

CITY OF TUSCOLA

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-O-8

**AN ORDINANCE REGULATING PUBLIC COMMENT AT PUBLIC MEETINGS IN
THE CITY OF TUSCOLA, ILLINOIS**

**ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF TUSCOLA**

**Published in pamphlet form by authority of the City Council of the City of Tuscola,
Douglas County, Illinois, this 14th day of September, 2015.**

**CITY OF TUSCOLA
DOUGLAS COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-O- 8

September 14, 2015

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING PUBLIC COMMENT AT PUBLIC MEETINGS IN THE
CITY OF TUSCOLA, ILLINOIS

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, the City of Tuscola, Douglas City, Illinois, is a duly established and functioning municipal corporation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tuscola, Illinois has studied the issue of public comment at public meetings within the City of Tuscola; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tuscola deems it necessary to enact this Ordinance to protect the orderly conduct of meetings within the City;

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TUSCOLA, ILLINOIS, as follows:

ARTICLE ONE

The rules and procedures for public comment at all open meetings of the City Council and all City committees/boards shall be as follows:

- (1) A public comment period shall be held during every open meeting of the City Council and all City committees/boards. Except upon motion approved by a majority of the City Council of City committee/board, the public comment period shall not exceed thirty (30) minutes for open meetings of the City Council and Zoning Board, and (2) fifteen (15) minutes for open meetings of all other City committees/boards. The right to public comment does not apply to closed meetings/executive sessions.

- (2) Anyone desiring to address the City Council or a City committee/board must sign in at least five (5) minutes before the start of the meeting at which the person desires to speak. The person shall list his or her name and address when he or she signs in.
- (3) Public comment shall be permitted by the presiding officer only during the designated public comment period specified on the agenda. The presiding officer shall recognize registered speakers in the order in which they signed in.
- (4) Public comment is limited to a total of five (5) minutes per registered speaker at any open meeting of the City Council and is limited to a total of three (3) minutes per registered speaker at any open meeting of a City committee/board. A speaker cannot give his or her allotted minutes to another speaker.
- (5) Once a registered speaker has been recognized by the presiding officer, the speaker shall only speak from the location where he or she is standing or sitting and shall not approach the members of the Council, committee, or board. Registered speakers shall begin their comments by stating his or her name and address.
- (6) The public comment period is not intended to require members of the City Council or City committee/board, or City staff to provide responses or answers to questions to speakers. Discussions between speakers, members of the audience, and representatives of the City shall not be permitted.
- (7) After a speaker has concluded making a public comment, or his or her allotted time for public comment has expired, he or she shall be seated with no further debate, dialogue, or comment.
- (8) All comments must be civil and respectful in nature. Any speaker making defamatory, obscene, discriminatory, threatening or abusive comments or behavior, may be deemed out of order by the presiding officer, the speaker's public comment may be terminated, and if the comments or behavior persist, the speaker may be required to leave the meeting.
- (9) If numerous persons wish to speak on a single issue, the presiding officer may recognize a specific number of registered speakers to make comments regarding the matter, though all of the time allotted for public comment shall be utilized. Any registered person who is not able to address the City for this reason or due to the expiration of the time allotted for public comment will be encouraged to attend a subsequent meeting to address the City Council or City committee/board, and/or to provide written comments.

ARTICLE TWO

Except as detailed above, all other Ordinances of the City of Tuscola shall remain their current language and remain in full force and effect.

ARTICLE THREE

This ordinance shall be in effect and be in full force immediately after its passage, approval and publication in pamphlet form according to law.

ARTICLE FOUR

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed insofar as they are in conflict with this ordinance. Except as detailed above, all other Ordinances of the City of Tuscola shall retain their current language and remain in full force and effect.

Presented, Passed and Approved at a regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Tuscola, Douglas County, Illinois, this 14th day of September, 2015.

Upon Motion by Henderson, seconded by Shoemaker, adopted this 14th day of September, 2015 by roll call vote as follows:

AYES (Names): Cleland, Day, Henderson, Hoey,
Maxey, Shoemaker, Slaughter

NAYS (Names): _____

ABSENT (Names): Truitt



(SEAL)

Approved this 14th day of September, 2015.

Daniel Kleiss
Daniel Kleiss, Mayor

Attest:

Mary E. Gordon, Deputy City Clerk
Elizabeth A. Leamon, City Clerk

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
)
COUNTY OF DOUGLAS) ss.

CERTIFICATE

I, Elizabeth A. Leamon, certify that I am the duly elected and acting Municipal Clerk of the City of Tuscola, Douglas, County, Illinois.

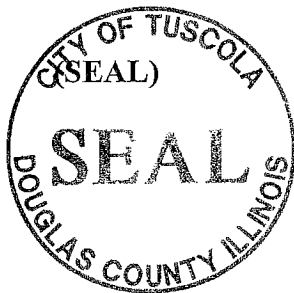
I further certify that on September 14, 2015, the Corporate Authorities of the City of Tuscola passed and approved Ordinance No. 2015-O-8, entitled

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING PUBLIC COMMENT AT PUBLIC MEETINGS IN THE
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which provided by its terms that it should be published in pamphlet form.

The pamphlet form of Ordinance No. 2015-O-8, including the Ordinance and cover sheet thereof, was prepared, and a copy of such Ordinance was posted in City Hall, 214 N. Main St., commencing on September 15, 2015 and continuing for at least ten days thereafter. Copies of such Ordinance were also available for public inspection upon request in the office of the City Clerk.

DATED at Tuscola, Illinois, this 14th day of September, 2015.



Mary C. Gordon, Deputy City Clerk
Elizabeth A. Leamon, City Clerk

CERTIFICATE OF CITY CLERK

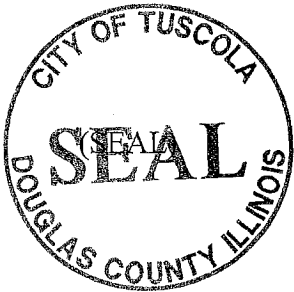
CITY OF TUSCOLA)
COUNTY OF DOUGLAS)
STATE OF ILLINOIS)

The undersigned hereby certifies that she is the duly qualified and acting City Clerk of the City of Tuscola, Illinois and as such official she further certifies that attached hereto is a true and correct copy of the document described as follows:

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING PUBLIC COMMENT AT PUBLIC MEETINGS IN THE
CITY OF TUSCOLA, ILLINOIS

The undersigned hereby further certifies that the attached document is a true and correct copy of the original which is in the files of the City of Tuscola, Douglas County, Illinois, and under the custody, control and jurisdiction of my office as City Clerk.

WITNESS my official signature and the seal of the City of Tuscola the day of the 14th of September, 2015.



Mary E. Gordon
Deputy City Clerk