

Public Comments

Oral Communications

Written Comments Received By 12pm on 9/12/2022



September 12, 2022

City Council Meeting

From: Jason Bedient [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 6, 2022 6:57 PM
To: Public Comment; clay@coastsidenewsgroup.com
Subject: Recreation facilities in Pacific are seriously in disrepair.

[CAUTION: External Email]

Dear Pacifica City Council,

It is truly disheartening to read in the Pacifica Tribune about expanding tennis courts to be used for pickleball when so many other facilities in serious disrepair.

If you can even call them basketball courts at Oceana High School barely have backboards, no nets and the basketball lines look like they were painted 15 years ago by a 7 year old.

The fields at multiple schools used to be used for soccer and are so terrible that the only fields AYSO can use this year are Fairmont west and Ortega because IBL and Oddstad are dustbowls.

While it's great that pickle ball is a trendy sport, the areas we already have that are arguable are used by a wider variety of our towns population are in serious need of revamping. Sure, we're in a drought. Why don't we make a couple fields artificial turf that require little maintenance and no water?

Please consider how our town looks based on the facilities that we expect our families and children to use.

Jason Bedient
Homeowner, resident
[REDACTED] Pacifica, CA.

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Public Comments

Agenda Item 13 – Council Rules

Written Comments Received By 12pm on 9/12/2022



September 12, 2022

City Council Meeting

From: Christine Boles <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2022 11:45 AM
To: Public Comment; Bier, Mary; Bigstyc, Tygarjas
Subject: Council Agenda Item 13

[CAUTION: External Email]

Dear Mayor Bier and Mayor Pro-Tem Bigstyc,
I would like to request more information about how the proposed changes to the City Council Rules and Code of Ethics were derived. Did we study certain examples and best practices from other cities?

I fear that some of these proposed changes, especially the one requiring a vote of the majority of the council before an item can be agendaized and studied, has the potential to quash dissenting and public voices from our democratic processes.

For example, what if something just affects one district in Pacifica? Or what if the majority is pro-environment or pro-development - does that mean we can't even discuss an opposing minority position and try to find balance? Look at short term rental policy for example. What if the council majority was funded by real estate interests who profit from the current policies; would we perhaps not be able to discuss this important issue that is transforming our town and causing evictions and loss of affordable rental housing?

I'm looking forward to the discussion tonight - I ask you to please not rush this important conversation.

Christine Boles, Architect

Beausoleil Architects

[REDACTED]

Pacifica, CA 94044

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world." - Desmond Tutu

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From: Vicki Sundstrom [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2022 11:54 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: City Council Agenda - 9/12/2022 - Item 13

[CAUTION: External Email]

Public comment with respect to the City Council Conduct and Code of Ethics -

City Council members should comply with the state and federal laws, and so should the staff.

1. Council should comply by state and federal conflict of interest laws. A number of city council members should have recused themselves in voting on items but have voted.
2. Council members should comply with laws as they relate to recusing themselves from voting, participating or influencing decisions.
3. Council members should not be guiding consultants in how best to study or not study issues. Studies conducted at the cost of and for the interest of the tax payers should be unbiased and be a reliable source of decision making.
4. I have heard council members make statements at council meetings but have not been able to get information to back up the statements. For example - Sue Vaterlaus has indicated that the City's sewage runs through Sharp Park. But a public information request for said information has not been provided.
5. Mike O'Neill has indicated at City Council Meetings that back up plans for infrastructure relocation have already been developed and available should they be required. Again, public request for information did not yield results to support that.
6. Council members should act ethically in all decisions and make decisions that comply with the law. Many decisions have resulted in litigation and the electorate are paying the price.
7. Council should not be in a hurry to rubber stamp/approve decisions if there are any concerns about an agenda item. There was question on the legality of the sewer rate increase complying with Prop 218 - it does not - and even though legal did not actually address the legality of said issue, and the consultant clearly stated that it was not allowed, council approved said item. This should have been sent back for review and clarification.
8. Mr Woodhouse made conflicting statements with respect to the rate increase and capital projects - and even though the conflicting statements were brought to council attention, council proceeded with the approval. Council should be erring on the side of the electorate.
9. Council needs clarity on who they represent and how they act with tax payer's money.
10. Council should not be using their positions to influence elections/outcomes
11. Council members should not be using city resources to further their political status/agenda. Example - Use of Pacifica's City Staff to support League of California Cities.

