

GREENVILLE CITY COUNCIL POLICY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

In accordance with the provisions of North Carolina General Statute 160A-81.1, the following policy is hereby established for a Public Comment Period during meetings of City Council.

1. A period reserved for comments from the public will be included as an item of business on the agenda as Public Comment Period for each regular City Council meeting, each joint meeting of City Council and the Greenville Utilities Commission, and each special City Council meeting.
2. The Public Comment Period will be placed on the agenda as the next item after the approval of the agenda for the meeting.
3. The Public Comment Period shall not exceed a total of thirty minutes, unless the City Council, by a majority vote, extends this limit.
4. Each individual will be allowed no more than three minutes for comments, unless the City Council, by a majority vote, extends this limit.
5. An individual wishing to address the Council during the Public Comment Period shall register with the City Clerk prior to the opening of the meeting by signing his or her name, address and a short description of his or her topic on a sign-up sheet stationed on the podium at the entrance to the Council Chambers.
6. If the thirty minutes allocated to the Public Comment Period has not expired after the individuals who have registered have spoken, individuals who fail to register before the meeting may speak during the Public Comment Period. These individuals will speak following those who registered in advance. If time remains, the Mayor will ask if any other individual wishes to address the Council during the Public Comment Period. An individual wishing to speak should raise his or her hand and ask to be recognized by the Mayor. After being recognized by the Mayor, the individual should state his or her name, address and the topic to be addressed.
7. Items that were or are scheduled to be the subject of public hearings conducted at the same meeting or another meeting during the same week shall not be discussed during the Public Comment Period. At a joint meeting of City Council and Greenville Utilities Commission, items that are not germane to both the City Council and the Greenville Utilities Commission shall not be discussed during the Public Comment Period.
8. Action on items brought up during the Public Comment Period will be at the discretion of the City Council. If the City Council deems that the comment requires action, rarely will action be taken at the meeting when it is presented. It will likely be referred to staff for review and recommendation.

This policy was adopted on April 14, 2011, was amended on August 13, 2015, and January 12, 2017.