



WELCOME TO THIS MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Please silence your cellphone.

Thank you for attending this public meeting. Your interest in local government is appreciated. Please familiarize yourself with the following meeting procedures:

Presiding Officer

The Council President is responsible for conducting the meeting and managing the public comment period. When the Council President is not present, the Council Secretary conducts the meeting.

Public Participation

- (1) In accordance with the Maryland Open Meetings Act, the general public is entitled to *attend and observe* all meetings of the Mayor and Council except in special or appropriate circumstances when meetings of public bodies may be closed under the Act.
- (2) To encourage community engagement, the Ocean City Mayor and Council allow public comment using the following guidelines:
 - ◇ Work Sessions: Persons desiring to speak *on matters specific to the topics on the agenda* may do so for up to three (3) minutes during the Comments from the Public portion of the meeting. Regular Meetings: Persons desiring to speak *on any matter* may do so for up to five (5) minutes during the Comments from the Public portion of the meeting.
 - ◇ When the Council President calls for public comment, please raise your hand and, when called upon, approach the podium. For the record, please state your name and address and, if you are speaking on behalf of an organization or other group, identify the group represented.
- (3) The public body may have an individual removed if the presiding officer determines that the behavior of the individual is disrupting an open session. Engaging in verbal comments intended to insult or slander anyone may be cause for termination of speaking privileges and/or removal from Council Chambers. The presiding officer also has the discretion to ask that videotaping be done from an unobtrusive location.
- (4) The Public Comment portion of the meeting is not a question-and-answer period.
- (5) Please approach the City Clerk if you have questions prior to or during the meeting.
- (6) Any materials for the Mayor and Council should be given to the City Clerk for distribution.