

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-06

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BRECKENRIDGE, TEXAS APPROVING A PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY PURSUANT TO TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 551.007; PROVIDING A REPEALER CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, Section 551.007 of the Texas Government Code provides that a governing body must allow members of the public to address the governing body “regarding an item on an agenda for an open meeting of the body to address the body regarding the item at the meeting before or during the body’s consideration of the item”;

WHEREAS, Section 551.007 of the Texas Government Code authorizes a governing body to “adopt reasonable rules regarding the public’s right to address the body under this section, including rules that limit the total amount of time that a member of the public may address the body on a given item”;

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Breckenridge (the “City Commission”) previously adopted a public comment policy on December 4, 1995 but that policy is outdated due to the enactment of Section 551.007 of the Texas Government Code in 2019; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission wishes to adopt an updated public comment policy;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BRECKENRIDGE, TEXAS THAT:

SECTION 1. All other ordinances, resolutions, or policies in conflict with this Resolution are hereby amended to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 2. The City Commission of the City of Breckenridge, Texas adopts the following rules of procedure for public comment, which shall apply to meetings of the City Commission and all meetings of City Boards which are subject to the Open Meetings Act:

- a. There shall be an “Open Forum” period at the beginning of each Meeting during which members of the public may address the Commission or Board.
- b. Persons wishing to address the Commission or Board during “Open Forum” shall complete a “Public Testimony Form” and present the completed form to the City Secretary prior to the beginning of the meeting.
- c. When called upon by the Mayor or Chairman, each speaker shall approach the designated speaker location and state his/her name and address before speaking. Speakers shall address the Commission or Board with civility that is conducive to appropriate public discussion.
- d. Speakers shall be allowed to address the Commission or Board. Each speaker

shall be allowed a total of three (3) minutes to speak. If there are more than five (5) individuals wishing to speak on any one matter, each speaker's time shall be limited to a total of two (2) minutes to speak. If any speaker requires the assistance of a translator, the speaker's time to speak will be doubled, in accordance with Section 551.007 of the Texas Government Code.

- e. The "Public Testimony Form" attached as Exhibit A is hereby adopted.
- f. At all other times during a meeting, the members of the audience shall not enter into discussion or debate on matters being considered by the Commission or Board, unless recognized by the Mayor or Chairman.

SECTION 3. That this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the City Commission.

PASSED, ADOPTED, AND APPROVED by the City Commission of the City of Breckenridge this the 2nd day of April 2024.

Bob Sims, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jessica Sutter, City Secretary

S E A L

EXHIBIT "A"

CITY OF BRECKENRIDGE

Public Testimony Participation Form

NOTE: This Public Testimony Form MUST be presented to the City Secretary PRIOR to the Call to Order of the Meeting.

1. Each member of the public who appears before the City Commission or a City Board shall be permitted to address the Commission or Board and to make his/her remarks during the Open Forum portion of the Agenda.
2. Each speaker shall be allowed to address the Commission or Board. Each speaker shall be allowed a total of three (3) minutes to speak. If there are more than five (5) individuals wishing to speak on any one matter, each speaker's time shall be limited to a total of two (2) minutes to speak. If any speaker requires the assistance of a translator, the speaker's time to speak will be doubled, in accordance with Section 551.007 of the Texas Government Code.
3. Any further discussion on Agenda items will be limited to the Commission or Board, City Staff, Guests invited to provide input on the City issues and those recognized by the Mayor or Chairman to speak.

Instructions: Fill out all appropriate blanks. Pease print or write legibly.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Do you represent any group or organization? _____

If you represent a group or organization, please state the name, address, and telephone number of such group or organization: _____

What matter or Agenda item or items do you wish to address: _____

Signature: _____