



**CITY OF DUNNELLON**  
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February 16, 2015

To all: Local Ministers, Clergy and Religious Representatives

From: Dunnellon City Council

The Dunnellon City Council invites members of the clergy, ministers, chaplains, religious representatives and representatives of other secular institutions in the City of Dunnellon to voluntarily offer an invocation before the beginning of public meetings, for the benefit, blessing, wisdom and guidance of the Council.

The Dunnellon City Council meets on the second Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m., and also holds a workshop meeting on the Wednesday prior at 5:30 p.m. All public meetings are posted on the City's website calendar at [www.dunnellon.org](http://www.dunnellon.org).

If no religious representatives appear at a Council meeting to offer an opening prayer, the presiding officer of the meeting will request that a citizen of Dunnellon in attendance volunteer to open with prayer. If no volunteers or requests are made to open with prayer, the presiding officer will offer a moment of silence.

If a citizen who lives outside the City limits requests to open a meeting with prayer, he or she may do so when a religious invitee does not appear at the meeting or when a citizen of Dunnellon does not offer to open with prayer.

Invocations and prayers shall be solemn and respectful in tone and should invite Council members to reflect upon shared ideals and common ends prior to discussion of City business.

While the City cannot control the content of invocations or prayer, the agenda for each meeting will state a suggested time limit of less than 1 minute.

Prayers shall not denigrate nonbelievers or religious minorities, threaten damnation, preach conversion, or proselytize a certain religion or faith.

By establishing these protocols for invocation and opening prayers, the City Council specifically establishes a policy of non-discrimination such that a chaplain, minister, or layperson of any denomination or persuasion, including an atheist, may give the invocation or prayer.

At their discretion, other boards and commissions appointed by the Council may open their meetings with prayer, following the same protocols as the City Council.