

# RESOLUTION

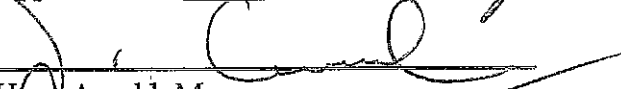
## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN COUNCIL MEETINGS POLICY

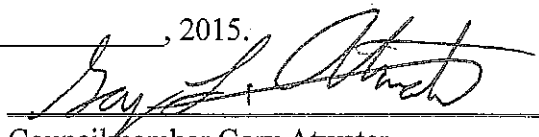
Meetings of the City of Thomaston Mayor and City Council are structured to allow the Council to conduct its public business. Meetings of the Council are open to the public, but are not to be confused with public forums. When time permits, the City Council as a matter of general operating procedure offers an opportunity for citizens to address the Council in Public Comment session. The following rules shall be adhered to:

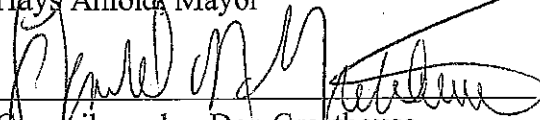
1. To be placed on the agenda, individuals must request in writing at least by noon Thursday prior to the regular bi-monthly meeting of the Council, that they be allowed to address the Council. The request must state clearly the topic or issue to be addressed.
2. Each person whose name is placed on the agenda will be given 5 minutes, to make their comments, but the total time allotted to citizen participation will be limited to 30 minutes.
3. Where several citizens wish to address the same topic or issue, the Council reserves the right to further limit discussions should they become repetitive.
4. While citizens may use their allotted time to take serious issue with Council decisions, the Council will not permit anyone to become personally abusive of individual board members or city employees.
5. When issues arise that stimulate high community interest, the Mayor and Council may schedule special meetings specifically to invite public comment. In those circumstances, the Mayor and Council will establish special guidelines for participation.
6. The Council will not respond to comments or questions posed by citizens in their presentations, but will take those comments and questions under advisement.
7. The Council reserves the right to determine the number of times it will re-visit any given issue. The City Council, by majority vote, may extend or further limit the time allotted for citizen participation.

When citizens address the Council with specific requests or concerns, the Council will reply with a written response to the person or group involved.

Approved this 17<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2015.

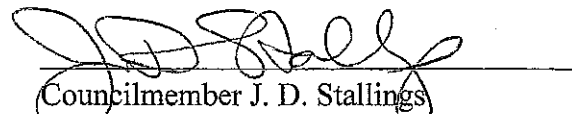
  
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Hays Arnold, Mayor

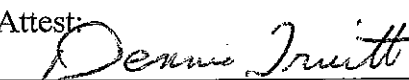
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmember Gary Atwater

  
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Councilmember Don Greathouse

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Mayor Pro Tem Doug Head

  
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Councilmember Patsy Perdue

  
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Councilmember J. D. Stallings

Attest:  
  
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Dennis Truitt, City Clerk

