

HOKE COUNTY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD PROCEDURES

FEBRUARY 17, 2003

(*Amended 11-1-04)

(Amended 6-6-05)

(Amended 11-20-06)

(Amended 09-03-24)

1. A Public Comment Period will be held at the first Monday meeting of each month.
2. Citizens desiring to participate must sign up with the Clerk to the Board prior to speaking at a Public Comment Period, providing their name and topic of discussion.
3. The first ten citizens on the sign-up sheet may speak at each meeting, with the sign-up list rolling over from meeting to meeting.
4. As with public hearings, there will be a three-minute time limit per speaker, with no waiving of time to other speakers; however, if the speaker is interrupted by a Commissioner, the time of the interruption will not be counted against the speaker's time limit.
5. During the public comment period, a citizen, in lieu of speaking, may pass out written literature to the Commissioners, Staff and audience.
6. After the citizen has made his or her prepared remarks, he or she will be seated with no further debate, dialogue or comment.
7. The Board of Commissioners will not take action, or respond to questions about issues raised during the public comment period at the same meeting.
8. At the request of a member of the Board of Commissioners, the County Manager, the County Attorney, or other appropriate staff members present, may respond to a concern raised by a citizen during the public comment period, after the citizen is finished.
9. A citizen who makes a request to a County Commissioner to be placed on the Board's Agenda prior to the internal distribution of the Board's Agenda may be instead placed on the Public Comment Speaker's List for the next Public Comment Period at the direction of a County Commissioner. In that event, these Commissioner-designated speakers shall not count toward the ten speakers per meeting rule. Additionally, in such instances, the Clerk shall note on the sign up sheet the speaker's name, topic and designating Commissioner.
10. The Clerk shall post the sign up sheet on the podium 30 minutes prior to the regularly scheduled Board of Commissioner's meeting.

11. **The Chair and/or the Chair's designee have complete authority to maintain order and decorum during their meetings and during the public comment period, including forfeiture of any remaining time of a speaker who engages in personal attacks; name calling, abusive language, threatening or disruptive language, or defamatory remarks directed at specific public officials or County employees.**
12. **In accordance with North Carolina General Statute §143-318.17, the Chair and/or his designee can order any person who willfully interrupts, disturbs, or disrupts their meetings to immediately leave the meeting; and any person who willfully refuses to immediately leave can be charged with disruption of an official meeting, a Class 2 misdemeanor.**