

ORDINANCE -2020

27-2020

AN ORDINANCE CREATING A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE
WILLIAMSPORT VILLAGE COUNCIL.

WHEREAS, the people of the Village of Williamsport require that their elected officials maintain the highest of moral and ethical standards as such standards are essential to assure the trust, respect, and confidence of our citizens.

WHEREAS, elected officials have a solemn responsibility to avoid improper behavior and refrain from conduct that is unbecoming to their office or that is inconsistent with their ability to maintain the respect and trust of the people it serves.

WHEREAS, the Williamsport Village council finds that it is now necessary to draft rules of decorum for Village Council and Committee meetings it is hereby enacted that:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE
VILLAGE OF WILLIAMSPORT, PICKAWAY COUNTY OHIO:

SECTION 1. The Code of Conduct for the Williamsport Village Council is as listed:

Code of Conduct

(a) Council Conduct

- (1) Decorum. A public meeting must be conducted in an orderly and expeditious manner while maintaining discourse and deliberation in a civil, respectful, and cordial manner.
- (2) Disruption at a Public Meeting. No council member may engage in conduct that disrupts a public meeting by behaving in a disorderly, contemptuous, slanderous, profane, or abusive manner towards any other council member or any member of the public.
- (3) Treatment of the Public. No council member may show signs of partiality, prejudice, or disrespect toward a member of the public. Questions by council members to a member of the public addressing council should seek to clarify or expand information. No council member shall belligerently challenge or belittle a member of the public addressing council.
- (4) A council member who violates the Code of Conduct at a Committee meeting, Council meeting, or a Council of the Whole meeting is subject to censure.

- (5) Censure defined: to express sever disapproval of (someone or something), especially in a formal statement.
- (b) Censure Hearing
 - (1) Any council member may ask Council that another council member be censured.
 - (2) A majority of Council must vote to hold a Council of the Whole meeting for censure.
 - A. One vote shall be taken.
 - B. Failure to reach a majority vote is the end of the censure discussion for the event presented to Council
 - (3) Following a majority vote to hold a Council of the Whole meeting for censure:
 - A. An accused council member may defend themselves at hearing.
 - B. An accused council member who wishes to hire representation may call for a one time continuance of the hearing to allow for retention of representation.
 - C. The accusing council member shall present evidence supporting censure.
 - D. The Council of the Whole may ask questions of both the accusing council member and the accused council member to determine if censure is appropriate.
 - (4) At the conclusion of the hearing, Council of the Whole must vote by a 2/3 majority to find censure appropriate.
 - (5) At the conclusion of the hearing and following a vote not to censure, Council of the Whole may find the original request for censure was frivolous.
 - A. Council may then vote by a 2/3 majority to censure the accusing council member for bringing a frivolous claim of censure before Council.
 - B. Frivolous defined: not having any serious purpose or value.

SECTION 2. It is found and determined that all formal actions of Council concerning or relating to the passage of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of the Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees, that resulted in such formal actions, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements of the Village of Williamsport and the State of Ohio.

SECTION 3. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect at the earliest time permitted by law.

APPROVED: 12/14/2020


MAYOR, John Elliott

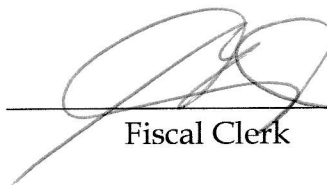
ATTEST: 12/14/2020


Fiscal Officer, Gayle Spangler

Required certificate of recording officer

I, the undersigned, hereby certify, that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Resolution adopted by the Council of the Village of Williamsport, Ohio held on the 14th day in the month of Dec, 2020 and that I am duly authorized to execute this certificate.

PASSED: 12/14/2020


Fiscal Clerk