

A modest proposal: restraining Council repetition

The Bethlehem Gadfly City government, Modest proposals, Serious Issues December 7, 2019

 9th in a series of modest proposals 

Bill Scheirer is an economist who grew up in Bethlehem, spent 40 years in DC, and retired here in 2003. He is a life member of the Committee of 100 on the Federal City and was on the Mayor's Task Force for the City of Bethlehem Comprehensive Plan, Zoning Ordinance, and Zoning Map.

Gadfly:

As I recall, there are [15 council rules](#), number 12 of which is that Robert's Rules applies in all other instances. I would like to propose a Council Rule 16, which would read as follows:

“A councilmember may not state the same fact, opinion, argument, or representation more than twice in the same speech, nor more than three times in the same meeting.”

Councilmembers will find, with this rule modifying Robert's Rules, that meetings will be shortened not insignificantly and that other councilmembers and members of the press and the public will be more attentive to what they are saying.

Bill

Gadfly #2

Do you suppose that this rule is aimed at any one Council member in particular?