

### 3.7 Procedure for Public Communication

The City Council appreciates hearing from citizens about items relating to city business and normally sets aside up to thirty minutes near the beginning of Council business meetings for public communication. This forum is a limited public forum and all matters discussed shall relate to city business.

The manner and extent to which members of the public participate in the Public Communication portion of the agenda is under the control of the Mayor. Therefore, to the extent necessary to prevent unreasonable interference with the meeting, the Mayor is empowered to curtail or prohibit testimony that is overly repetitive or lengthy, beyond the reasonable scope of City business, or of a nature that would endanger the safety or wellbeing of the persons attending the meeting or individual city employees, or that is a personal attack upon a Councilmember's or other person's honesty, integrity, reputation, race, creed, national origin, ethnic background, color, families with children, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. The Mayor is also empowered to establish time constraints on testimony, if necessary, to prevent unreasonable delay of the Council meeting.

Interested citizens may sign up to speak before the Council regarding any item related to City business, except issues (1) for which the City Council either held a Public Hearing in the last 45 days or will hold a Public Hearing within 45 days; or (2) where the public testimony may implicate a matter on which the City Council will be required to act in a quasi-judicial capacity; or (3) where the speaker promotes or opposes a candidate for public office or a ballot measure. Individuals will be asked to indicate on the sign-in sheet whether or not they have addressed the Council as part of Public Communication within the past 30 days. The Mayor has the discretion to move to the end of Public Communication testimony from those individuals who indicate on the sign-in sheet that they have testified in the last 30 days or who are known to the Mayor to have testified in the last 30 days.

Sign-in for Public Communication begins when the lobby doors to the Council Chambers are open (about 30 minutes in advance of the start of the meeting) and continues until after the Mayor gavels the meeting to order, with the exact time at staff's discretion. Everyone who has signed in by the time registration is closed will be provided an opportunity to comment at that evening's meeting, either during the initial 30 minutes scheduled on the agenda for Public Communication, at the end of the meeting if everyone is not accommodated within the initial 30 minutes, or in another order if proposed by the Mayor at any time during a meeting and agreed to by a majority of Councilmembers in attendance at the meeting.

If time allows during the initial 30 minutes set aside on the agenda for Public Communications, the Mayor may ask if anyone else in the audience wishes to speak. In this circumstance, Public Communication will not exceed 30 minutes total of testimony time, and additional comment will not be carried forward to the end of the meeting.

Individual comment during Public Communication is generally limited to three minutes or less. Comments ~~should~~ shall be directed to the Council as a whole, not to the audience. Speakers may not cede all or a part of their time to another speaker, or play recorded comments of other persons not present and signed in as speakers for the meeting. The Mayor is empowered to explain at the beginning of Public Communications that clapping, shouting and other demonstrations are not permitted at any time so that all persons wishing to speak, or in attendance, are not intimidated and feel safe to express their views or be present.

In order to hear as many people as possible, the Council will refrain from commenting on individual statements until all public comment has been taken, or at the end of the 30-minute time allotment.

Out of respect for the time of our citizens, Council and staff - the Mayor, on behalf of the entire Council, will thank the individuals who spoke. Councilmembers may request additional information from the persons who spoke, information or a report from the City Manager, or make brief comments to help inform the issues.