

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Davao del Norte
CITY OF TAGUM

BEFORE THE 5TH CITY COUNCIL

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 2ND REGULAR SESSION OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD OF THE CITY OF TAGUM, PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL NORTE HELD ON JULY 19, 2010 AT THE SP SESSION HALL.

PRESENT:

Hon. ALLAN L. RELLON, MPA,	City Vice Mayor (Presiding Officer)
Hon. DE CARLO L. UY,	Member
Hon. MARIA LINA F. BAURA,	Member
Hon. NICANDRO T. SUAYBAGUIO, JR.,	Member
Hon. ROBERT L. SO,	Member
Hon. JOEDEL T. CAASI,	Member
Hon. OSCAR M. BERMUDEZ,	Member
Hon. ALAN D. ZULUETA,	Member
Hon. GETERITO T. GEMENTIZA,	Member
Hon. TRISTAN ROYCE R. AALA,	Member
Hon. FRANCISCO C. REMITAR,	Member
Hon. ALFREDO R. PAGDILAO,	Member (ABC Representative)
Hon. CYRIL LEONARD L. MURING,	Member (SKF Representative)

RESOLUTION NO. 07, s-2010

“A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE RULES GOVERNING THE CONDUCT OF QUESTION HOUR AND PRIVILEGE HOUR DURING REGULAR SESSIONS OF THE 5TH CITY COUNCIL.”

WHEREAS, the question hour is that period of time allotted for members of the legislative body to ask questions or to inquire matters concerning public interest from invited resource persons coming from either government or private sectors;

WHEREAS, the question hour is mainly to inquire and is different from the “fact-finding investigation in aid of legislation” which is being conducted by an Ad Hoc Committee created specifically for the purpose of investigating a case;

WHEREAS, the privilege hour is the period of time allotted to members to express the sentiments of its constituents or their own views, opinions, comments or position on various issues and affairs of public interests;

WHEREAS, the 5th City Council has observed that there are no provisions in the Internal Rules and Procedure providing for the rules on the conduct of question hour and privilege hour;

WHEREAS, this resolution is made as a supplementary rule to the Internal Rules of Procedure adopted by the 5th City Council;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the 5th City Council of Tagum to adopt the rules governing the conduct of question hour and privilege hour during its regular sessions as it is herein provided as follows:

Article I

RULES ON QUESTION HOUR

Section 1. Nature of the Question Hour. It is the period of time allotted for Sanggunian Members to ask questions from “invited resource person (s) coming from either government or private sectors, usually heads of offices, technical and prominent personalities.”

It is primarily intended to seek information from invited guests on certain matters of public interests, provide legislators the chance to interact with different personalities, enhance and institutionalize the principle of “citizens participation”, thus bringing government nearer to the people.

Resource persons are considered as “guests” that should not be insulted by questions that tend to “cross examine” or “interrogate” them.

Section 2. Number of Topic/s. The number of topic/s to be discussed during the question hour shall not be more than three (3). An additional topic may be allowed as requested and approved by the council, provided that it is critical to decision-making or that it requires the intervention of the council.

Section 3. Time Limit. The time allotted for the question hour shall not be more than one (1) hour for every topic or issue. Further, a council member shall be allowed to ask not more than three (3) questions.

The invited guest/s shall be advised to answer directly and concisely the question thrown by any council member. The guest may, nevertheless, with the authorization of the council, be allowed to further clarify his/her response.

Section 4. Sponsor to Open and Close the Question Hour. The council member sponsoring a measure shall open and close the discussion. If the discussion extends beyond one (1) hour measure without being closed, that council member in a point of order shall be entitled to an additional of not more than ten (10) minutes to close the topic or issue and has the right to make concluding remarks or summary of the discussion.

Section 5. Decorum. The council member who has the floor shall confine himself/herself to the question under deliberation, avoid personalities in all cases and refrain from improper words or acts. The Presiding Officer may, motu proprio or as the council may direct, declare statements, remarks or words inappropriate, and order that these be stricken off the record. A council member, who is called to order by another for words spoken during the discussion, shall indicate the words objected to. Likewise, the guest shall be called to a point of order by any council member when s/he does not keep to the subject under discussion or prejudices the questioning by using abusive language.

Article II

RULES ON PRIVILEGE HOUR

Section 1. Nature of the Privilege Hour. It is the time allotted for each member to express sentiments of his/her constituents or his/her own views, opinions, comments/position on various issues and affairs of public interest. The speech is in a form of constructive criticism or comments on the operation of the government including the provision of basic services to the people.

Section 2. Number of member/s allowed to avail of the privilege hour. There shall be not more than three (3) council members allowed to avail of the privilege hour. However, should the subject of a member's privilege speech be of great importance affecting the general welfare and would require immediate intervention of the council, s/he may be allowed to render his/her speech with the approval of the majority of the members.

Section 3. Time Limit. The time allotted to a council member shall not be more than ten (10) minutes, unless consent is given by the majority of the members to extend his/her speech beyond ten (10) minutes.

Section 4. Interpellation. It shall be the discretion of the speaker to yield to interpellation.

Section 5. Written privilege speech. The council member availing of the privilege hour shall provide the other members a copy of his/her written speech before the start of the session. However, no council member shall be precluded from availing of the privilege hour for the sole reason that his/her speech is not reduced in writing.

CARRIED AND APPROVED.

I HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the foregoing.

REY A. BUHION
Secretary to the Sanggunian

**ATTESTED AND CERTIFIED
TO BE DULY ADOPTED:**

ALLAN L. RELLON, MPA
City Vice Mayor
(Presiding Officer)