

PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY
ALAMANCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The Alamance County Board of Commissioners are committed to allowing members of the public an opportunity to offer comments and suggestions for the efficient and effective administration of government. In addition to public hearings, a special time is set aside for the purpose of receiving such comments and suggestions. All comments and suggestions addressed to the Board of Commissioners during the Public Comment Period shall be subject to the following procedures, rules and regulations:

1. The Public Comment Period shall be held at the beginning and at the end of each regular monthly Commissioners meeting. Speaker comments during the first public comment period shall be limited to items set forth on the meeting agenda. Speaker comments during the second public comment period may be limited to items set forth on the meeting agenda. Speaker comments during the second public comment period may be on any topic of public interest. Each Public Comment Period shall be limited to a maximum of thirty (30) minutes. Because subjects of Special and Emergency meetings are often regulated by law, there will be no Public Comment Period reserved on agendas of Special and Emergency meetings; however, like regular monthly meetings, these meetings are open for public attendance. The Alamance County Board of Commissioners shall have a "Commissioners Response" period immediately following the public comment period for follow up or addressing issues that arise from the public comment section. This shall be a point of response from Commissioners to respond to comments that have been made, not debates with the public.
2. Each person desiring to speak during the Public Comment Period shall have three (3) minutes to make his/her remarks. There shall be no more than three (3) speakers on any one (1) topic per meeting. It is recommended that speakers desiring to speak on the same topic and advocating the same position choose one (1) person to speak for all.
3. Speakers shall be acknowledged by the Board Chairperson or other presiding Commissioner and shall be allowed to speak only in the order designated. Speakers shall address the Board from the lectern at the front of the room and begin their remarks by stating their name and address. Speakers who require accommodation for a disabling condition should contact the office of the County Clerk or County Manager not less than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting.
4. Public comment is not intended to require the Board of Commissioners to answer any impromptu questions. Speakers shall address all comments to the Commissioners as a whole and not to individual Commissioners. Discussions between speakers and members of the audience shall not be allowed.
5. Speakers shall be courteous in their language and presentation. Failure to abide by this requirement may result in forfeiture of the speaker's right to speak.
6. Speakers who have prepared written remarks or supporting documents are encouraged to leave a copy of such remarks and documents with the County Clerk.
7. Speakers shall not discuss any of the following: matters which concern the candidacy of any person seeking public office, including the candidacy of the person addressing the County; matters which are the subject of public hearings; and matters which are closed session matters, including but not limited to matters within the attorney-client privilege, anticipated or pending litigation, personnel, property acquisition, and matters which are made confidential by law.
8. Speakers shall not use profanity.
9. Speakers shall not use racial slurs.

10. Speakers shall not engage in personal attacks that by irrelevance, duration or tone may threaten or perceive to threaten the orderly and fair progress of the discussion.

Public Comment Policy approved 10/18/2010
Public Comment Policy revised and approved 9/15/2014
Public Comment Policy revised and approved 1/22/2019

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