12. Council and staff should be required to provide professional liability insurance. Given the lawsuits and risks the council & staff take without regard to consequences, it would be to everyone's best interest for all to have professional liability insurance.

Regards,

Vicki Sundstrom
Fairmont.

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From: Vicki Sundstrom [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2022 3:25 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Item 13/City Council Agenda - 9/12/2022

[CAUTION: External Email]

Here is [Sunnyvale's Code of Ethics and Conduct](#). There needs to be more education and clarify in Pacifica about what is a conflict of interest. Based on where Sue Beckmeyer lives, she should have recused herself from decisions on a number of projects. Based on Sue Vaterlaus' income source - real estate and given how much of her business is in Pacifica - she should also be recusing herself from decisions.

8. **Conflict of Interest.** In order to assure their independence and impartiality on behalf of the common good, members shall not use their official positions to influence government decisions in which they have a material financial interest, or where they have an organizational responsibility or personal relationship which may give the appearance of a conflict of interest. In accordance with the law, members shall disclose investments, interests in real property, sources of income, and gifts; and they shall abstain from participating in deliberations and decision-making where conflicts may exist.

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From: Sue Digre <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2022 11:59 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Municipal Policy..Mandating 3 to approve if a item can be agendized

[CAUTION: External Email]

Sue Digre
Demanding 3 approvals before allowing an item to be agendized
.. shuts off Public Input.

..Cuts off two Districts

..Avoids serious issues.

..
...Avoids dissent

The US & Calif Constitutions speak out against Electeds trying to take the place of the Public Voice. Read it.

Is dissent so difficult to endure?

Sue Digre

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From: Cindy Abbott [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2022 3:47 PM
To: Public Comment
Cc: Coffey, Sarah
Subject: September 12, 2022, City Council Agenda Item #13

[CAUTION: External Email]

Dear Mayor Bier, Mayor Pro Tem Bigstyk and Councilmembers,
I maybe unable to attend the City Council meeting this evening via Zoom. Therefore, I am providing input via email prior to the meeting on Item #13, Update to the City Council Rules and Code of Ethics.

1. Section 2, Operation of City Council Meetings, draft #5, current #6
During tonight's discussion about City Council Rules and Regulations, I'd like to suggest that discussion be given to the Appeal process.

Members of the community are charged a \$550.00 fee to appeal decisions of the Planning Commission (and \$426 for a Heritage Tree Appeal). Engaged and concerned community members also spend a significant amount of personal time and put in great effort to research issues and provide input to City Council regarding concerns that are brought to appeal. The community is then only provided 10 minutes to present their appeal, which generally only is 7 minutes to provide for a 3 minute rebuttal.

I'd like to strongly recommend that the full 10 minutes be given to presenting the appeal case with an additional three minutes for a rebuttal.

2. While I am not seeing a section specifically here, I'd like to suggest that the Mayor consider that it would be more meaningful to have the Council provide more input and discussion prior to public comment. The current protocol of generally requesting public comment very early on for a topic up for a Hearing or Consideration is very frustrating, as it often negates the opportunity for the public to clarify concerns based on Council comments which follow.

3. Finally, more public feedback should be allowed on this overall topic and I'd like to suggest that after initial discussion and feedback tonight, this item be brought back later to allow the City Council to provide additional direction based on the public's and their concerns.

Thank you for your consideration,
Cindy Abbott
West Sharp Park, Pacifica

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