

From: [Tim](#)
To: [communications](#)
Cc: [Haylee Gould](#)
Subject: Public Comment - Nov. 18th Council Meeting
Date: November 19, 2020 2:59:05 PM

Mayor & Council - the following are my comments regarding the November 18th Council meeting:

- **Process & Governance** - this meeting ran for 3 hr. 19 min. During this time, there were two Public Hearings which took 1 hr. 10 min. or ~ 35% of the total meeting time. This required a motion to extend the meeting beyond 3 hours. With 3:30 pm meeting start times, this also introduces a fatigue factor and a tendency to rush business towards the end of the meeting which is often when some of the most important matters are being considered.

Comments by several Council members illustrate that there's a problem. After the public hearings, the Chair commented that 'we have to move on', then during the Staff Reports, one member said 'I need to eat dinner' and following that the lead in to the next item was 'for the sake of time'. This all indicated that there are meeting planning and scheduling problems.

It might be worthwhile for Council to consider separate meetings for public hearings and possibly delegations. If this is not acceptable, then maybe third readings for zoning and development applications should not be held during the same meeting as a Public Hearing as was suggested in the case of the Sunningdale application. This would have the benefit of providing time for members of Council to reflect on the public input rather than voting on the application immediately after the hearing.

A first step in addressing this matter might be to summarize the frequency and length of Public Hearings and to determine what portion of total meeting time they are taking as a basis of assessing if there is a problem. This is something that I might try and do and report what the numbers indicate.

Tim Pritchard
663 Windward Way