

Announcement Regarding Public Participation in Commission Meetings

- It is the firm belief of the Habersham County Board of Commissioners that transparency and public service remain the top priority of all public meetings.
- It is for this reason that the Commission affords members of the public the privilege of sharing their thoughts and concerns in the form of public comment at Commission meetings.
- In recent months, it has become apparent that the rules surrounding public comment need clarification so that this privilege remains a tool for progress and productive discussion.
- The Habersham County Board of Commissioners is responsible for the policy making decisions of the county while the County Manager is over daily operations. The hiring, firing or discipline of county employees, other than the Commission appointed positions of County Attorney, County Manager and County Clerk, falls under the authority of the County Manager.
- Since county staff members are unable to participate in public comment, complaints regarding individual members of county staff should be investigated and handled through the proper internal channels, not through a public forum in which they are unable to provide a rebuttal or defense to their character. In other words, if you have complaints about county staff, call or go see the County Manager. If you have complaints about the County Manager, County Clerk or County Attorney, please contact the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners.
- Going forward, the Habersham County Board of Commissioners will be enforcing its rules that public comments remain “civil in nature” and that “no person shall be allowed to make impertinent, derogatory, offensive or slanderous remarks while addressing the Commission.” That includes violating the previous provision regarding county staff.
- Failure to follow these rules will result in the following disciplinary action:
 - 1st offense- Warning
 - 2nd offense- Barred from speaking any further in the meeting.
 - 3rd offense- Removal from the meeting and barred from attending Commission meetings for 60 days for improper conduct.