

**RESOLUTION TO AMEND
STANDING PROCEDURAL RULES OF
THE DEKALB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has adopted Standing Procedural Rules to guide the process for public hearings;

WHEREAS, for non-zoning items requiring a public hearing, the Standing Procedural Rules allot five (5) minutes of public comment for proponents of an item and five (5) minutes of public comment for opponents of an item, for a total of ten (10) minutes of public comment for each item;

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners recognizes that the adoption of the County's annual and mid-year budgets is an important item that requires significant public input; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners seeks to increase the allotted time per side from five (5) minutes to ten (10) minutes for items concerning the adoption of the County's annual and mid-year budgets,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners hereby amends Standing Procedural Rule IV as follows:

IV. PUBLIC HEARING PROCEDURES

- 5(a) Applicants or proponents of an item that is not considered a zoning ordinance under the Georgia Zoning Procedures Law **and does not concern the adoption of the annual or midyear budget** shall have five (5) minutes during which to present any information pertinent to the issue to be decided. Opponents of the issue may respond and shall have five (5) minutes in which to present any information pertinent to the issue to be decided. Following the presentation of positions by members of the public, the staff recommendation shall be presented, except in the case of traffic calming items, which require the staff recommendation to be presented first.
- (b) Proponents of an item that concerns the adoption of the annual or mid-year budget shall have ten (10) minutes during which to present any information pertinent to the issue to be decided. Opponents of the item may respond and shall have ten (10) minutes in which to present any information pertinent to the issue to be decided.**

11. The following additional public hearing rules shall apply to each Commission meeting and should be read:

Citizens may speak for or against an item that is considered by law to be a zoning ordinance or concerns the adoption of the annual or mid-year budget and each side will have ten minutes to present its case. Citizens may also speak for or against an item that is placed on the public hearing agenda but is not a zoning ordinance or the adoption of the annual or mid-year budget. In that case, each side will have five minutes to present its case. In the event there is more than one speaker per side, speakers must divide their time in order to complete their full presentation within the ten-minute time allotment, or the five-minute time allotment. When the buzzer sounds to indicate that time has run out, the speaker will be expected to immediately cease speaking and to leave the podium area. Prior to speaking, a speaker shall complete a speaker card and present it when approaching the podium. If a speaker has any documents for the commissioners, the speaker shall provide 10 copies when approaching the podium. Seven copies are for the commissioners and the remaining copies are for the planning director, the county attorney, and the clerk. In all zoning ordinance and traffic calming cases, staff shall make their recommendation for action to the Commission first followed by applicants or citizens speaking in favor of the item. Applicants in zoning ordinance cases shall have the right to reserve time for rebuttal. Opponents of a zoning ordinance item shall have no right of rebuttal. For all other items placed on the public hearing agenda, applicants or citizens speaking in favor of the item shall speak first followed by opponents of the item. Once the citizens have finished speaking, staff shall make a recommendation for action to the Commission. At this point, citizens are no longer allowed to speak unless called to the podium by an individual commissioner to answer questions or provide information. Speakers should always talk directly into the microphone and begin by stating their name, address, and the name of any organization they represent. Abusive, profane, or derogatory language will not be permitted. Holding up signs, clapping, yelling, standing, or laying in the aisles to show support for or opposition to a speaker will not be permitted, but a show of hands or quietly standing in place will be permitted to show support for or opposition to a speaker's position.

ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of DeKalb County, this _____ day of _____ 2023.

ROBERT PATRICK
Presiding Officer
Board of Commissioners
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED by the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County, this _____ day of _____, 2023.

MICHAEL L. THURMOND
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

BARBARA NORWOOD-SANDERS, CCC
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED AS TO SUBSTANCE:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

ZACHARY WILLIAMS
Chief Operating Officer

VIVIANE H. ERNSTES
County Attorney