

**ORDINANCE NO. 96-2**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF GREENWOOD, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR AND ESTABLISHING A PROCEDURE FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF ORDER DURING TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS AND FOR THE ORDERLY PRESENTATION OF SPEAKERS DURING TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS; PROVIDING A REPEALER, SEVERABILITY, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Greenwood, Florida, has determined that the efficiency of Town Council meetings would be promoted by establishment of clear procedures for the maintenance of order and the presentation of speakers at Town Council meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Greenwood encourages and fosters free speech and the free expression of ideas within the forum of Town Council Meetings and elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, to protect and promote the cherished rights of free speech of all citizens of the Town of Greenwood, it is desirable to establish reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions upon the behavior and speech of all those in attendance at Town Council meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Greenwood shall not place content restrictions upon speech pertaining to matters of public concern made in accordance with the reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions for such speech as established in this ordinance, but shall encourage the open expression of ideas;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GREENWOOD, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. NOTICE FOR AGENDA. All citizens desiring to address the Town Council at Town Council meetings shall request in writing that their name be placed on the agenda for the meeting which they desire to speak. Such written request shall be submitted to the Town Clerk at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the time scheduled for the meeting at which they desire to address the Town Council. The written request shall state the subject matters upon which the speaker desires to address the Town Council and shall state whether, due to extraordinary circumstances, more than fifteen minutes will be required for their presentation, and if so,

shall state the nature of the extraordinary circumstances. This forty-eight hour prior written notice may be waived in the discretion of the Town Council upon a showing of exigent circumstances.

SECTION 2. TIME LIMITS. Speakers making presentations to the Town Council shall be limited to fifteen (15) minutes per speaker, unless, in the discretion of the Town Council, extraordinary circumstances require more time allotted a speaker.

SECTION 3. NUMBER OF SPEAKERS. Unless in the discretion of the Town Council exigent circumstances exist, there shall be a limit of four (4) speakers placed on the agenda for any one Town Council meeting. Speakers shall be placed on the Agenda by the Town Clerk in the order of the submission of written requests made pursuant to Section One hereof, provided, however, that applicants who have not been on the agenda and addressed the Town Council within the three (3) months prior to the present request shall be given priority over applicants who have been on the agenda or addressed the Town Council within the three (3) months prior to the present request.

SECTION 4. MAINTENANCE OF ORDER DURING MEETINGS. Observers in attendance at Town Council meetings shall conduct themselves in an orderly fashion. No alcoholic beverages shall be allowed on the premises. No one in attendance shall disrupt the Town Council in the conduct of its business or disrupt the presentation of any speaker properly addressing the Town Council. Speakers addressing the Town Council shall conduct themselves in an orderly fashion and shall yield to the Mayor or any Council Member desiring to speak during their presentation to the Town Council. Anyone violating the provisions of this Section is subject to immediate expulsion<sup>(S.P.)</sup> from the premises by the Mayor or Council Member presiding over the meeting.

SECTION 4. REPEALER. The provisions of all ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are repealed.

SECTION 5. SEVERABILITY. If a Court of competent jurisdiction should determine that any provision or part of this ordinance is invalid for any reason, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions or parts of this ordinance.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall become effective upon its passage by the Town Council.

Proposed ordinance presented to the Town Council of the Town of Greenwood, Florida, and read in full, and discussed with an opportunity for interested persons to be heard at the March 11, 1996, regular meeting.

Proposed ordinance noticed once in a newspaper of general circulation in the Town of Greenwood, Florida, at least ten days prior to its adoption.

[Proposed ordinance read by title before the Town Council of the Town of Greenwood, Florida, at the April 9, 1996, meeting, interested parties who appeared before the Town Council being heard, and proposed ordinance passed by at least two affirmative votes of members of the Town Council of the Town of Greenwood, Florida, at said meeting]

Robert Walt  
Chairman of the Town Council

ATTEST:

Connie Dain  
Town Clerk

Approved by me on 9, April, 1996.

Gerald Pave  
Mayor

Copies of the foregoing ordinance have been posted in three public places including the office of the Town Clerk in the Town of Greenwood, Florida, for one week after its passage.

Connie Dain  
Town Clerk