



City Council Citizen Comment Rules

Citizens may make comments at city council meetings where actionable items are on the agenda as required by state law, § 8-44-112. Two opportunities exist for citizens to comment during the meetings. 1) During **Citizens Comments Germane to the Agenda** when citizens may speak only to specific agenda items and 2) During **Citizens Comments** when citizens may speak on any subject the city has authority over.

The Public Comment Rules are set forth as follows:

1. Each speaker must give notice of their intent to speak by completing the **sign-in** form at the entrance of the Council Chambers prior to the commencement of the public meeting.
2. Each speaker is granted **three (3) minutes** to make their comments; time may not be yielded to others.
3. Time will begin after the speaker states their name and address, for the record. The Mayor may allow non-city residents to speak but is not compelled to do so.
4. Each speaker is expected to speak from the podium (not from the audience) in a civil, non-argumentative, and respectful manner. The speaker shall not be permitted to use any vulgar or obscene language.
5. Each speaker is expected to address their comments to the Mayor. The speaker shall not direct questions to the council members, staff, or audience. The speaker shall not refer to any person by name, make attacks or denigrate others.
6. The Mayor may acknowledge the comment has been heard. Neither council members nor staff shall address or respond to the speaker during the three (3) minute comment period.
7. The speaker may not address the Council on matters which are not under the authority of the Council, and which are regulated by other governmental bodies or agencies.
8. The speaker shall not speak to any previous or pending litigation unless it is on the agenda.
9. The Mayor may interrupt or call out of order anyone who breaks these rules. Any deviation from these rules will result in a warning without loss of time. If a speaker continues to violate these rules, they will be interrupted and shall lose the remaining time.

Disorderly Conduct or Disrupting a Public Meeting is Prohibited.

(Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-17-305 § 39-17-306)

Citizens are not required to attend a city council meeting to make a request or comment.