



RESOLUTION# 1-1-2021

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A CITY CODE OF CONDUCT

WHEREAS, the City Council of Lonoke, Arkansas desires to adopt a code of conduct as a reference and guide for its members.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF LONOKE, ARKANSAS THAT the Lonoke City Council wishes to adopt the attached document entitled "City of Lonoke, Code of Conduct and Ethics".

Passed and Approved in regular session this 11th day of January, 2021.

APPROVED:



Mayor of Lonoke

ATTEST:



Clerk



City of Lonoke, Code of Conduct & Ethics

This written code of conduct applies to all publicly elected officials within the City of Lonoke. It shall serve to establish a basis for confidence in the City's ability and establish public trust between the Mayor, the City Council, & the Citizens of Lonoke. The principles and expectations set forth shall promote civility, trust, and goodwill.

Expectations for The Mayor of Lonoke

- The mayor presides over meetings of the council.
- The mayor presides over the council in a manner designed to promote high standards of democratic governance and chairs meetings with efficiency and fairness, never discriminating against any speaker, whether council member or member of the public, based on the speaker's point of view.
- The mayor will not use his or her authority to thwart the democratic process.
 - Example 1:* The mayor will not cancel or adjourn meetings for the purpose of preventing a matter from coming to a vote.
 - Example 2:* The mayor will not refuse to allow a matter to be voted upon if it has received the necessary motion and second.
- The mayor is required to sign all ordinances, resolutions, and city council minutes.
- The mayor in cities and towns with mayor/council forms of government may veto any ordinance, resolution or order adopted by the council.
- The mayor has the same speaking rights as any other members of the city council.
- The mayor demonstrates honesty, humility, and integrity always.

Expectations for The Lonoke City Council

- Council members set the time and place for regular city council meetings and are obligated to practice responsible stewardship over City resources.
- Council members demonstrate respect, kindness, consideration, and courtesy to others, always.
- Council members prepare in advance of meetings and are familiar with the issues on the agenda.
- Council members serve as a model of leadership and civility to the municipality.
- The city council shall strive to inspire public confidence in Lonoke City government.
- All members of the city council have equal votes. No council member has more power than any other council member. All members should be treated with equal respect.
- Council members should understand that they have no individual authority outside of an official quorum and shall conduct themselves on the basis of this fact.
- Council members should inform the Mayor and the City Clerk of their intent to be absent from a council meeting or plans to leave a council meeting before it is adjourned.
- Council members acknowledge that all electronic transmittals sent or received in performance of their duties as a public official are subject to The Arkansas Freedom of Information Act.

Principles and Guidelines

This council is composed of individuals with a wide variety of backgrounds, personalities, values, experiences, opinions, and goals. Despite this diversity, each council member has chosen to serve in public office in order to preserve the past, protect the present and enable the future posterity of the City of Lonoke. This is a common goal that must be acknowledged as council members will inevitably work through contentious issues.

1. *The Practice of Civility at Public Meetings:* Difficult questions, tough challenges to particular points of view, and criticism of ideas and information are legitimate elements of a free democracy in action. This does not however, allow council members to make belligerent, personal, impertinent, slanderous, threatening, abusive, or disparaging comments. No shouting or physical actions that could be construed as threatening will be tolerated.

Therefore Council members will:

- avoid personal comments with intent to offend other council members.
- support the role of the mayor in maintaining order.
- be respectful of other members of the city council, boards, commissions, committees, city staff, and the public by refraining from abusive conduct, personal charges, or verbal attacks.
- fully participate in council meetings and other public meetings while demonstrating respect, consideration, and courtesy.
- treat a fellow council member with the respect he or she would expect to receive in return.
- address citizens, employees, committee members, and fellow council members with respect.
- request the opportunity to speak and address the council through the mayor, mayor pro tem, or other member conducting the meeting.
- recognize fellow council members and guest speakers by their formal names and/or appropriate titles; after initial acknowledgement, the terms “Mr.” or “Ms.” may be used.
- be respectful of others’ time and be brief and prepared in making remarks.
- provide a justification for their action when making a motion or a counter-motion.

2. *Conduct with The Public:* Personal concerns are often the reason citizens come before the council to speak. Council members should be aware that the council’s posture will impact the speaker’s ability to relax and communicate effectively.

Therefore Council members will:

- be Polite and Professional to Speakers and Treat Them with Respect
- limit comments to relevant issues and avoid statements with personal bias
- remain seated when someone is speaking at the podium.
- maintain a posture of active listening.
- ask for clarification while avoiding debate.
- do not engage in personal attacks of any kind, under any circumstances.
- practice transparent conversation and make no promises on behalf of the council or staff.
- make no personal comments regarding other council members or their personal affairs.

Affirmation

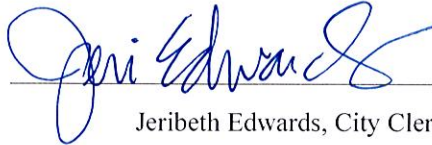
City of Lonoke Code of Conduct Affirmation Statement

This Code of Conduct is designed to describe the manner in which the Mayor and City Council members should treat one another and treat others with whom they come in contact when representing the City of Lonoke.

I hereby affirm that I have read and understand the City of Lonoke Code of Conduct and that I will well, and faithfully, discharge these duties in such a way as to bring honor to my position and the City of Lonoke.



Trae Reed, Mayor



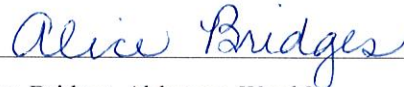
Jeribeth Edwards, City Clerk



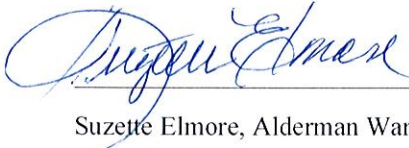
Phillip Howell, City Treasurer



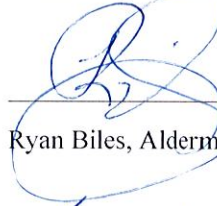
Kelly Rather, Alderman Ward 1



Alice Bridges, Alderman Ward 2



Suzette Elmore, Alderman Ward 3



Ryan Biles, Alderman Ward 4



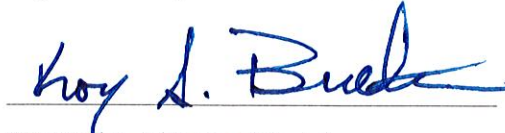
Efre Jones, Alderman Ward 5



Raymon Hatton, Alderman Ward 6



Michael Florence, Alderman Ward 7



Koy Butler, Alderman Ward 8