

Public Comment Policy

Policy Approval Date: 8-14-2025

This policy outlines the procedures for public comment to ensure that individuals have a fair opportunity to be heard while maintaining an orderly and efficient meeting environment.

1. A public comment agenda item will be the last agenda item at all regular meetings of the Mercer City Council.
2. To provide public comments, each individual must submit a speaker card prior to the meeting being called to order that includes:
 - a. the individual's name,
 - b. the individual's address,
 - c. the agenda item from the current meeting agenda or the previous meeting agenda that the individual is addressing.
3. Missing information from the speaker card disqualifies the individual from speaking at the meeting.
4. Each individual will be allotted five minutes to make comments. The individual will be notified when the five minutes have expired.
5. The public comment agenda item will be limited to a total of thirty minutes, regardless of how many individuals have submitted speaker cards.
6. Individuals will be called on to present public comments in the order that speaker cards were submitted.
7. All comments must:
 - a. Address the agenda item identified on the speaker card.
 - b. Be pertinent to the City of Mercer.
 - c. Be directed to the board as a whole.
8. Comments may not:
 - a. Be defamatory, abusive, harassing, or unlawful.
 - b. Include information that is exempt or confidential under North Dakota open records law.
 - c. Interfere with the orderly conduct of the meeting.
9. Individuals may not yield their allotted time to another individual.
10. Individuals unable or unwilling to speak in person may submit written comments to the City Auditor prior to the meeting. If received twenty-four hours before the meeting, the comments will be distributed to the board members before the meeting. Comments submitted less than twenty-four hours before the meeting will

be distributed after the meeting. Any written comments submitted must identify the agenda item from the current meeting agenda or the previous meeting agenda that is being addressed and include the individual's name and address.

Speaker Card

Name (First and Last): _____

Address: _____

Agenda Item: _____

Speaker Card

Name (First and Last): _____

Address: _____

Agenda Item: _____

Speaker Card

Name (First and Last): _____

Address: _____

Agenda Item: _____

Speaker Card

Name (First and Last): _____

Address: _____

Agenda Item: _____

Speaker Card

Name (First and Last): _____

Address: _____

Agenda Item: _____