

**VILLAGE OF VERNON HILLS
ORDINANCE 2020-109**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF
VERNON HILLS, RELATIVE TO PUBLIC COMMENT AT PUBLIC MEETINGS**

WHEREAS, the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Vernon Hills (“Village Board”) desire to amend the Code of Ordinances of the Village of Vernon Hills (“Code”) to update Chapter 2 (Administration), Article II (Board of Trustees), Division 3 (Rules and Order of Business), relative to public comment at public meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board finds that it is in the best interests of the Village, as well as the general public, to enact the Code Amendments as set forth below; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the authority granted by the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/1 *et seq.*) and Chapter 2 (Administration), Article II (Board of Trustees), Division 3 (Rules and Order of Business), Section 2-101 (Suspension, Amendment of Rules; Additional Rules) of the Code of Ordinances of the Village of Vernon Hills, as amended, the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Vernon Hills approve the Code Amendments to the Code of Ordinances of the Village of Vernon Hills, as set forth below.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF
TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF VERNON HILLS, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS:**

SECTION 1: The above Whereas paragraphs are incorporated by reference into Section 1 of this Ordinance as material terms and provisions.

SECTION 2: Chapter 2 (Administration), Article II (Board of Trustees), Division 3 (Rules and Order of Business), Section 2-97 (Addressing the Board) of the Code of Ordinances of the Village of Vernon Hills, as amended, shall read in its entirety as follows:

Sec. 2-97. - Addressing the board.

- (a) It shall not be allowable for any person not a member of the board of trustees, except the village officers, to address the board without the unanimous consent of the trustees present, and then only once on the same subject without further consent.
- (b) Public comment for each individual who desires to address the board of trustees, or any of the Village’s committees, commissions, or other public bodies, at any public meeting, public hearing, or other gathering for public business, shall be limited to three (3) minutes per person per each meeting, public hearing, or other gathering for public business. The chair of the meeting shall have the discretion to extend the per person public comment session past three (3) minutes for a particular topic or a particular meeting.
- (c) A group of three (3) or more individuals speaking on the same topic are asked to designate a single spokesperson to present the group’s public comments.
- (d) Members of the public body will not respond to the public comments at the public meeting, public hearing, or other gathering for public business, unless directed by the Village President or Chair of the public body. The Village President or Chair, or his/her designee, will respond to the

public comments, as he or she deems appropriate, and may direct the person to the appropriate Village official or staff member for assistance.

- (e) Abusive, foul or other inappropriate language or conduct and/or personal attacks are not permitted.
- (f) The Village President or Chair has the authority to terminate the public comment session of any person who fails to adhere to these guidelines.

SECTION 3: To the extent necessary, all table of contents, indexes, headings and internal references or cross-references to sections contained in the Code of Ordinances of the Village of Vernon Hills that have been deleted or amended by the Code Amendments set forth above shall be amended by the Village's codifier so as to be consistent with the Code Amendments of this Ordinance.

SECTION 4: All ordinances, codes or regulations, or parts of ordinances, codes or regulations, of the Village of Vernon Hills in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are repealed insofar as they conflict herewith. Each section, paragraph, clause and provision of this Ordinance is separable, and if any provision is held unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the remainder of this Ordinance, nor any part thereof, other than that part affected by such decision.

SECTION 5: Except as to the Code Amendments set forth above in this Ordinance, all Chapters and Sections of the Code of Ordinances of the Village of Vernon Hills, as amended, shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 6: This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval and publication as provided by State law.

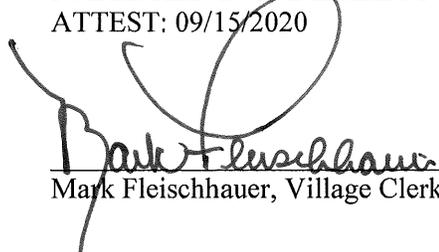
Passed by roll call vote as follows:

AYES: 5 – Koch, Takaoka, Oppenheim, Schultz, Byrne
NAYS: 0 - None
ABSENT AND NOT VOTING: 1 - Marquardt

Passed this 15th day of September, 2020, by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Vernon Hills, Illinois.


Roger L. Byrne, Village President

PASSED: 09/15/2020
APPROVED: 09/15/2020
PUBLISHED IN PAMPHLET FORM: 09/15/2020
ATTEST: 09/15/2020


Mark Fleischhauer, Village Clerk

