

PUBLIC COMMENTS GUIDELINES

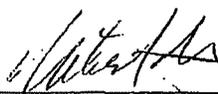
Effective November 19, 2019

Purpose: The Brookings County Commission, as well as a number of boards and committees under the County's purview, are considered public bodies that are subject to open meetings laws. SDCL 1-25-1 states that **"the public body shall reserve at every regularly scheduled official meeting a period for public comment, limited at the public body's discretion, but not so limited as to provide for no public comment."** These guidelines have been adopted to provide for clarity and consistency in the application of this statutory requirement for public comment amongst all of the county boards and committees that are subject to open meetings laws.

Guidelines:

1. Anyone wishing to make a public comment must sign in prior to the start of the meeting if they want to speak during the "Invitation for a citizen to schedule time on the Commission Agenda for an item not listed" portion of the agenda.
2. Each individual will be limited to five (5) minutes to make their comments. Individuals who require interpreters or other special accommodations may be given additional time to speak, at the discretion of the Chair. Individuals may not relinquish their allotted time to anyone else.
3. Comments must be presented using a civil and professional demeanor. Threatening, profane, vulgar, or abusive language will not be tolerated.
4. No action may be taken by the public body on any item not on the current agenda during the same meeting in which the comments are made. Comments that are related to a topic that the public body feels may require formal action or further discussion may be placed on a future agenda by that public body at their discretion to allow for proper notice pursuant to the open meetings laws.
5. Comments related to topics that are on the current agenda must be made during the time for discussion allowed for that agenda item.
6. The period for public comment is intended for the public body to receive comments. Members of the public body are not required to respond to a comment, answer any questions, or engage in any dialogue with the individual making the comments.

Approved this 19th day of November, 2019.



Mike Bartley, Commission Chairperson
Brookings County Commission