

1.

#### PURPOSE

Well-organized and well-run public meetings offer Board members, citizens, and the press a greater opportunity to **PARTICIPATE IN CIVIL DISCOURSE**, understand proceedings, and make their opinions heard. In addition, with the mandates of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), it is important that public meetings be run in such a way as to facilitate participation from the disabled. Third, Rules of Procedure help **COMMISSIONERS UNDERSTAND ~~orient new Board members to the~~ THEIR VARIOUS RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROMOTE CIVIL DISCOURSE IN ALL BOARD BUSINESS ~~procedures of the Board.~~** Finally, it is essential that the Clerk to the Board be able to record accurately the proceedings of the Board. With these considerations in mind, the following procedures have been developed to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the meetings of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners; they are in no way intended or designed to hinder public participation or limit deliberations by the Board.

2.

#### CONDUCT OF DEBATE

**THE FOLLOWING RULES SHALL BE INTERPRETED AND APPLIED TO PROMOTE CIVIL DISCOURSE BY ALL PERSONS ATTENDING OR PARTICIPATING IN BOARD BUSINESS.**

Rule 7: Powers Of The Chair. The Chair shall preside at all Board meetings. To address the Board, members of the Board, staff, and audience must be recognized by the Chair. The Chair shall have the following powers:

1. To determine whether a speaker has gone beyond reasonable standards of courtesy in his or her remarks and to entertain and rule on objections from other Board members on this ground, **EXCEPT THAT THE VICE CHAIR SHALL HAVE THE POWER TO ENTERTAIN AND RULE ON SUCH OBJECTIONS RELATING TO THE CHAIR.**
2. To call a brief recess
3. To adjourn in an emergency