

Time Limitation For Zoning Hearing Before The Gastonia Planning Commission

In order to promote more discussion of topics throughout the Planning Commission agenda the Commission has adopted the following time limitation policy for all zoning hearings:

- The Planning Department Staff will initiate the zoning hearing with a brief description and the recommendation, 10 minutes;
- The Proponents will present their case. Individuals limited to five (5) minutes per person, spokesperson may use all twenty (20) minutes.
- The Opponents will present their case. Individuals limited to five (5) minutes per person, spokesperson may use all twenty (20) minutes.
- A total of five (5) minutes will be allowed to both proponents and opponents for rebuttal.

(Please note that as the Commission asks questions of the speaker, the time clock will be temporarily stopped until the question is answered and the speaker continues his presentation.)

The Planning Commission, following a majority vote, and if it believes that a particular situation warrants it, may extend the time; provided that the extension affords equal time to both sides, or it may waive the rules on time limitations,. Prior to the hearing, Planning Department Staff will set up a table for people to make use of a sign-up sheet if they plan to speak on a zoning item. This will give the Chairman an idea of the anticipated number of speakers. Thus, total time and individual times may be adjusted in advance as needed. Failure to sign the sign-up sheet would not preclude someone the right to speak.

Time Limitation For Zoning Hearing Before The Gastonia City Council

In order to promote more opportunity for citizen input of topics throughout the City Council Agenda, the Gastonia City Council has adopted the following time limitation policy for all public hearings:

- The Planning Department Staff will initiate the zoning hearing with a brief description and the recommendations of the Planning Commission and staff, 10 minutes.
- The Proponent will present their case. (Generally, a total of 12 minutes will be allotted. This time may be allotted to a single spokesperson or may be divided in any manner between multiple speakers. The Proponents should plan ahead as to how the speaking time is to be divided.)*
- The Opponents, if any, will present their case. (Generally, a total of 12 minutes will be allotted. This time may be allotted to a single spokesperson or may be divided in any manner between multiple speakers. The Opponents should plan ahead as to how the speaking time is to be divided.)*
- A total of five (5) minutes will be allowed to proponents for rebuttal.
- A total of five (5) minutes will be allowed to opponents for rebuttal.
- The staff will have 3 minutes clarify matters or respond to issues raised in the debate.
- Total potential time - 45 minutes.

At each City Council meeting the Planning Department Staff will have a table at which individuals wishing to speak should sign up. This will give the Mayor an idea of the anticipated number of speakers.

A staff member will indicate to each speaker when they have one minute remaining with a yellow light and when their allotted time has expired with a red light. Each speaker is asked to carefully monitor the signals so as not to infringe on another speaker's time.

* If a particular situation warrants more time, the City Council, following a majority vote, may extend equal time to both the proponents and opponents.