

Matters from the Public

This part of City Council’s agenda is entitled “Matters from the Public.” It is a time that Council sets aside to hear from citizens and others about a wide variety of subjects. Before we begin, I’d like to share five basic ground rules that we ask you to respect as you make your remarks:

1. Please come to the podium or begin your call, identify yourself, and complete your remarks within 5 minutes. I will let you know when you’ve reached your 5 minutes. We ask that you please give your name, your address, and then keep your remarks at 5 minutes or less. When you reach the 5-minute time limit, I will let you know that your time limit has expired. If you continue to speak, I will ask you to step away from the podium or to end your call. If you continue to speak after I inform you that you have exceeded your time limit, I will, again, ask you to please stop speaking and step away from the podium or end your call. If you still continue to speak, I will ask the Clerk of Council to end your call, and if you continue to speak from the podium, you may be charged with disorderly conduct under Virginia Code § 18.2-415(A)(2).
2. This is a time for us as a Council simply to listen to your remarks. In an effort to encourage and maintain orderly conduct, we will not engage in give and take debate. If you are seeking information, you may mention it during your remarks and the City Manager or her staff may get in touch with you in the days ahead.
3. We ask that you direct your comments to Council as a whole and not to identify members of Council or to an individual employee of the City. If you want to take up an issue with an individual member of Council or an employee, please speak with us before or after the meeting. We are also accessible by phone, mail or email. Again, we ask that you direct your comments to the Council as a whole.
4. We expect every speaker to be civil and courteous. Using profanity, making personal attacks on an individual unrelated to the performance of their official duties on behalf of the City of Staunton, and doing anything that is disruptive to the orderly conduct of this meeting will not be tolerated.
5. Finally, as the presiding officer, it is my duty to remind you that if you choose not to abide by these ground rules, I may find that you are out of order and will ask you to withdraw from the podium or to end your call. We certainly do not want to reach that point and even beyond, so we respectfully ask for your full cooperation in observing these guidelines.

If you wish, you may obtain a copy of the ground rules from our Clerk of Council, Mr. Kesecker. And now, we welcome all speakers. The podium is now available for matters from the public as well as remote participants using the Zoom platform.