

Rules of Procedure for Public Hearings on Zoning Text Amendments

Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 153A-52, the Scotland County Board of Commissioners adopts the following rules of procedure governing the conduct of public hearings on legislative text change amendments to ensure an orderly and fair public hearing:

1. The Chair of the Board of Commissioners shall have the discretion to establish such reasonable time limits on the proponents and opponents of any proposed text change, including the discretion to limit duplicative presentations.
2. The Chair may, in his or her discretion, designate spokespersons for groups of persons supporting or opposing the same position on the matter before Board.
3. All individuals, or individuals representing groups, must register with the Clerk or place their name on a sign-up sheet prior to commencement of the public hearing, and must indicate on the form provided by the Clerk or the sign-up sheet whether they desire to speak in support of or opposition to the proposed text change. When called upon to speak by the Chair, each individual shall state their name and address for the record.
4. Individuals called upon to speak will be allowed to provide comments on the proposed text change, but should not direct questions at one another or to the Board or planning staff. All comments made by speakers should be directed to the Board.
5. Based on the number of individuals registered to speak at any given hearing, the Chair, in his or her discretion, may place additional limits on individual speakers as deemed necessary to ensure an orderly and efficient public hearing.
6. The Chair, in his or her discretion, may take any action reasonably necessary to preserve order at any public hearing, including excluding individuals from the meeting or further limiting any individual's speaking time.
7. With these general rules in place, and pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 153A-52, the Board adopts the following public hearing procedure for legislative text changes, subject to the Chair's discretion:
 - a. The County's planning staff and/or planning consultants will have **5-10 minutes** to provide a summary of the staff report and items the Board should evaluate in considering the text change. The Board shall then have the opportunity to ask any questions of planning staff or its consultants.
 - b. All those in favor shall have up to **30 minutes** to present any speakers it has in support of the proposed text change, followed by the opportunity for the Board to ask questions of those in favor.
 - c. Those opposed to the proposed text change will then have up to **30 minutes** to present any speakers in opposition to the proposed text change, followed by the opportunity for the Board to ask any questions of those opposed to the proposed text change.
 - d. Those speaking in favor or opposition to the proposed text change shall have the discretion to allot the above time limits as they see fit. In the event those

speaking in support of or in opposition to the proposed text change do not agree on an allocation of time, each individual speaker will be allotted three (3) minutes to speak, subject to the discretion of the Chair.

- e. Following the conclusion of the comment period, the Board may, in its discretion, deliberate on the proposed text change, vote on the proposed text change, or defer any Board action to a later meeting.