



Town of Rural Hall Public Comment Procedures

The Rural Hall Town Council is committed to allowing members of the public an opportunity to offer comments and suggestions for the efficient and effective administration of government. All comments and suggestions addressed to the Council during the Public Comment Period shall be subject to the following procedures:

1. The Public Comment Period will be held near the beginning of the Council meeting.
2. Persons who wish to address the Council during the Public Comment Period will register on a sign-up sheet available on the table prior to the start of the meeting. No one will be allowed to have his/her name placed on the list by telephone request to Town staff.
3. Each person signed up to speak will have up to six (6) minutes to make his/her remarks. Designation of spokesman may be required for groups of persons supporting or opposing the same issue.
4. Speakers will be acknowledged by the Mayor or presiding official in the order in which their names appear on the sign-up sheet. Speakers will address the Council from the lectern at the front of the room and begin their remarks by stating their name and address.
5. In order to be added to the list of speakers, an individual must provide their name and physical address. Speakers are not required to be residents or taxpayers of Rural Hall in order to address the Council. By speaking, each speaker acknowledges that they have read and are familiar with the rules of procedure.
6. Public comment is not intended to require the Council to answer any impromptu questions. Speakers will address all comments to the Council as a whole and not one individual member. Discussions between speakers and members of the audience will not be allowed.
7. Our public comment procedures are designed to maintain order and decorum. Pursuant to NCGS 143-318.17, Disruptions of Official Meetings, we will not allow individuals to interrupt, disturb, or disrupt a public meeting. We expect behavior that is polite, peaceful, courteous, and respectful, and does not include vulgar language, profanity, inappropriate gestures, insults, personal attacks, and accusations.
8. Only one speaker will be acknowledged at a time.
9. A speaker may not share or relinquish any remaining time they have not used to another speaker.
10. Speakers are only allowed to speak one time during the Public Comment period.
11. Any applause will be held until the end of the Public Comment Period.
12. Speakers who have prepared written remarks or supporting documents are encouraged to leave a copy of such remarks and documents with the Town Clerk.
13. Action on items brought up during the Public Comment Period will be at the discretion of the Council.
14. Failure to obey these rules may result in the forfeiture of the remaining speaking time. Individuals who engage in egregious or repeated violations may be asked to leave the meeting. 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 guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor.