

- A) The Burnet County Commissioners Court has a tradition of inviting the public to participate in discussions of Burnet County Commissioners Court Meeting agenda items that has been ongoing for at least 17 years and 8 months.
- B) Since at least January 22, 2007, the Burnet County Commissioners Court '*Rules of Procedure and Conduct*' have included the sentence: **"The public is also invited to participate in the discussions of agenda items"**, as shown here in the January 22, 2007 meeting minutes when the Rule was ratified:

7. It is the intention of the Court to provide an open access to the citizens of Burnet County to address the Commissioners Court and to express themselves on issues of County Government. Commissioners Court provides the public the opportunity to address the Court at the beginning of each meeting. There will be no discussion at this time. The public is also invited to participate in the discussions of agenda items.

Figure 1: Page 131-132

https://destinyhosted.com/burnemindocs/2007/ComCt/20070122_83/minutes/85%5F1%2E22%2E7%2Eocr%2Epdf

- C) Beginning on September 12, 2023, there were several 'contentious' Burnet County Court Commissioners Meetings that occurred after County Judge James Oakley was reinstated from suspension by the State Commission on Judicial Conduct.
- D) Between September 15, 2023 and November 14, 2023 there were several changes to the Agenda Item 3 Public Comments made by County Judge James Oakley: the changes were made without a vote or approval from the Burnet County Commissioners Court.
- E) On November 28, 2023, the Burnet County Commissioners Court **unanimously** adopted the rules recommended by the decorum committee which continued the long tradition where: **"The public is also invited to participate in the discussions of agenda items"**.
- F) During several meetings in late 2023 and recently in 2024, the Rule providing for public participation in discussion of an agenda item was quashed by County Judge James Oakley.
- G) As of today, the Burnet County Commissioners Court Agenda Notice remains deficient and does not mention the court's own Rule: **"The public is also invited to participate in the discussions of agenda items"**.

H) The presiding officer, County Judge James Oakley, fails to advise attendees of the Rule and fails to advise when the public can participate.

I) When members of the public attempt to follow the adopted Rule, they have been told "now is not the time", "this should be addressed before the meeting", "there's opportunities to get answers prior to court", and have been threatened with charges of contempt.

REGULAR SESSION MEETING DATE: Tuesday OCTOBER 8, 2024

MEETING TIME: 9:00 a.m.

MEETING PLACE: 2nd Floor Courtroom located at 220 S. Pierce, Burnet, Texas

1. Call to Order
2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flags
3. Public Comments - Pursuant to Texas Government Code 551.007 (b), any person may make comment on any item appearing on the agenda. Any comments made will not be addressed by the Commissioners Court during the Public Comments agenda item. Public Comments are limited to three (3) minutes per person.

PARTICIPATE implies a having or taking part in an undertaking, activity, or discussion.

participated in sports

discussion noun

dis-cus-sion

di- skə-shən

[Synonyms of discussion >](#)

1 : consideration of a question in open and usually informal debate

a heated political discussion