

**Rasor, Jessica**

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**Subject:** FW: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Ord 2024-36 Public comment opportunities

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**From:** mary griswold <[mgrt@xyz.net](mailto:mgrt@xyz.net)>

**Sent:** Monday, December 23, 2024 9:34 AM

**To:** Turner, Michele <[MicheleTurner@kpb.us](mailto:MicheleTurner@kpb.us)>

**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Ord 2024-36 Public comment opportunities

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(Please include in the January 7 assembly packet)  
Please amend or defeat Ord 2024-36 re public comment opportunities.

The current agenda format has "Public Comments on Items Not Appearing on the Agenda" between "Presentations with Prior Notice" and the "Mayor's Report."

My amendment would remove this public comment opportunity instead of the opportunity toward the end of the meeting as proposed in Ord 2024-36.

The "Public Comments and Public Presentations" opportunity toward the end of the meeting would be amended to "Public Comments" to remove the confusing Public Presentations. This public comment opportunity would allow an unlimited number of people to speak for up to 3 minutes, on any subject on or off the agenda, just as we are currently allowed to do.

Ordinance 2024-36 removes this important public comment opportunity, especially for people to speak on actions the assembly took during the meeting. Also Ord 2024-36 limits the number of speakers by imposing a 30-minute aggregate during the only public comment opportunity (because the second opportunity would be removed.)

The public comment opportunity toward the end of the meeting is vital to public participation in our government. This is the best time for citizens to speak because we have a captive audience of assembly members, the mayor, clerk, legal, some staff members, people in the chambers and listeners on the radio and Zoom. This is better than individual contacts via e-mail or in grocery stores. Many important matters come up during this comment period and when all in attendance hear about them something good can often be accomplished.

Please note that I do not object to the current agenda format, but do think having all general public comments toward the end of the meeting would streamline the meeting and provide a better flow to the agenda. I definitely want to preserve the existing public comment opportunity toward the end of the meeting.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Mary Griswold  
Homer