

RESOLUTION - 2025

**BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS' RESOLUTION OF POLICY
REGARDING PUBLIC COMMENT REQUIREMENTS AT REGULAR MEETINGS**

WHEREAS, the Board of City Commissioners is a board that governs the political subdivision of City of Dickinson pursuant to Chapter 40-09 of the North Dakota Century Code.

WHEREAS, as a North Dakota political subdivision, the City of Dickinson is subject to North Dakota's open meetings requirements under Chapter 44-04 of the North Dakota Century Code.

WHEREAS, during the 2025 Legislative Session, the North Dakota Legislature approved SB 2180, a bill that includes a new public meeting requirement in Chapter 44-04 for cities, counties, townships, school districts, park districts, and water resource districts (the "Public Entities").

WHEREAS, under SB 2180, at every regularly scheduled meeting, the Public Entities must include an opportunity for members of the public to provide comments.

WHEREAS, SB 2180 directs the Public Entities to implement policies that include rules for public comments, including time limits for public speakers, total meeting time limitations for public comment, rules regarding permissible topics, and rules of decorum.

WHEREAS, as a political subdivision, the City of Dickinson must comply with SB 2180 and the Board of City Commissioners approves this RESOLUTION OF POLICY in compliance with the public comment policy requirements under SB 2180.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this RESOLUTION OF POLICY represents the Board of City Commissioner's official policy regarding public comments at regular board meetings as mandated under SB 2180.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of City Commissioner's policy under this RESOLUTION OF POLICY ensures the public's right to speak at a regular meeting and ensures the public comment process is orderly, efficient, and respectful.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of City Commissioners approves the following policy regarding public comments at City of Dickinson Commission meetings, under SB 2180:

1. The Board of City Commissioners will include a public comment agenda item **as the last agenda item OR first non-procedural agenda item** at all regular meetings of the Board of City Commissioners.
 - a. "Regular" meetings include the City of Dickinson's regularly scheduled monthly meetings, as approved by the Board of City Commissioners and filed with the City Auditor, all as required under N.D. Cent. Code § 44-04-20(3).

2. To provide public comments, each individual must submit a speaker card prior to the meeting being called to order that includes:
 - a. the individual's name,
 - b. the individual's address,
 - c. the agenda item from the current meeting agenda or the previous meeting agenda that the individual is addressing.
3. Missing information from the speaker card disqualifies the individual from speaking at the meeting.
4. Each individual will be allotted five minutes to make comments. The individual will be notified when the five minutes have expired.
5. Individuals will be called on to present public comments in the order that speaker cards were submitted.
6. All comments must:
 - a. Address the agenda item identified on the speaker card.
 - b. Be pertinent to the City.
 - c. Be directed to the Board of City Commissioners as a whole.
7. Comments may not:
 - a. Be defamatory, abusive, harassing, or unlawful.
 - b. Include information that is exempt or confidential under North Dakota open records law.
 - c. Interfere with the orderly conduct of the meeting.
8. Individuals may not yield their allotted time to another individual.
9. Individuals unable or unwilling to speak in person may submit written comments to the City of Dickinson prior to the meeting. If received twenty-four hours before the meeting, the comments will be distributed to the board members before the meeting. Comments submitted less than twenty-four hours before the meeting will be distributed after the meeting. Any written comments submitted must identify the agenda item from the current meeting agenda or the previous meeting agenda that is being addressed and include the individual's name and address.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this RESOLUTION OF POLICY supersedes any of the City of Dickinson's previous policies or practices regarding public comments at the regularly scheduled meetings.

Date Approved: July ____, 2025

Scott Decker, President
Board of City Commissioners

ATTEST:

Dustin Dassinger, City Administrator

DRAFT