

Maricela Hernandez

Subject: FW: City Council 2-8-23 agenda item #11 – Public Comments

From: Joe Chilco <joe.chilco@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 12:56 PM

To: info <info@cityofcalabasas.com>

Subject: City Council 2-8-23 agenda item #11 – Public Comments

Mayor Shapiro and City Councilmembers,

With regard to your discussion and consideration of conducting hybrid Commission meetings enabling Commissioners and the public to participate remotely or in-person, please consider the following comments.

Public engagement and public participation are essential to good government.

As the goal is to encourage residents' input, and by doing so, come to an understanding of how to best serve the needs of its residents, the City must continue to conduct hybrid Commission meetings.

Given the aging population, and the increased flexibility in participating through technological means, which provides the ability to do so from remote locations, the effectiveness of hybrid meetings to accomplish that goal is superior to an in-person only approach.

The issue of cost should not be the sole consideration.

The City budgets based on the needs of its residents. Communication is a two-way exchange. Expenditures related to the City's ability to effectively engage in that communication with its residents should be a priority.

As the elected representatives of the City's residents, the City Council needs to be proactive in fostering ways to increase and support public participation.

You control "the purse strings". I urge you to spend the taxpayers' money on serving the taxpayers' needs.

Thank you for your consideration of the above in your discussion and ultimate decision on the matter.

Joe Chilco
Calabasas resident
(address on file)

Maricela Hernandez

Subject: FW: Commission Meetings

Dear Mayor Shapiro, Mayor Pro-Tem Weintraub, Councilmembers Bozajian, Kraut, Albrecht, and City Manager Meik,

In the recent Mayor's newsletter, residents were asked to comment on possible changes to the "format" of Commission meetings-whether to hold in person, via Zoom only, or hybrid (New business item #11). Since I will not be available to attend the upcoming Council meeting (February 8th), I would like to give my comments here.

First, my sense is that some residents and others are still somewhat unsure regarding whether there is going to be any type of winter-spring COVID surge (or new variants) and if so, to what extent there is going to be any serious medical impact. It looks like the survey that City Clerk Mari Hernandez provided (for which only a relatively small number of commissioners responded) seemed to indicate preference for continuing Zoom meetings.

Specifically, regarding the Communications and Technology Commission meetings, I believe that it is easier and more cost-effective when our consultant Jonathan Kramer participates via Zoom than his having to travel a distance to speak in person. Regarding residents who want to comment during our meetings, that is never a problem whether by Zoom or in person.

Given the cost of hybrid meetings, I would encourage continuing with Zoom meetings at least until the summer, if that is possible.

Thank you in advance.

Richard Sherman
Communications & Technology Commissioner
Calabasas

Maricela Hernandez

From: CAREY MELCHER <cmpinc@pacbell.net>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 3:50 PM
To: David Shapiro; Alicia Weintraub; James Bozajian - External; Kindon Meik
Cc: Maricela Hernandez
Subject: Commission Meetings

Hi all,

I won't be able to make it to the CC meeting this Wednesday evening but I thought I'd comment on the possible change in format for Commission meetings.

There are several reasons that I like the Zoom format for our CTC meetings.

First, we do not have many, if any, public comment speakers ever attending our meetings when we were meeting at City Hall, or over the past three years meeting on Zoom. Frankly, the presentations we've seen from our Planning Department, from CTV, as well as from outside consultants like Dr. Karmer, can be seen in much greater detail via screen sharing. Personally, I believe that if we're going to invite the representatives of our various Telecoms to attend our meetings, we have a better chance of "meeting" with them on Zoom vs. them coming to City Hall at six in the evening. As an aside, we also save some money on Dr. Kramer and our attorney, Matt Summers's travel time!

For me, the hybrid option is a non-starter. We either come back to City Hall or continue our CTC meetings on Zoom. From my point-of-view, Zoom is one of the most effective means of communication I've ever been involved with and does make common sense for the Communications and Technology Commission.

Mari, please forward this note to Council members Kraut and Albrecht. I don't have their emails.

In advance, thanks for this consideration, and all the time each and every one of you devote to our beautiful City.

All the best,

Carey Melcher
Calabasas

Maricela Hernandez

From: ncitron <ncitron@pacbell.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2023 11:15 AM
To: Maricela Hernandez
Subject: Public Comment regarding Item 11 City Council Agenda of February 8, 2023

Mayor Shapiro and Council Members,

We are strongly in favor of continuing Council meeting public access via Zoom and support moving to a hybrid form of access.

The Zoom format allows the public to participate more easily. It also gives access to members of our public who may have conditions or challenges that limit in-person attendance.

Participation of all members of the public is crucial to decision making and supports transparency. I realize meetings are available through Granicus and/or YouTube, but these formats do not allow real-time participation.

Do we know if other COG members are advancing to hybrid meetings, remaining on Zoom or moving to in-person Council meetings, exclusively.

With regard to expense, is it possible to investigate scheduling employees' time so they are working within the budgeted salary amount. For example, employees would arrive at a later time to accommodate evening hybrid meetings.

Respectfully,
Norma and Mark Citron
Calabasas Residents