

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF CLAYTON

ORDINANCE NO. 2022 - 133

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF CLAYTON COUNTY, AS AMENDED, SPECIFICALLY TO AMEND PART I “RELATED LAWS PERTAINING TO CLAYTON COUNTY,” CHAPTER 2 “ADMINISTRATION,” ARTICLE II “BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS,” SECTION 2-35 “AGENDA, DUTIES OF THE PRESIDING OFFICER, MINUTES, QUORUM, PUBLIC COMMENT,” SECTION 2-35-05 “PUBLIC COMMENT”; TO REPEAL ANY AND ALL CONFLICTING LAWS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, RULES AND REGULATIONS; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners deems it in the best interest of the citizens of Clayton County, and the County will best be served by modifying the placement of public comment during Board of Commissioners’ Business Meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners further deems it in the best interest of the citizens of Clayton County, and the County will be best served by modifying the time allotted for public comment.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF CLAYTON COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED

Section 1. The Code of Clayton County, Georgia, as amended, is hereby further amended by amending Part I “Related Laws Pertaining To Clayton County,” Chapter 2 “Administration,” Article II “Board Of Commissioners,” Section 2-35 “Agenda, duties of the presiding officer, minutes, quorum, public comment,” Section 2-35-05 “Public comment,” by deleting subsection (a) and replacing it with a new subsection (a) to read as follows:

(a) (1) *The board welcomes public comment; however to manage available time, public comment will be limited to two minutes per speaker at each regular business meeting of the board of commissioners, however, in no event shall the public comment period last longer than 20 minutes at any single meeting. All public comments must be limited to matters on the agenda or over matters which the governing body has jurisdiction.*

(2) *Speakers must maintain a decorous demeanor and refrain from personal attacks upon members of the governing body, shouting and using obscene language. Comments which are redundant or repetitive from previous statements made in the same meeting may be ruled out of order and terminated by the presiding officer. The presiding officer may interrupt and take the floor away from individuals who violate this subsection.*

(3) *At the end of the 20 minute public comment period, if any member of the public who has signed up to speak has not been reached, that person shall have the right to be carried forward to the next regular business meeting of the board and shall be placed at the top of the list at that meeting. Any member of the public wishing to make comment must sign up with the clerk prior to the call of the meeting.*

(4) *Public comment shall occur at the regular meetings of the board immediately preceding executive session.*

Section 2. All Ordinances, Resolutions, Rules and Regulations, or parts thereof which conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 3. It is declared to be the intention of the Board of Commissioners that all sections and paragraphs of this Ordinance are or were, upon their enactment, believed to be fully valid, enforceable and constitutional. To the greatest extent allowed by law, each and every paragraph herein is severable from the other. In the event that any portion of this Ordinance shall be declared invalid, unconstitutional or otherwise unenforceable by valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, it is the express intent of the Board of Commissioners that the remaining portions of the Ordinance shall remain valid, constitutional, enforceable, and of full force and effect.

Section 4. This Ordinance shall be effective on the date of its approval by the Board of Commissioners.

SO ORDAINED, this the 21st day of June, 2022.

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

 (opposed)
JEFFREY E. TURNER, CHAIRMAN


GAIL HAMBRICK, VICE-CHAIR


ALIEKA ANDERSON, COMMISSIONER


FELICIA FRANKLIN, COMMISSIONER

 (opposed)
DEMONT DAVIS, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:


COURTNEY RUSHIN, CLERK