

City of Kinston
Rules for Persons



Addressing City Council

In accordance with N.C.G.S 160A-81 and 160A-81.1, and in order to facilitate the orderly discussion of topics related to the City's business, the City Council of the City of Kinston hereby adopts and approves the following rules regarding comments made or occurring during public hearings and during the City's regularly scheduled times for citizen comment at City Council meetings.

1. Individuals desiring to address the Council will be required to write their name, address, and phone number down on a sign-in sheet prior to the opening of the comment period.
2. The Mayor, or designee, will call the names of each person who signed in in the order in which their names appear on the sign-in sheet.
3. Each individual whose name has been called will have 3 minutes total to address the Council. For citizen comments, speakers may address any topic(s) related to City business. For public hearings, comments will be limited to the topic for which the hearing was called.
4. All speakers, who are physically able, must address the Council from the podium and shall return to their seats after addressing the Council.
5. Unless specifically invited to provide a response by the Mayor or a Council Member, each individual will be limited to speaking one time per comment period.

The following comments are not considered "related to City business" and will not be tolerated:

1. Personal attacks against others, including City elected officials or staff;
2. The use of vulgar or profane language; and,
3. Comments related to individual candidates for political office.

Speakers should keep in mind that a public comment period is an opportunity to voice concerns and opinions to the Council. It is not an opportunity to campaign or to engage the Council in a debate. Any questions presented to the Council will be considered and any responses from the City Council will generally be provided at a later date.

Adopted and effective, this the 7th day of March, 2016.