

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the County Commission previously adopted a public comment policy via Resolution at its regularly scheduled meeting on January 11, 2001 that pertained to public comments at meetings of the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly recently enacted legislation (Public Chapter No. 300) regarding public comments at public meetings of a "governing body"; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and appropriate to update the County's public comment policy in light of the aforementioned legislation and make the same applicable to County Commission meetings, Standing Committee meetings, and meetings of other County boards and committees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the following updated public comment policy applicable to County Commission meetings, Standing Committee meetings, and meetings of other County boards at committees as follows:

1. For meetings of the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners and its Standing Committees, speakers may request to speak at the public meetings for the same by having their names placed on a sign-in form by 4:30 p.m. on the date of the public meeting in the County Mayor's Office. For all other County boards and committees, speakers may request to speak at the public meeting by having their names placed on a sign-in form by 4:30 p.m. on the day prior to said meeting in the County Mayor's Office. For all sign-in forms, the speaker's name and subject matter will be listed on the sign-in form.

2. No more than a total of thirty (30) minutes may be devoted to speakers who wish to speak during a public comment period. Each speaker shall be limited to three (3) minutes to speak, with the Chairman of the respective governing body keeping time with a timer. If there are more than ten (10) speakers, the thirty (30) minute time period shall be divided by the number of speakers. The thirty (30) minute time period may be extended by majority vote of the respective governing body.

3. Speakers may not share or yield their time to another in order to consolidate or expand the maximum time of any speaker.

4. Except for meetings of the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners, all public comments at Standing Committees meetings or meetings of any other County board or committee shall be germane to the item(s) on the agenda for the meeting.

5. For meetings of the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners, the Commission Chairman will call on speakers to speak after the reading of resolutions of sympathy and appreciations. For all other County boards and committees, the public comment period shall be placed on the agenda immediately following the reading and approval of the minutes.

6. This is intended to be a public comment policy and not a question-and-answer policy.

RESOLVED this 15th day of June, 2023.

ATTEST:

Lisa Duke Crowell
LISA DUKE CROWELL, County Clerk

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, TENNESSEE

BY: Jeff Phillips
JEFF PHILLIPS, Chairman

BY: Joe S. Carr
JOE S. CARR, MAYOR

DATE: 6/15/2023