



# ADMINISTRATION

To: City Commission

From: City Administrator Dustin Dassinger

Date: 3/13/25

Subject: Public Comments not on Agenda -Resolution

Commissioners,

On the February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Commission Meeting guidelines were proposed to promote respectful and productive discussions during commission meetings. As I stated before, I appreciate the public's cooperation and engagement in city affairs. I also believe we need to maintain the integrity and professionalism of commission meetings.

At the February 20<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting, a discussion occurred between Commissioners, Attorney Wenko and myself regarding the guidelines that were proposed. Feedback from that discussion was used in development of a resolution designed to ensure professional, and orderly public engagement at City of Dickinson Commission Meetings.

The resolution is attached. (Below is a summary of the resolution):

## 1. Public Comment Opportunities

- General public comments, apart from public hearings or agenda-specific items, will only be allowed during the designated "Public Comments – Not on the Agenda" portion of regular City Commission meetings.
- Special City Commission Meetings will not include public comment, except for public hearings or agenda-specific items where comments are requested.

## 2. Eligibility to Speak

- Individuals eligible to speak must meet at least one of the following criteria:
  - (a) Resident of Dickinson or the extra-territorial zoning area of Dickinson.
  - (b) Owner of real property in Dickinson or in the extra-territorial zoning area of Dickinson.
  - (c) Business operator within Dickinson or in the extra-territorial zoning area of Dickinson.



(d) Employee of a business or governmental entity in Dickinson or in the extra-territorial zoning area of Dickinson.

### 3. Speaking Time & Limitations

- Each speaker is limited to five minutes.
- Time cannot be transferred from one speaker to another.
- Comments must pertain to municipal business.
- Refusal to leave the podium when requested is considered disruptive behavior.

### 4. Procedural Requirements

- Speakers must state their name, address, and the topic they wish to address.
- Non-residents must provide the address of the Dickinson business they own, work at, or the real property they own.
- Presentations and videos are not allowed during the "Public Comments – Not on the Agenda" portion of the meeting.

## Public Meeting Decorum Policy

### 1. General Decorum Expectations

- All attendees and participants must adhere to respectful conduct during City Commission and City committee meetings.
- Disruptive conduct will not be tolerated, as it hinders the efficiency and dignity of public meetings.

### 2. Prohibited Behaviors

- Refusal to leave the podium when requested.
- Outbursts, shouting, clapping, booing, hissing, or interruptions.
- Actions that disturb or disrupt presenters, discussions, or the orderly conduct of the meeting.
- Physical or verbal altercations.
- Defamatory, abusive, harassing, or unlawful behavior.

### 3. Enforcement Measures

- The presiding officer may issue a warning for disruptive behavior.
- Continued disruptions may result in the meeting being recessed until order is restored. In severe cases, the presiding officer may direct law enforcement to remove the disruptive individual from the meeting.



This policy is intended to ensure that City Commission Meetings remain structured, efficient, and respectful while allowing meaningful public participation in municipal affairs.

I recommend approval of this resolution.

Thank You,



Dustin Dassinger

City Administrator

