

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF ABBEVILLE)

ORDINANCE NO.: 2011-05

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH POLICIES AND GUIDELINES REGARDING THE PUBLIC HEARING PERIOD DURING A COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

WHEREAS, it is always the desire of County Council to allow citizens and residents to voice their opinions and concerns during a Public Hearing; and,

WHEREAS, so as to allow for all persons an opportunity to be heard, Council has determined that certain rules should be implemented for the public hearing period 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 for public hearing during County Council meetings.

- 1) Those persons or groups desiring to participate during the public hearing segment shall sign up on a 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. This is not a question and answer period. If a speaker has questions that require a response, a written list shall be provided to the Clerk to Council and may be responded to at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting.
- 2) Individual Speakers – A speaker or group of speakers will be allowed up to five (5) minutes to complete their comments to County Council. Requests for additional time shall be made at the start of an individual's or group's hearing. Council reserves the right to extend additional time to a speaker or group for a period not to exceed fifteen (15) minutes.
- 3) Conduct of Speakers – Speakers shall come to the podium, state their name and address for the record and be recognized by the Chairman; they must adhere to the Public Hearing Ordinance; neither profane or vulgar language nor personal abuse against any person shall be permitted; all comments shall be directed to the Council and not the audience.
- 4) 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.

Done this 8th day of August, 2011

Abbeville County Council

Robert B. McClain

Robert B. McClain, Chairman

Attest:

Lynn Sopolosky

Lynn Sopolosky, Clerk to Council

