

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-08

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING RULES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AT
OPEN MEETINGS OF THE
WOODSTOCK FIRE/RESCUE DISTRICT

WHEREAS, Section 2.06(g) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120, provides that "any person shall be permitted an opportunity to address public officials under the rules established and recorded by the public body";

WHEREAS, the Public Access Counselor has determined that the Open Meetings Act requires definite and established rules regarding public comment at all open meetings of a public entity; and

WHEREAS, the Woodstock Fire/Rescue District believes that public comment is an invaluable part of the District's public meetings and it is appropriate to adopt a public comment at meetings policy in writing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Woodstock Fire/Rescue District, McHenry County, Illinois, and approved this 23 day of May 2024, the Woodstock Fire/Rescue District hereby adopts the attached Public Comment at Meetings Policy.

MOTION made by Trustee Baldwin, seconded by Trustee Spitzer, that the Resolution be adopted.

AYES: 4
NAYES: 0
ABSENT: 1

APPROVED: Frederick Spitzer
President

ATTEST: Robert A. Kristensen
Secretary

WOODSTOCK FIRE/RESCUE DISTRICT

PUBLIC COMMENT AT MEETINGS POLICY

Members of the public are invited and permitted to speak at any public, open meeting of the Woodstock Fire/Rescue District (the "District") and any other commission, committee, board or other public entity created by or subject to the District's jurisdiction, ordinances and control, subject to the following rules:

1. Individuals wishing to be heard shall be recognized by the Chair of the Board of Trustees or Chair of any other commission, committee, board or other public entity, during the public comment portion of each meeting which will generally be held as one of the initial items of business on the agenda but may be moved to a different point on the agenda for that meeting. Further public comment will not be allowed during specific meeting agenda items unless allowed by the Chair.
2. Public comment may be restricted to no more than three (3) minutes for each individual speaker. The Chair may permit additional comment in his or her discretion taking into account the number of persons wishing to be heard on a matter and the amount of business requiring attention.
3. Members of the public may be asked to avoid repeating comments that have already been made, although they may be given the opportunity to indicate that they agree or disagree with an earlier speaker.
4. Members of the public will be required to step forward and to identify themselves for the record. Members may be asked but are not required to provide an address for the record.
5. Order and decorum shall be maintained at public meetings. This includes prohibiting outbursts from the public or other behavior that is threatening, disorderly or disruptive to public business. The Chair may eject from a public meeting any person who, in the sole opinion of the Chair, disrupts the order and decorum of the meeting or otherwise violates this policy.
6. Public comment shall be restricted to the portions of meetings which are required to be open to the public under the Open Meetings Act. Nothing in this section shall be construed to allow public access to or public comment at closed sessions or any other meeting of public officials which is not required to be open to the public under the Open Meetings Act.