OFFICIAL
TOWN OF McCANDLESS
RESOLUTION NO. 12 OF 2016

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF McCANDLESS, COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO PRESCRIBE RULES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AT MEETINGS OF TOWN COUNCIL

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's Sunshine Act, 65 Pa. C.S. §§ 701 et seq., as well as Sections 405 and 406 of the Town of McCandless Charter, require the Town of McCandless to provide a reasonable period of time at each advertised regular or special meeting of Town Council for residents and taxpayers to address Council on matters of general or special concern, official action or deliberation on matters under consideration by Council; and

WHEREAS, Section 406 of the Charter provides that Council shall adopt and enforce such reasonable rules and procedures as may be necessary for the orderly conduct of its business; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of McCandless has determined that both its compliance with the Sunshine Act and the efficient and effective conduct of its meetings and the maintenance of order at said meetings would be advanced by the promulgation of a set of rules regarding such public comment.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of McCandless as follows:

Section 1.

1. A separate period of public comment shall be held for each agenda item considered at each advertised regular or special meeting (business meeting) of the Town Council of the Town of McCandless after comments are made by Council, but before the item is voted upon. These comments shall be limited to the agenda items currently before Council. At the end of a regular or special meeting (business meeting), a public comment period will be held for general comments on matters of Town concern. This comment period will be subject to the same rules applicable to public comments.

2. The President of Town Council shall preside over the public comment period and shall recognize residents or taxpayers of the Town wishing to offer comment during such period.

3. Public comment shall be limited to residents or taxpayers of the Town. Any resident or taxpayer wishing to address Town Council during such public comment period shall provide their name and address prior to the public comment period. The Town shall have written forms for such identification prepared and available at each such advertised regular or special meeting of Town Council.

4. Each resident or taxpayer who has signed in and who wishes to speak shall address the President of Town Council and, upon recognition and receiving permission to speak, shall confine his or her remarks to issues or items which constitute matters of concern, official action or deliberation which are or may be before the Town Council and which relate to matters on the agenda except for the open comment period at the end of a regular or special meeting (business meeting).

5. The President of Town Council may rule out of order any offensive, insulting, threatening, scandalous or obscene comments as determined by the President to be disruptive or to otherwise prevent the orderly conduct of the official business of that meeting or who becomes boisterous or who makes threats against any person or against public order and security may be forthwith barred by the President of Town Council from continued attendance at that meeting unless permission to continue shall be granted by a majority vote of those Council members present.

6. Each individual person's comments shall be limited to a maximum of five (5) minutes and each individual shall be given an opportunity to comment on each agenda item at each regular or special meeting (business meeting). When a group of persons wishes to address Council on the same subject matter, it shall be proper for the presiding officer to request that a spokesperson be chosen by the group to address Council and to limit the number of people addressing Council on the same matter so as to avoid any

unnecessary repetition. This will not prevent individual members of the group from commenting to the extent that they wish to comment on an issue not addressed by the designated spokesperson.

7. The President of Town Council shall have the authority to call a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action.

8. With respect to Committee meetings, the Committee Chair shall provide for a period of public comment at the conclusion of each Committee meeting, which public comment period shall be governed by the same rules applicable to comments at regular Council meetings. Public comments at Committee meetings shall be limited to comments regarding agenda items for that particular Committee meeting.

9. At each Agenda Review meeting, the President of Council shall provide for a period of public comment after each item on the agenda, which comment period shall be governed by the same rules applicable to public comments at regular Council meetings.

10. The Town endeavors to provide accurate and timely information to questions asked by its citizens. Questions asked during public comment periods will be treated as comments. Answers will be provided by the Town Administration or Town Council as appropriate.

Section 2. This Resolution shall be effective immediately and shall repeal any inconsistent prior resolutions to the extent of such inconsistency.

Motion made by Councilmember Powers, seconded by Councilmember McKim, and this Resolution is adopted this **27th** day of **June, 2016**.

ATTEST:

Secretary

TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN OF McCANDLESS

President

BUS_EST:413848-6 024399-136454