

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES GOVERNING THE CONDUCT OF PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE ADOPTION, REPEAL, OR AMENDMENT OF A ZONING ORDINANCE

The governing, calling, and conducting of the public hearings held by the Board of Commissioners for consideration of the adoption, repeal, or amendment of a zoning ordinance shall be accomplished with the following policies and procedures:

The chairman shall indicate that a public hearing has been called for the consideration of zoning decisions.

The chairman shall ask for a show of hands for those persons who appear in support of or opposition to the proposed zoning decision. If it appears that the number of persons wishing to appear in support of/opposition to the proposed decision is in excess of that which may reasonably be heard, the chairman may request that a spokesperson for the group be chosen so that the entire presentation of the positions of those in support of/opposition to the proposed decision shall not exceed 30 minutes.

The County staff shall present an oral report on the proposed decision and make their recommendations.

Those in favor of the proposed decision shall be allowed a minimum of ten minutes, or the amount of time as prescribed by State of Georgia law, in which to speak in favor of the proposed decision.

Those who oppose the proposed decision shall be allowed a minimum of ten minutes, or the amount of time as prescribed by State of Georgia law, in which to speak in opposition to the proposed decision.

The County staff may make additional comments.

The County Attorney may be asked to discuss any legal issues that have been raised.

The Planning Commission or Board of Commissioners may then propound questions to any party present and may discuss the proposed decision.

After the above procedures have been completed, the chairman will indicate that the public hearing is formally closed.

The Board of Commissioners may place witnesses under oath and may require that the proceedings be recorded.

Each speaker at the public hearing shall speak to only the merits of the issue under consideration and shall address remarks only to members of the Planning Commission or the Board of Commissioners.

Each speaker shall refrain from personal attacks on any other speaker or the discussion of facts or opinions irrelevant to the proposed decision under consideration. The chairman may limit or refuse a speaker the right to continue if the speaker, after first being cautioned, continues to violate this subsection.

Nothing herein shall be construed as prohibiting the chairman from conducting the hearing in an orderly and decorous manner to assure that the public hearing on a proposed zoning decision is conducted in a fair and orderly manner.