



GUIDELINES IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK AT A CITY COUNCIL, BOARD OR COMMISSION MEETING

- ❖ Public comment periods are provided at the discretion of the Council and may be canceled or suspended for any specific agenda item by the Mayor or Chairperson, as presiding officer, to ensure efficient conduct of business. Reasons for cancellation include, but are not limited to: (1) time constraints due to a lengthy agenda or urgent matters; (2) redundancy with prior public hearings or comments on the same item; (3) safety or security concerns; (4) compliance with applicable laws or court orders; or (5) other circumstances where comment would disrupt the orderly transaction of public business. Such decisions shall be announced at the start of the relevant agenda item or as soon as practicable and shall be viewpoint-neutral.
- ❖ For items on the Posted Agenda, please fill out a "Request to Appear Before the Broken Arrow City Council" or "Request to Appear Before the Board or Commission" form. The forms are available outside the City Council Chambers. Please turn in your form to the Clerk at least five minutes prior to the beginning of the meeting. Each speaker has up to three (3) minutes. The Mayor or Chairperson may set a maximum time limit for posted agenda items.
- ❖ For items not listed on the agenda, but related to City business or services, you may speak to the Council/Board/Commission by selecting the "Citizen's Opportunity to Speak" box on the appropriate form. Please fill out a "Request to Appear Before the Broken Arrow City Council" or "Request to Appear Before the Board or Commission" form. The forms are available outside the City Council Chambers. Please turn in your form to the Clerk at least five minutes prior to the beginning of the meeting. Each speaker has up to three (3) minutes. Please be aware that state law prohibits the Council from taking action on items presented under this section of the agenda.
- ❖ If you want someone to speak for your group, please submit all forms completed by the group and the designated speaker(s).

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Meeting*

- ❖ Zoning Applicants will have a maximum of ten (10) minutes to present testimony in favor of the request and an additional five (5) minutes for rebuttal if any opponents of the application have spoken. The Mayor or Chairperson reserves the right to extend the presentation time.
- ❖ City Staff members are a resource to the City Council and are present to answer questions and provide additional information.
- ❖ If you do not want to address the Council/Board/Commission but would like it known that you are in favor of or in opposition to an agenda item, please mark the appropriate section on the appropriate form.
- ❖ The City of Broken Arrow welcomes public participation and comments at public meetings. However, the City must take reasonable measures to safeguard its technology resources and to promote meeting focus. As such, electronic materials shall be presented to the City Clerk's Office no later than noon the day before the scheduled meeting to allow for City Staff to conduct a viral scan of all electronic materials presented. Any printed materials the public may wish to submit for consideration must be provided to the City Clerk on the date of the meeting at least five minutes prior to the start of the meeting. The presiding officer of a City meeting has the right to waive these pre-submission requirements.

WHEN YOU SPEAK

- ❖ Speakers will be heard only upon recognition by the Mayor or Chairperson. Remarks shall be addressed to the Council/Board/Commission as a whole and not any individual City Council/Board/Commission Member. Please do not speak to the audience or to any individual in the audience.
- ❖ Adjust the microphone so that it is pointed at your mouth, speak clearly, and begin by stating your name and whether you reside or own a business in Broken Arrow.



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- ❖ Limit your remarks to the allotted time limit. A light system in front of the City Clerk will help you pace your remarks. A green light stays on until you reach your final minute, when a yellow light comes on, please conclude your remarks. When the red light comes on, please stop and return to your seat.

- ❖ Please focus on new or unique information that other speakers have not covered.

- ❖ Comments should address the merits or problems of the issue. Personal attacks on previous speakers, or on the applicant, are generally not helpful. In any event, the speaker is responsible for the content of the speech.

- ❖ The Mayor or Chairperson, as presiding officer, may interrupt or terminate a speaker's comments at their discretion if necessary to maintain order, efficiency, or safety. Reasons for such action include, but are not limited to: (1) exceeding the allotted time limit; (2) comments that are repetitive or cumulative or prior speakers; (3) off-topic remarks unrelated to the agenda item or City business; (4) disruptive conduct, such as shouting, threats, or interference with the meeting; (5) use of obscene, profane, or fighting words that pose an imminent risk of inciting violence; or (6) violations of these guidelines or applicable law. Where feasible, the Mayor or Chairperson will provide a warning before terminating comments. All decisions by the Mayor or Chairperson are final during the meeting but may be appealed through appropriate channels post-meeting.