

Cherokee County Rules of Procedure  
Public Hearing Policy

**1.08.02 Persons wishing to address the Board in duly advertised Public Hearings shall do so in the Public Hearing portion of the agenda.**

- a. The chairman shall announce the **Public Hearing** and call for a motion and a second to open the Public Hearing; once approved by a vote of the majority, the chairman will announce that the Public Hearing is now open and should call forth those persons who wish to speak in favor, against, or otherwise on the particular issue. All comments by proponents, opponents, or the public shall be made from the podium and any individual making a comment must first give their name and address. Comments will only be received from the podium.
- b. Members of the public who wish to speak must sign up on the form provided prior to the commencement of the Public Hearing. Members of the public are expected to adhere to the rules of decorum outlined in these Rules of Procedure. There should be no vocal or boisterous demonstrations which will disrupt the orderly flow of the meeting. Any person(s) engaging in this type of behavior shall be ruled out of order by the chairman and shall, at his/her discretion, be removed from the building.
- c. Time. Proponents and opponents are allowed fifteen (15) minutes per side to present data, evidence, and opinions. Each side's time period may be divided among multiple speakers in whatever manner desired. No petition shall be the subject of more than one (1) public hearing before the Board of Commissioners regardless of the number of times final action is deferred by the Board, unless a simple majority of members of the Board of Commissioners vote to conduct such additional public hearings. Speakers will be called as they appear on the sign up form. Additional time may be allotted for either side at the Board's discretion and upon a simple majority of affirmative votes of the Board. Clerk's Note: State Law mandates that the time be at least 10 minutes per side. (O.C.G.A. § 36-66-5).
- d. Once the Public Hearing has concluded, the chairman shall so announce and call for a motion and a second to close the Public Hearing; after an affirmative vote by a majority of the Board, the Board may convene into regular session to make its decisions.
- e. Public Hearings will be advertised in the newspaper of general circulation (County's Legal Organ), at least 15 days, but no more than 45 days, prior to the date of the hearing.
- f. The only exception to this will be public hearings pertaining to the budget or as otherwise governed by State Law.
- g. Public Hearings are hereby required for Zoning Ordinance modifications; adoption of the annual budget; setting of the millage rate; and other matters as required by State law or at the request of the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners.