

## **COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT, MARYLAND**

**Ordinance No.:** O-25-02

**Introduced by:** City Council

**First Reading:** July 8, 2024

**Second Reading:** July 17, 2024

**Amendments:** August 12, 2024

**Third Reading:** August 12, 2024

**Date Passed:** July 17, 2024, and August 12, 2024

**Date Effective:** September 9, 2024

**AN ORDINANCE concerning.**

### **CHAPTER 26 – Meetings**

**Amending** Chapter 26 – Meetings of the Code of the City of Seat Pleasant to impose discipline of Rules of Decorum.

**BY** amending Chapter 26 – Meetings  
Section 26-4,  
Code of the City of Seat Pleasant (1994 Edition, as amended)

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Local Gov’t § 5-202(1) and § C-501(a) of the Charter of the City of Seat Pleasant (the “Charter”), the Council of the City of Seat Pleasant (the “City Council”) has the power to pass all ordinances not contrary to the Constitution and laws of Maryland or the Charter as it may deem necessary for the good government of the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council desires to amend Chapter 26 – Meetings of the Code of the City of Seat Pleasant for the purposes of imposing discipline; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council deems it in the interest of the public health, welfare, and safety of the citizens of The City of Seat Pleasant, and for the good government of The City of Seat Pleasant, to enact this Ordinance and to take the actions as described herein.

**SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT** that Sections 26-4 of the Code of the City of Seat Pleasant (1994 Edition, as amended) be, and it hereby is amended to read as follows:

#### **§ 26-4 Rules of Decorum.**

**A-NO CHANGES**

**B-((Council members)) ELECTED OFFICIALS.** While ((the Council is)) in session, the members must preserve order and decorum, and a member shall neither, by conversation or otherwise, delay or interrupt the proceedings or the peace of the Council nor disturb any member while speaking or refuse to obey the orders of the Council President. ((Members of the Council)) ELECTED OFFICIALS shall not leave their seats during a meeting without first obtaining the permission of the Council President. IF AN ELECTED OFFICIAL REFUSES TO OBEY THE REASONABLE ORDERS OF THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT WHILE IN SESSION AND/OR CONTINUES TO DISRUPT OR INTERRUPT THE MEETING PROCEEDINGS, THE ELECTED OFFICIAL WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE MEETING AND RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING:

1. A WARNING FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT TO CEASE AND DESIST FROM DISRUPTING OR INTERRUPTING THE MEETING PROCEEDINGS.
2. AFTER THE FIRST WARNING, THE ELECTED OFFICIAL WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM ATTENDING THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE COUNCIL BY MAJORITY VOTE OF THE REMAINING COUNCILMEMBERS.
3. AFTER THREE SUSPENSIONS THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SHALL BE REMOVED FROM OFFICE THROUGH AN IMPEACHMENT PROCESS BY FIRST HAVING A TRIAL HELD BY THE ELECTED OFFICIALS OR THE JUDICIARY BOARD COMPRISED OF THE GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE. IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION C-310 FOREFEITURE OF OFFICE. THE SUSPENSIONS WILL COUNT AS AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE.

**C-F NO CHANGES**

**SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT** that the Recitals to this Ordinance are incorporated herein and deemed a substantive part of this Ordinance.

**SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT** that all other ordinances or parts of ordinances or provisions of the Code of the City of Seat Pleasant (1994 Edition, as amended) in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

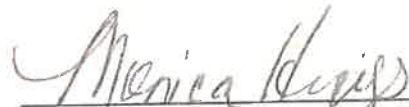
**SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT** that the title of this Ordinance, or a condensed version thereof, shall be deemed to be, and is, a fair summary of this Ordinance for publication and all other purposes.

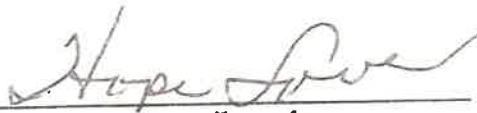
**SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT** that, if any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this Ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court or competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance, it being the intent of the City Council that this Ordinance shall stand, notwithstanding the invalidity of any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion hereof.

**SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT** that the City Clerk shall certify to the passage of this ordinance, and cause the same or, to the extent permitted by the Charter, a fair summary of the same, to be published as required by law, and that this Ordinance shall become effective at the expiration of twenty (20) days following approval by the Mayor or passage by the City Council over the Mayor's veto.

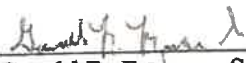
**COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT**


  
Donovan Bilbro, Councilmember

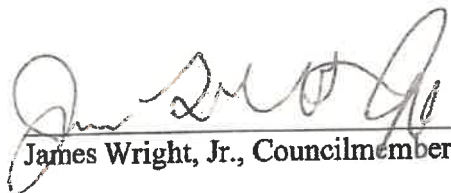
  
Monica Higgs, Councilmember

  
Hope Love, Councilmember

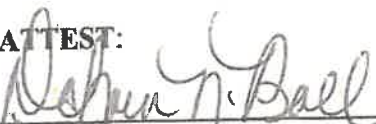
  
Shireka McCarthy, Councilmember

  
Gerald R. Raynor, Sr., Councilmember


  
Kizzie Scott, Councilmember

  
James Wright, Jr., Councilmember

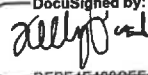
**ATTEST:**

  
Dashaun N. Ball, MMC  
City Clerk

This Ordinance was presented to the mayor for his approval or disapproval pursuant to § C-313 of the Charter of the City of Seat Pleasant this 13th August 2024.

  
Dashaun N. Ball, MMC  
City Clerk

In accordance with § C-313 of the Charter of the City of Seat Pleasant, I hereby (APPROVE) ~~(DISAPPROVE)~~ of this Ordinance this 9/17/2024, 2024.

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Kelly Porter, Mayor

**EXPLANATION:**

CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

((Double Parenthesis)) indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike Out~~ indicates matter stricken from bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.