

RESOLUTION #01-03-02

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING RULES OF CONDUCT FOR VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ROCKFORD, OHIO, DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the Council of the Village of Rockford is required by Ohio Revised Code Section 731.45 to establish its own rules and keep a journal of its proceedings.

WHEREAS, the Council of the Village of Rockford has established Rules of Order for proceedings, and maintains a journal of its proceedings.

WHEREAS, the Council of the Village of Rockford, in response to requests by citizens of the Village of Rockford, and of its own accord desires to enhance the accountability and conduct of its members.

THEREFORE, let it be resolved:

SECTION ONE

The Rockford Village Council adopts the following Rules of Conduct to be in place and adhered at all times by members of the legislative authority.

The adoption of this resolution is permitted under Ohio Revised Code Section 731.45, and is in the best interest of the Village of Rockford and its citizens; and therefore, shall go into effect at the earliest date possible upon adoption by the Council of the Village of Rockford, and approval of the Mayor.

SECTION TWO – Conduct of Council Member

2.1 All members of the Village Council have equal votes. No Council member has more power than any other, and all members shall be treated with equal respect.

2.2 As a Council member it is important, at all times, to act in a manner that enhances community confidence.

2.3 These Rules of Conduct do not prohibit or infringe on any member's right to freedom of speech or possession of an opposing viewpoint. Members are entitled and encouraged to share their viewpoint(s), provided it is done in a professional manner, and with the utmost respect for others.

2.4 No member of the legislative authority, especially when acting in his/her official capacity or in dealing with the public, shall commit any act or utter any comments which would bring an embarrassment to the Village of Rockford.

2.5 Members should, at all time, ensure their actions and statements provide a positive image and public perception of the Village and work to enhance and improve the Village, other members of Council, and the Village employees. At no time shall a member of the council commit an act or make remarks, which are derogatory, degrading, belittling, sarcastic or malicious toward another member of Council, the Village, Mayor or Village employees. Opposing viewpoints of Council members, the Mayor or Village employees may be shared, provided they are not presented in a manner violating these rules of conduct or any other laws of the Village or State of Ohio.

2.6 Members of the Village Council shall conduct themselves in accordance with all aforementioned sections and the following:

2.6.1 Act properly, professionally, and in accordance with the requirements of the law and the terms of these Rules of Conduct.

2.6.2 Full participate in Village Council meetings and other public forums, while demonstrating respect, kindness, consideration, and courtesy to others.

2.6.3 Act in good faith; honestly, for the purpose of the community and not one's personal agenda. Acting in the interest of the community and Council, without exceeding their lawful powers.

2.6.4 Make no allegations which are unseemly or derogatory in public forums pertaining to matters of Village business, employees, or other Council members.

2.6.5 Refrain from any form of conduct, especially in performance of their official duties and while in public forums, which may cause any reasonable person unwarranted offense or embarrassment; or bring embarrassment to the Village.

2.6.6 Observe the highest standards of honesty and integrity, and avoid conduct, which may suggest any departure from this standard.

2.6.7 Ensure confidential information is guarded and handled with the utmost sensitivity.

2.6.8 Always act in accordance with their obligation of loyalty to the Council and Village; serving as a model of leadership and civility to the community.

SECTION THREE- Violation and Enforcement

3.1 Violation of these established rules may be considered malfeasance, misfeasance, or non-feasance; and is a violation of rules established under Ohio Revised Code Section 731.45.

3.2 Violation of these rules may result in disciplinary action in accordance with provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 731.45.

3.3 These rules shall be enforced by the Council of the Village of Rockford as provided by Ohio Revised Code Section 731.45.

PASSED THIS 2ND DAY OF JANUARY 2002