

## Ripley County, Indiana

### PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY

The Ripley County Council has established a policy which addresses Public Comment and this procedure offers citizens the best avenue to hear these issues and encourages this procedure to be followed where practical.

The Ripley County Council hereby establishes a Public Comment Policy to allow members of the public an additional opportunity to address the Council. In addition to public hearings, a special time is hereby set aside for the purpose of receiving comments and suggestions from citizens.

All comments made during the Public Comment period shall be subject to the following procedures:

1. A Public Comment period not to exceed thirty minutes will be held during the regularly scheduled County Council meetings each month.
2. Persons who wish to make a statement during the Public Comment period will register on a sign-up sheet available 30 minutes before the start of the meeting. No one will be allowed to have his or her name placed on the list by telephone request to County Auditor staff.
3. Each person who signed up to speak will have up to 3 minutes to make his or her statement.
4. Speakers will be acknowledged by the Council President in the order in which their name appears on the sign-up sheet. Speakers shall address the County Council from the podium, and not approach the Council. Speakers will begin their statement by first stating their name and address.
5. Statements are to be directed to the County Council as a whole, and not to individuals. Public Comment is not intended to require the Board to provide any answer to the speaker. Discussions between speakers and members of the audience will not be allowed.
6. Speakers will be courteous in their language and presentation.
7. Only one speaker will be acknowledged at a time. In the event a group of persons supporting or opposing the same position desires to be heard, in the interest of time, a spokesperson shall be designated to express the group's concerns. Likewise, in the event the number of persons wishing to attend the hearing exceeds the capacity of the meeting place, one or more delegates shall be selected to speak on behalf of each group. If the time period expires before all persons who have signed up get to speak, those names will be carried over to the next Public Comment period.

8. Any action on items brought up during the Public Comment period will be at the discretion of the Board. The County Council will not likely take any action on subject matter for which they have not had the opportunity to fully investigate and gather complete information.

9. Speakers should not discuss any of the following:

- a. Public hearing items;
- b. Candidacy of any person seeking public office;
- c. Matters in current or anticipated litigation;
- d. Matters which are closed session items, including, but not limited to, matters within the attorney-client privilege, anticipated or pending litigation, personnel, property acquisition; and matters which are made confidential by law.

10. After the speaker has made his or her statement, he or she will be seated with no further debate, dialogue, or comment.

11. Any applause will be held until the end of the Public Comment period. Speakers shall not disrupt the meeting.

Adopted: 7/18/2016

President: Brenda P. Weyler

President Pro Tem DePhane Smith

Member: Ron Fisher

Member: Bill Warr

Member: Maria Horton

Member: Paul Reynolds

Member: Edward ...