



RULES FOR MAKING PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA & NON-AGENDA ITEMS

The Bloomington Common Council greatly values the voices of its citizens and welcomes public comment on non-agenda items of community concern at two points on its *Regular Session* agenda. Citizens may make general comments at either the beginning of the meeting under *Reports from the Public* (limited to a total cumulative time of 20 minutes) or at the end under *Additional Reports from the Public* (limited to a total cumulative time of 25 minutes).

In order to conduct meetings in the most effective manner possible, the following rules apply to periods of general public comment and to periods of public comment on a particular item:

- 1) At each meeting, citizens may speak at only *one* of the two opportunities for general public comment, but not both.
- 2) Citizens are limited to one comment, not to exceed three (3) minutes. When giving your comment, please state your name for the record and speak directly into the microphone.
- 3) All in-person comments must be made from the podium; speakers may not approach the Council dais without permission of the Chair.
- 4) Reports are intended to be statements from speakers; speakers may not engage the Council in a question-and-answer exchange during the *Reports from the Public* periods.
- 5) The City Council encourages civility in public discourse and requests that speakers refrain from language which would incite an immediate breach of the peace; refrain from undue repetition, extended discussion of irrelevancies, obscenity, and personal attacks against private individuals unrelated to the operation of the City.

These rules are intended to foster a fair, respectful, and productive meeting. Any person who violates these rules will be declared out of order by the Chair and will receive a warning. If an attendee receives three (3) warnings, the Chair may, upon issuing the third warning, direct: 1) the attendee to leave the meeting; and 2) a law enforcement officer to remove the attendee from the meeting, if the attendee refuses to leave when directed by the Chair for a violation of these rules.

Nothing in these rules may be construed to prohibit a law enforcement officer from immediately removing an attendee from a meeting if: 1) removal of the attendee is necessary to maintain order or ensure the safety of another person; 2) the attendee commits a criminal offense; or 3) the attendee violates these rules governing the conduct of the meeting. Ind. Code § 5-14-1.5-3.3 (effective July 1, 2024).