

CUMING COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Rules and Regulations Governing Public Participation at Meetings and Public Hearings

Pursuant paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-1412, a copy of which is attached hereto, the following rules and regulations concerning participation by the public during meetings and public hearings and videotaping, televising, photographing, broadcasting, or recording meetings and public hearings held by the Planning Commission will be enforced:

1. Members of the public wishing to address the Planning Commission may speak at specified times upon raising their hand and being recognized by the presiding officer of the meeting or public hearing. The Planning Commission may refer the question to the appropriate official if necessary.
2. Members of the public wishing to address the Planning Commission are required to identify themselves, their place of residence, and the subject matter they intend to speak about.
3. Members of the public must come forward to the podium in order to address the Planning Commission. Speaking from the general seating area will not be allowed.
4. All participants and attendees are required to be courteous and respectful to others in attendance and to members of the Planning Commission. They are not allowed to interrupt other speakers or Planning Commission members, to make rude or disrespectful comments, or to behave in a hostile manner.
5. Conversation with others in the room that is disruptive to the meeting or public hearing will not be tolerated. Disruptive persons will be asked to leave after one (1) warning.
6. Members of the public who wish to address the Planning Commission during a public hearing or on an agenda item should be prepared to present their testimony within a **3-minute** time limit unless granted additional time by the officer presiding over the hearing or if the person testifying is responding to questions from the Planning Commission.
7. Members of the public may be questioned by members of the Planning Commission upon completion of their address. Others in attendance are not allowed to question presenters unless granted permission to do so by the officer presiding over the meeting or public hearing.
8. The presiding officer of the meeting may designate a location for persons videotaping, televising, photographing, broadcasting or recording the meetings and/or hearings.

These rules and regulations are intended to provide a framework for public participation in meetings and public hearings held by the Planning Commission in order to aid in maintaining orderly discussion and proper consideration of issues of interest. Failure to adhere to these rules by members of the public may result in removal from the meeting room by members of Law Enforcement.

Nebraska Revised Statutes Chapter 84, Section 1412 contains the following provisions pertaining to meetings of public bodies;

(1) Subject to the Open Meetings Act, the public has the right to attend and the right to speak at meetings of public bodies, and all or any part of a meeting of a public body, except for closed sessions called pursuant to section 84-1410, may be videotaped, televised, photographed, broadcast, or recorded by any person in attendance by means of a tape recorder, camera, video equipment, or any other means of pictorial or sonic reproduction or in writing.

(2) It shall not be a violation of subsection (1) of this section for any public body to make and enforce reasonable rules and regulations regarding the conduct of persons attending, speaking at, videotaping, televising, photographing, broadcasting, or recording its meetings. A body may not be required to allow citizens to speak at each meeting, but it may not forbid public participation at all meetings.

(3) No public body shall require members of the public to identify themselves as a condition for admission to the meeting nor shall such body require that the name of any member of the public be placed on the agenda prior to such meeting in order to speak about items on the agenda. The body may require any member of the public desiring to address the body to identify himself or herself.