

GREENVILLE CITY COUNCIL
POLICY ON PUBLIC HEARINGS

The public hearing period during meetings of City Council for the presentation of information in support of and in opposition to a matter which is the subject of a scheduled public hearing shall be conducted in a manner so as to allow a fair opportunity for persons to comment on the matter. Comments should be relevant to the matter being considered and should be limited to the introduction of new information not previously addressed by earlier persons.

When the matter which is the subject of the public hearing involves a proposed amendment to the zoning ordinance or zoning map, the public hearing shall be conducted with persons in support of the proposed amendment speaking first and persons in opposition to the proposed amendment speaking second. There will be no opportunity for rebuttal. Unless the City Council, by a majority vote, extends the time limit, the total time for persons speaking in support of a proposed amendment shall not exceed thirty (30) minutes and the total time for persons speaking in opposition to a proposed amendment shall not exceed thirty (30) minutes. Unless the City Council, by a majority vote, extends the time limit, each speaker will be allowed to speak for a period of time no greater than the following time allocation:

- a) Petitioner or designated representative (only one person): Ten (10) minutes.
- b) Professional consultants and other interested persons in support: Three (3) minutes each.
- c) Designated representative for interested persons in opposition: Ten (10) minutes. It is preferred that only one person be the designated representative for the opposition and be entitled to the additional time allowed. When multiple persons indicate a desire to be the designated representative, the Mayor may allocate an equal division of the additional seven (7) minutes among the speakers.
- d) Interested person in opposition: Three (3) minutes each.

For a public hearing on any other matter, the public hearing will be conducted with any person desiring to speak on the matter, either in support or in opposition, being provided the opportunity to speak. The public hearing shall not exceed a total of thirty (30) minutes, unless the City Council, by a majority vote, extends this time limit. Each speaker will be allowed no more than three (3) minutes for comments, unless the City Council, by a majority vote, extends this time limit. Notwithstanding the foregoing, City Council, by a majority vote, may direct that any public hearing be conducted in the same manner as a public hearing in which the subject matter involves a proposed amendment to the zoning ordinance or zoning map.

Response to Council Member requests for additional information or clarification of comments shall not be considered a part of or count toward an individual's time allocation.

This policy, adopted August 8, 2005, supercedes previous policies on public hearings during meetings of City Council.