

CITY OF MAUSTON RULES FOR SPEAKING DURING PUBLIC MEETINGS

Meetings of the Common Council, or our various committees, boards, and commissions are solely for the purpose of conducting our official business. While Wisconsin's Open Meetings laws require these meetings to be open to the public (except when a closed session is needed and allowed)—they are not a public forum. No member of the public has a right to speak at these meetings. However, the City of Mauston recognizes the value of public comment on municipal issues and typically allows a public comment period. Speaking during these public comment periods is a privilege, and those wishing to take advantage of the opportunity must follow the rules detailed below in order to ensure the orderly and efficient execution of municipal business:

- Speakers must complete a registration form in advance and state their full name and full address when addressing the municipal body, and may only speak during the specific time set aside for such comments.
- Comments will be limited to 3 minutes.
- All statements shall be directed to the presiding chair of the meeting and not to individual staff or other participants.
- Participants will be allowed to comment on matters pertaining to the City of Mauston.
- The Common Council, Committee, Board, or Commission shall not debate or discuss the subject matter with the speaker, nor take action on any matter raised during public commentary unless the subject is specifically included on the agenda for action.
- Outbursts and side conversations among members of the audience are not allowed.
- The Chairperson of any municipal body may, at their discretion, invite commentary from a member of the audience if germane and likely to facilitate debate and the decision-making process.
- **Anyone violating these rules shall have their privilege to speak immediately suspended for the balance of that meeting. Anyone causing a disturbance or being disruptive to the proceedings may be asked to leave, or may be escorted out by Law Enforcement if needed.**

Dennis Nielsen, Mayor

Date