



PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Beauregard Parish Police Jury encourages citizens to appear and present to the Jury any matter relative to the improvement of the Parish, and the Jury policy provides for an individual citizen or a group of citizens to be heard on a specific agenda item as listed on the official Jury agenda.

Presentations to the Jury shall be allowed in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. A citizen who wishes to speak on a specific agenda item before a vote is taken shall contact the Secretary or Parish Administrator 24 hours before the meeting. The request shall include the specific item or items they wish to speak on.
2. If a group of citizens are to be represented, one individual shall be selected in advance to serve as a spokesperson and shall be named with that request.
3. The person/spokesperson's name and topic shall be given to the President prior to the meeting.
4. Only discussion relevant to the specific agenda item upon which a vote shall be taken shall be allowed. Presentations shall be brief yet include all pertinent facts and information concerning the agenda item. Presentations shall be limited to five (5) minutes unless the time limit is waived by the Committee Chairperson or Beauregard Parish Police Jury President.
5. At the beginning of a presentation, the presenter is required to state his or her name, address, and the group, if any, that he or she is representing.
6. Persons appearing before the board are encouraged to provide a written copy of their presentation, and any additional information for study and consideration by the Jury and staff.
7. Speakers may offer objective criticism of Jury policy, administrative procedures and programs, but the Jury WILL NOT SHALL NOT hear charges or complaints against individual employees in an open meeting. All such charges and complaints must be presented to the Secretary and Jury in writing, signed by the complainant. The President or Committee Chairperson will immediately bring this to the attention of any speaker who does not adhere to this guideline.
8. In the event that the Jury should add an item to its agenda after the Jury meeting begins, the Jury President or Committee Chairman shall orally request of the audience whether anyone in attendance would like to speak on the added agenda item.

The Jury vests in the President or Presiding Officer, the prerogative to determine whether or not a given speaker is acting within the guidelines of this policy, and full authority to invoke termination of the remarks of any person.

Persons appearing before the Jury are reminded, as a point of information, that, although requests may be directed to the Jury, action and answers to many questions must be deferred pending staff study and Beauregard Parish Police Jury for consideration.