

Regular City Council Meeting

Tuesday, 09 November, 2021

Agenda Item 2, Discussion/Action: to approve a Resolution establishing rules for public participation in city council meetings.

Mayor and Council,

The ordinance for minimizing the voice of Willow Park citizens is not Willow Park. And this ordinance is not you.

During the 28 September council meeting, our elected officials decided to decrease our voice by the disrespectful act of waiting silently through a seven minute delay in the start of the council meeting, knowing full well the topic and number of speakers, but still waiting, until the first speaker was at the podium, to announce the minimization of the voice of Willow Park citizens.

However, after the lengthy and uncomfortable public comments —

- One council member publicly thanked those who spoke for their comments and encouraged citizens to continue their involvement.
- One council publicly thanked the citizens and asked for the issue to be put on the council agenda.
- And directly after that last council meeting and for a few days afterwards, several of the council communicated with several citizens assuring them the issue would be addressed.
- One council approached me before the next council meeting and thanked me for attending and voicing my concerns.
- And in the past, our three most senior council members and mayor have met often with individual citizens and with groups of citizens to participate and to encourage discussions about the direction of Willow Park.

Each of you has sought the council of the citizens of Willow Park.

This ordinance is not you. This ordinance is not Willow Park

Reducing citizen public comments, under the excuse of managing the length of council meetings “within a reasonable time period,” is an unreasonable attempt to silence our voices and discourage our conversations.

In seeking the council of the citizens of Willow Park, you are respecting and supporting your constituents and your neighbors. In curtailing the voice of the citizens, you are indicating you have found other influencers for your decisions, who are more important to you.

This ordinance does not represent the elected leaders who the citizens of Willow Park have followed, supported, respected.

As always, I thank you for your service,

KJ Hannah

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