

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 11 OF THE TOWN OF SMITHFIELD MUNICIPAL CODE ENTITLED "BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS" BY ADDING THERETO ARTICLE III, SECTION 11-8 ENTITLED "PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND COMMENT".**

**IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE TOWN OF SMITHFIELD AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Chapter 11 of the Smithfield Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

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**§11-8 Public Participation and Comment.**

All boards, commissions, committees, or subcommittees thereof of the Town of Smithfield, including the Town Council, except in closed and executive session, shall permit public comment during consideration of docketed items that is limited to the subject matter of the docketed item. There shall also be a public comment period for undocketed items on each docket/agenda for each regular meeting or special meeting of each governmental body.

The presiding officer for each body may set reasonable time limits on how long any individual may speak. Comments shall be limited to matters that fall within the jurisdiction of each respective public body. The rules for speaking during the comment period should appear directly on the docket/agenda of each respective governmental body.

**Section 2. Legislative Purpose.**

The purpose of this section is to promote government transparency and accountability by encouraging residents to participate in public meetings, thereby providing a forum for them to provide input including the expression of any concerns they may have regarding the Town government.

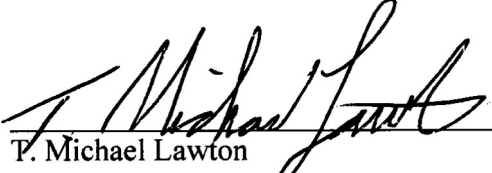
Nothing within this ordinance shall prohibit any public body, or the members thereof, from responding to comments initiated by a member of the public during a properly noticed open forum even if the subject matter of a citizen's comments or discussions were not previously posted, provided such matters shall be for informational purposes only and may not be voted on except where necessary to address an unexpected occurrence that requires immediate action to protect the public or to refer the matter to an appropriate committee or to another body or official.

Section 3. This Ordinance Amendments shall take effect Thirty (30) days after their adoption by the Smithfield Town Council.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

  
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Anthony M. Gallone, Jr.  
TOWN SOLICITOR

ADOPTED: June 4, 2024

  
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T. Michael Lawton  
TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT

  
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Lyn M. Antonuccio  
TOWN CLERK

