

RESOLUTION No. 20230725

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF ALEXANDRIA, TENNESSEE TO ADOPT A PUBLIC INPUT POLICY FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee General Assembly amended Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 44 Part 1 with Public Chapter 300 effective July 1, 2023 by requiring a governing body to reserve a period for public comment, at each public meeting, where the public has the opportunity to comment on matters that are germane to the items on the agenda for the meeting; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 300 authorizes a governing body to adopt reasonable restrictions on the period for public comment, including restrictions related to length of the public comment period, the number of individuals who can speak during the period, the length of time each individual can speak, and provides that the governing body takes all practicable steps to ensure that opposing viewpoints are represented fairly; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Alderman conducts all meetings in compliance with the Tennessee Open Meetings Act and finds it necessary and proper to adopt a policy governing public input at the public meetings of the Mayor and Board of Alderman, as well as the public meetings of the Town's other boards and committees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF ALEXANDRIA, TENNESSEE the following:

SECTION 1. The title of the policy shall be: Public Input Policy of the Town of Alexandria.

SECTION 2. Any public meeting of a governing body shall have a period for public comment concerning those agenda items at the beginning of the meeting; this requirement shall not apply to a meeting where the governing body is conducting a disciplinary hearing for a person whose activities fall within the jurisdiction of the governing body or any meeting without actionable items.

SECTION 3. A resident wishing to speak on an agenda item must sign up to speak ten (10) minutes before the meeting by registering on a sign-up sheet and must state which agenda item they wish to speak on and whether they will be speaking in support of or in opposition to the item. The speaker will be granted three (3) minutes to address the Board by the presiding officer of the Board. When the number of residents desiring to speak on the agenda topics is an issue, the number of speakers will be limited to ten (10) and opposing viewpoints, if any, will be represented in those ten (10) speakers. All comments are restricted to comments on action items on the agenda for the meeting. The presiding officer shall have the authority to declare an individual out of order, if after an initial warning, an individual continues to speak on a topic that is unrelated to an action item on the agenda.

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SECTION 4. This resolution shall be effective immediately, the public welfare requiring it.

Resolved this 25th day of July in the year 2023.

Mayor Russell Bradshaw

ATTEST:

Elizabeth Tetlow, Town Recorder