



RESOLUTION R-007-21

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF WALKER COUNTY TO ADOPT RULES OF DECORUM FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS OF THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF WALKER COUNTY, GA

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Walker County ("Board") is the governing authority of Walker County, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, Section 9 of the enabling legislation creating the Board on January 1, 2021 provides that all meetings shall be open to the public as required by law and shall provide a time period exclusively for public comment; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to establish a code of conduct for public comment consistent with existing parliamentary rules;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Walker County, Georgia hereby adopts the following provisions for public participation at its meetings:

- (1) *Public comments.* An agenda item of each regular meeting shall be reserved for comments from the public. All members of the public who wish to address the board must first be recognized by the Chair to speak. Comments shall be made from the podium and begin with the speaker's name and the topic of their comments. A citizen speaker may be allotted up to five minutes to make their comments, may only speak once and their comments must be limited to their chosen topic. Once a citizen speaker completes his/her comments or the allotted time expires, they should return to their seat. A citizen speaker may not cede his/her time to another person. Any group or organization present for public comment shall designate a spokesperson.
- (2) *Decorum.* Members of the public shall not make inappropriate or offensive comments at a board meeting and are expected to comply with the rules of decorum that exist for the Board of Commissioners per *Robert's Rules of Order*. Furthermore, citizen speakers shall refrain from the following:
 - (a) remarks which are lewd, vulgar, obscene or profane, including, but not limited to, racial slurs and sexual innuendo;
 - (b) personal attacks on individuals or groups;
 - (c) remarks which incite violence.
- (3) Individuals who violate any rules of the board may be ruled out of order by the Chair or on a point of order made by a District Commissioner. In the event a citizen speaker is ruled out of order, the remainder of his/her time may be forfeited. In addition, an individual who violates the rules of decorum may be removed from the meeting at the direction of the Chair.

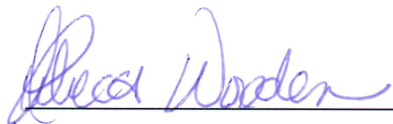


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SO RESOLVED AND ADOPTED this 11th day of February, 2021.

ATTEST:

WALKER COUNTY, GEORGIA


REBECCA WOODEN, County Clerk


SHANNON K. WHITFIELD, Chairman



The foregoing Resolution received a motion for passage from Commissioner Blakemore, second by Commissioner Asken, and upon the question the vote is 4 ayes, 0 nays to adopt the Resolution.