

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF ABBEVILLE)

ORDINANCE NO.: 2013-12

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH POLICIES AND GUIDELINES FOR THE PRESENTATION AND PUBLIC COMMENT SEGMENTS DURING A COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

WHEREAS, it is always the desire of County Council to allow citizens and residents input into the process of local county governing; and,

WHEREAS, so as to allow for all persons an opportunity to be heard, Council has determined that certain rules should be implemented; so as to provide for order and maximum diversity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED IN COUNCIL DULY ASSEMBLED that the following policies and guidelines shall be established during County Council meetings.

Presentation

Those persons or groups desiring to make a presentation before Council shall contact the Clerk to Council at least 7 days prior to the scheduled County Council meeting. All material to be presented to Council should accompany this request. No matter shall be entered on the agenda or heard by the council unless it is within the council's authority or jurisdiction, provided that the council may entertain requests that it make recommendations to other governmental bodies, departments or agencies.

Public Comment

Those persons or groups desiring to participate during the public comment segment shall sign up on the sign-up sheet that will be available thirty (30) minutes prior to the meeting. They may sign the sheet up until the meeting is called to order by the Chairman. Speakers will be allowed on a first come basis based upon the time constraints below (i.e. first one to sign up will speak first; second to sign up will speak second, etc.). Only agenda items will be heard. A total of fifteen (15) minutes shall be allotted for this segment. A speaker must complete all sections of the sign-up sheet (i.e. name, address, phone number and topic of discussion). **This is a time to receive public comment. It is not a question and answers period; nor is it a period for presentation. If a speaker has questions that require a response, a written list shall be provided to the Clerk to Council and shall be responded to as Council deems appropriate.**

Length of segments

County Council shall designate a period up to fifteen (15) minutes per segment. Requests for additional time shall be made at the start of an individual's or group's comment. Council reserves the right upon two-thirds (2/3) vote of the entire Council to extend additional time to a speaker or group for a period not to exceed fifteen (15) minutes.

Individual Speakers

A speaker or group of speakers will be allowed up to a maximum of three (3) minutes to complete their comments to County Council; depending upon the number of individuals signed up to speak. Requests for additional time shall be made when they approach the microphone. Council reserves the right upon two-thirds (2/3) vote of the entire Council to extend additional time to a speaker or group for a period not to exceed fifteen (15) minutes.

Conduct of Speakers

1. **At no time should an individual approach Council. If they wish to disburse material to Council they are to provide it to the Clerk to Council for disbursement.**
2. All speakers shall come to the microphone, state their name and address for the record, and be recognized by the Chairman.
3. The Council will not hear complaints or comments about personnel or persons associated with the County.
4. Neither profane or vulgar language nor personal abuse against any person shall be permitted.
5. All presentations and comments shall be directed to the Council and not the audience.

Severability

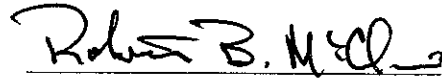
If a section, sub-section or part of this Ordinance shall be deemed or found to conflict with the provision of South Carolina Law or other preemptive legal principle, then the section, sub-section or part of this Ordinance shall be deemed ineffective, but the remaining parts of this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

Conflict with preceding ordinances

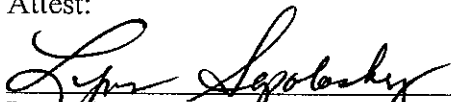
If a section, sub-section or provisions of this Ordinance shall conflict with the provisions of a section, sub-section or part of a preceding Ordinance of Abbeville County, then the preceding section, sub-section or part shall be deemed repealed and no longer in effect.

Done this 9 day of December, 2013

Abbeville County Council


Robert B. McClain, Chairman

Attest:


Lynn Sopolosky, Clerk to Council