

**RESOLUTION NO. 218-11**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HONDO, TEXAS, AMENDING COUNCIL CHAMBER DECORUM RULES REGARDING DECORUM FOR CITIZENS AND OTHER VISITORS CONCERNING DISTANCE FROM THE COUNCIL SEATING AREA AND THE USE OF VIDEO, AUDIO AND PHOTOGRAPHIC DEVICES TO BECOME EFFECTIVE UPON ITS PASSAGE AND APPROVAL.**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Hondo, Texas believes that it is important to the orderly conduct of the business and affairs of the City of Hondo that the City Council establish additional rules of decorum for citizens and other visitors to ensure that order is maintained and the deliberative process of the City Council is encouraged; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council believes that the establishment of these rules of decorum for citizens and other visitors regarding distance from the Council seating area and the use of video, audio and photographic devices will ensure that meetings of the City Council are conducted in a way that is free from abusive, distracting or intimidating behavior.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HONDO, TEXAS THAT:**

The Council Chamber Decorum Rules established by passage and approval of Resolutions No. 204-10, and 212-10 shall remain in full force and effect and are amended hereby to include the following:

**Section 12.** Citizens and other visitors who are not City Council members or City Staff shall remain away from the Council seating area and must stay two feet behind the podium, unless specifically requested to approach by the Mayor or presiding officer. The Mayor or presiding officer may direct the law enforcement officer to remove offenders of this section from the City Council Chambers and the offender shall be barred from addressing the City Council or from further attendance at the meeting.

**Section 13.** Audio recording devices, video cameras and taking photographs (also referred to collectively as “devices”) are allowed in the City Council Chambers, but courtesy and safety rules must be observed. Such devices cannot cause a safety hazard. No equipment of any kind may be set up in the walkways or allowed to block exits. Such devices shall not be allowed to block the view of other persons attending the meeting. In addition, the following rules apply:

- (a) All citizens or individuals wishing to video record or take photographs of a public meeting using any type of video recording device or camera device shall remain away from the Council seating area and must stay two feet behind the podium after the commencement of the City Council meeting.
- (b) No person shall be allowed to use flash photography in the City Council Chambers during a City Council meeting.
- (c) The Mayor or presiding officer shall have the authority to determine whether the intensity and/or duration of supplemental lighting is such that it disturbs the

proceedings of the City Council and upon making a determination, require that the use of such lighting be discontinued.

- (d) All citizens or individuals wishing to audio record a public meeting using a hand held audio device may place the recording device on the counter of the City Council seating area before the City Council meeting begins and remove the device only after adjournment of the City Council meeting. The Mayor or presiding officer may determine where in the City Council seating area a recording device can be placed. No person shall be allowed to approach the City Council seating area after commencement of the meeting and will be subject to the provisions of Section 12, herein.
- (e) All audio and video recording activities; and the taking of photographs must be open and obvious. Using hidden devices to record a public meeting is prohibited.
- (f) All equipment, such as tripods, lights, cables and other such equipment shall be set up before the commencement of the meeting and taken down after adjournment, so as not to disrupt the proceedings.
- (g) Individuals, and any audio, video or photographic equipment, engaged in audio or video recording and the taking of photographs shall not block the view or otherwise interfere with the other members of the audience, and shall be in a location that does not interfere with the ability of other members of the audience to listen and to observe the proceedings.
- (h) All individuals engaged in audio or video recording; and the taking of photographs of public meetings shall comply with all applicable laws regarding taping, reproduction or use of information. All violations of any legal requirements, another person's rights or any other violation is strictly the responsibility of the person recording or taking photographs. The City shall not bear any responsibility for violations committed by the person recording or taking photographs at the meeting.
- (i) Audio or video recording and taking photographs shall not be allowed during executive or closed sessions.
- (j) Individuals choosing to disregard the rules or who interfere with the meeting under this section shall be escorted out of the City Council Chambers and barred from addressing the City Council or from further attendance at the meeting.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** by the City Council of the City of Hondo, Texas this 28<sup>th</sup> day of March 2011.