

TOWN OF ST. JOHN, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA

ORDINANCE NO. 11023

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING PUBLIC MEETING PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES, PARAMETERS FOR THE PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION OF TOWN PUBLIC MEETINGS, AND ALL MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

WHEREAS, The Town Council of the Town of St. John, Lake County, Indiana (hereinafter, the "Town Council"), is the duly elected legislative body of the Town empowered by applicable law with the conduct of the legislative business of the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council, as required by applicable law, schedules and conducts its business in lawfully scheduled Public Meetings, except as otherwise permitted or required, each conducted in conformance with applicable law; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has determined that efficiency in the business-like conduct of its public meeting business could be enhanced by establishment of Public Meeting Parliamentary procedures; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council utilizes an agenda in its Public Meetings for the orderly conduct of its business, and includes therein a section entitled "Public Comment", wherein comments of the public in attendance at such Public Meetings are received; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has reviewed its Public Meeting Parliamentary procedures and protocols, and all aspects of same, including the Public Comment portion of its agendas, for the conduct of its public meeting business, all in conformance with applicable law; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council, having considered same, recognizes the propriety of establishing public meeting parliamentary procedures, as well as establishment of parameters for Public Comment in its public meetings in the context of orderly transaction of public meeting business, and concurs that such establishment is appropriate and advisable.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ST. JOHN, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION ONE: That Robert's Rules of Order, revised (latest revision), shall govern the Town Council proceedings in all matters to which such are applicable, and which are not inconsistent with the standing rules and orders of the Town Council or Public Body conducting a Public Meeting.

SECTION TWO: That the agendas of the Regularly Scheduled Public Meetings of the Town Council, as well as Boards, Commissions, and entity bodies of the Town of St. John, shall include a "Public Comment" placement and inclusion. The Public Comment Section may not appear on Special Public Meeting Agendas or Study Session Agendas. For such portion of a Regularly Scheduled Public Meeting in the Town of St. John, members of the public may speak at the identified time. The Public Comment Section is intended for receipt of a statement or statements, not an exchange with the members of the public body conducting the public meeting. Speakers are allowed a time period for such public comment not to exceed three (3) minutes. The time period for speakers will be monitored and kept by the presiding Official of the meeting. In order to speak, a member of the public shall sign in on a written sheet provided for such purpose, including his or her name and address, for the record of the Public



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Meeting. Speakers will be requested to direct any Public Comment issued to the public body. Speakers will each be provided a single opportunity at each Public Meeting to make public comments.

SECTION THREE: That any individual who makes personal, impertinent, or slanderous remarks, or who becomes boisterous or delays or interrupts the proceedings or peace of the meetings of the Town Council or Town public body, or who refuses to obey the orders of the Council or its presiding Officer, shall be barred from further participation in the proceedings, and appropriate action for restoration of Order by the presiding Officer may be made. In the event of any disturbance or disorderly conduct during any Public Meeting, the presiding Officer shall be authorized to restore order and direct appropriate actions for same, if necessary. Persons addressing the Town Council or other Town public body are to maintain a decorum of civility in presenting public comments, and to avoid repetitive comments.

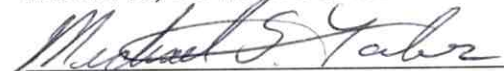
SECTION FOUR: That all Town Ordinances and Town Code Sections, or parts thereof, in conflict with the provisions of this Enabling Ordinance are hereby deemed null, void, and of no legal effect, and are specifically repealed.

SECTION FIVE: That if any section, clause, provision or portion of this Ordinance shall be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect any other section, clause, provision or portion of this Ordinance.

SECTION SIX: That this Ordinance shall take effect, and be in full force and effect, from and after passage and adoption by the Town Council in conformance with applicable law.

ALL OF WHICH IS PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 25 DAY OF February, 2016,
BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ST. JOHN, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA.

TOWN OF ST. JOHN, LAKE COUNTY,
INDIANA, TOWN COUNCIL


Michael S. Forbes, President

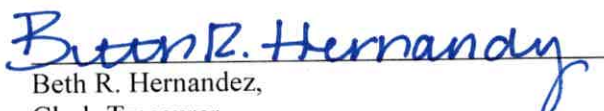

Mark Barenie, Vice President


Gregory J. Volk, Member


Stephen Hastings, Member


Christian L. Jorgensen, Member

ATTEST:


Beth R. Hernandez,
Clerk-Treasurer