordinance.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and the City council of the City of Walhalla in Council duly assembled and by the authority of the same:

DONE AND RATIFIED in council duly assembled this _____ day of _____ 2022.

By: _____
Danny Edwards, Mayor

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

By: _____
Timothy B. Burton, City Administrator

Introduced By: _____

First Reading: _____

Second Reading: _____

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)

COUNTY OF OCONEE)

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-9

CITY OF WALHALLA)

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR RULES OF DECORUM AT PUBLIC MEETINGS

WHEREAS, Section 5-7-250 of the South Carolina Code requires that the Council shall determine its own rules and order of business and shall provide for the keeping of minutes of its proceedings which shall be a public record; and

WHEREAS, a majority of Americans believe that our society is increasingly uncivil and that this problem is particularly acute and particularly detrimental in national, state and local political arenas where it threatens government’s ability to function democratically and effectively; and

WHEREAS, across the nation many groups have adopted policies and rules to enhance civility and decorum at public meetings; and

WHEREAS, in keeping with this national trend many cities have approved policies to promote civility and maintain decorum at local public meetings; and

WHEREAS, the defining characteristics of the City of Walhalla include its commitment to the democratic process, individual rights of expression, robust debate and tolerance for disparate views; and

WHEREAS, the Walhalla City Council, the City’s boards and commissions, other public bodies and various community groups all convene public meetings to address controversial issues that engender passionate and often conflicting opinions; and

WHEREAS, an atmosphere of incivility and disrespect at these meetings can stifle participation and debate, threaten the quality of decisions and undermine the local democratic process; and

WHEREAS, adopting rules of decorum applicable to all public meetings will help ensure that civic engagement and local democracy continue to flourish in Walhalla.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the public forum/public hearing is to allow citizens of the municipality or others who have standing in the municipality an opportunity to tell members of city council their opinions or comments. It is not intended to be a debate or a dialogue. Therefore, no response by councilmembers during the public forum or public hearing should be

expected. Meetings of boards and commissions shall be conducted in an orderly manner to ensure that the public has a full opportunity to be heard and that the deliberative process of the City Council is retained at all times. The presiding officer of the City Council, who shall be the Mayor, Vice Mayor or, in their absence, other member so designated by the City Council, shall be responsible for maintaining the order and decorum of meetings.

PROVISIONS:

A. General Guidelines

The City has numerous public meetings such as Commission meetings, Board meetings, etc. (hereinafter "Public Meetings"). In order to safeguard participatory democracy in Walhalla, all persons attending Public Meetings in Walhalla should strive to:

- Treat everyone courteously
- Listen to others respectfully
- Exercise self-control
- Give open-minded consideration to all viewpoints
- Focus on the issues and avoid personalizing debate
- Embrace respectful disagreement and dissent as democratic rights that are inherent components of an inclusive public process and tools for forging sound decisions.

B. Rules of Decorum

1. No person attending a Public Meetings shall engage in disorderly or boisterous conduct—including but not limited to applause, whistling, stamping of feet, booing, or making any loud, threatening, profane, abusive, personal, impertinent, or slanderous utterance—that disturbs, disrupts, or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of the meeting.
2. All remarks by members of the public shall be addressed to the Chair (hereinafter "Presiding Officer") and not to any other member of the public or to any single Board or Commission Member unless in response to a question from that Member.
3. Signs, placards, banners, or other similar items shall not be permitted in the audience during a Public Meeting if the presence of such item disturbs, disrupts or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of the meeting.
4. All persons attending a Public Meeting shall remain seated in the seats provided, unless addressing the body at the podium or entering or leaving the meeting.
5. All persons attending a Public Meeting shall obey any lawful order of the Presiding Officer to enforce the Rules of Decorum.

C. Enforcement of the Rules of Decorum

1. The Presiding Officer shall be responsible for maintaining the decorum at the

- Public Meeting and uniformly enforcing the Rules of Decorum.
2. In the event that any person breaches the Rules of Decorum in a manner that disturbs, disrupts, or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of the meeting, the Presiding Officer shall order that person to cease the offending conduct.
 3. If any person continues to breach the Rules of Decorum in a manner that disturbs, disrupts, or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of the meeting following an order from the Presiding Officer to cease the offending conduct, the Presiding Officer may order that person to leave the Public Meeting.
 4. If any person refuses to leave the Public Meeting following an order from the Presiding Officer to do so, the Presiding Officer may order any law enforcement officer on duty to remove that person from the Public Meeting.
 5. A person who violates any provision of this Ordinance shall be criminally charged with a violation of South Carolina law with, for example, disorderly conduct, breach of peace, and assault.

The City Council, all City Boards and Commissions, and City staff shall promote the use of and adherence to these guidelines for behavior at all public meetings within the City.

Repeal of Conflicting. If anything in this ordinance conflicts with prior ordinances, that is repealed and replaced by this ordinance.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and the City council of the City of Walhalla in Council duly assembled and by the authority of the same:

DONE AND RATIFIED in council duly assembled this _____ day of _____ 2022.

By: _____
 Danny Edwards, Mayor

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

By: _____
 Timothy B. Burton, City Administrator

Introduced By: _____

First Reading: _____

Second Reading
and Public Review: _____