

City of Goldsboro Public Comment Period Policy

200 North Center Street, 27530

P 919.580.4362

Purpose: To encourage and allow citizens to offer comments or suggestions to City Council members.

Goals: Through the productive Public Comments from citizens, the Council will be more cognitive of concerns in the City and the Districts in which they serve.

References: NC General Statute 160A-81.1. *Public Comment Period During Regular Meetings*. NC General Statute 143-318.17. *Disruptions of Official Meetings*.

Guidelines: The following Rules of Decorum have been established to maintain order and decorum during the public comment period. These rules are not intended to limit the content of another speaker's message but to ensure that the meeting is conducted in a civil, productive, effective and orderly manner.

Speakers will be allowed to speak on any relevant matter, and relevant matter is defined as a matter which is within the authority of the City Council to decide and not privileged by law (such as personnel matters).

1. The City Council will provide a public comment period at the beginning of each of the two regularly scheduled Council meetings each month.
2. Each speaker will identify himself/herself by stating their name, address and email address (if applicable).
3. Each speaker will be given three (3) minutes to offer comments or suggestions regarding the City. The total public comment period will not exceed 30 minutes at any regularly scheduled council meeting unless otherwise authorized by the presiding officer.
4. Each speaker will be allowed to speak one time during the public comment period.
5. Speakers shall refrain from personal attacks and or threats directed toward any Councilmember, the Mayor, City staff and/or members of the public.
6. Speakers shall be civil and courteous in their language and presentations at all times.
7. Speakers should not expect council members to comment on or respond to their comments directly during the meeting. The Mayor or presiding officer may however request the City Manager's office to follow up with the speaker after the meeting to provide additional information to the council at a later time.
8. The Mayor, or presiding officer has the authority to enforce the rules of decorum; failure to obey these rules may result in a forfeiture of remaining speaking time.

9. Individuals who engage in egregious or repeated violations may be asked to leave the meeting.
10. A person who willfully interrupts, disturbs, or disrupts an official meeting and who, upon being directed to leave the meeting by the presiding officer, willfully refuses to leave the meeting may be charged with and may be found guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor (see NC General Statute §143-318.17).

Adopted by Council May 3, 2021