

**CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING
GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT TO
THREE MINUTES PER SPEAKER AND
TO ALLOW A REMOTE PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION OPTION, AND
CONSIDER OTHER CHANGES TO
THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA**



CITY OF
HERMOSA
BEACH

Summary

On *May 27, 2025*, Councilmember Keegan, with the support of Councilmember Francois and Mayor Saemann, requested:

To revert the general public comment period to three minutes per speaker and to allow for virtual participation.



Background—Remote Participation

- **August 10, 2021**—City transitioned to a hybrid in-person and virtual format for its meetings and subsidiary boards and commissions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **February 28, 2023**—City terminated the local emergency, but continued to hold hybrid meetings, although no longer required by law.
- **Currently**—the City is not legally mandated to provide a remote participation option to the public option unless a member of the City Council attends the meeting virtually under the remote participation rules of AB 2449 or under the traditional teleconferencing options.



Background—Remote Participation Cont.

Challenges:

- **Zoom-Bombing**—On September 26, 2023, the City was a victim of a coordinated zoom-bombing attack during its general public comment. Commenters made hateful, bigoted, antisemitic, and sexist remarks, and the meeting had to be suspended temporarily.
- **Zoom Crashes**—Zoom regularly works, but has crashed spontaneously in the past, which has prompted intermittent pauses during the meeting to troubleshoot.



Background—RES-24-7414

- **Resolution No. RES-24-7414** was adopted by the City Council at its February 15, 2024, meeting. It sets the guidelines for the City Council agenda and its subsidiary boards and commissions.
- **General Public Comment Period**—limited to 2 minutes per speaker for a total of 30 minutes.
- **Second General Public Comment Period**—is only available for those unable to provide general public comment during the first opportunity because the 30 minute time limit was exhausted.

The Presiding Officer has the discretion to extend existing time limits.



Discussion

- Any changes made to **RES-24-7414** would immediately be implemented across all subsidiary boards and commissions; and
- A resolution would be brought back to City Council for formal adoption.

Discussion Continued

- Staff recommends City Council consider making the following changes to the order of the agenda:
 - Move **City Manager Report** to #18 on the agenda
 - Add **Information Items** to #20 on the agenda

Staff Proposal of Order of Agenda

1. **CLOSED SESSION—CALL TO ORDER 5:00 PM**

2. **ROLL CALL**

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE CLOSED SESSION AGENDA**

This Public Comment period is limited to Closed Session agenda items only. Public Comment is limited to three (3) minutes per speaker.

4. **RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION**

5. **OPEN SESSION—CALL TO ORDER 6:00 PM**

6. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

7. **ROLL CALL**

8. **CLOSED SESSION REPORT**

9. **ANNOUNCEMENTS—UPCOMING CITY EVENTS**

10. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

This is the time for the City Council to discuss any changes to the order of agenda items.

Recommended Action:

To approve the order of the agenda.

11. **PROCLAMATIONS / PRESENTATIONS**

~~12. CITY MANAGER REPORT~~

~~13-12. PUBLIC COMMENT~~

This is the time for members of the public to address the City Council on any items within the Council's jurisdiction and on items where public comment will not be taken (City Manager Reports, City Councilmember Comments, Consent Calendar items not pulled for separate consideration, and Future Agenda Items). If public comment is provided on Public Hearing or Municipal Matter items, public comment on the same item(s) will not be accepted when the item(s) are heard at a later part of the meeting.

The public is invited to attend and provide public comment. Public comments are limited to two minutes per speaker and shall only be taken from those present in City Council Chambers. No remote public comment will be taken during this time unless required by the Brown Act. A total of thirty minutes will be allocated to this initial public participation item.

This time allotment may be modified due to time constraints at the discretion of the Mayor or City Council. Another period is also reserved for general comment later in the meeting for those who could not be heard at this time.

No action will be taken on matters raised during public comment, except that the Council may take action to schedule issues raised during public comment for a future agenda. Speakers with comments regarding City management or departmental operations are encouraged to submit

those comments directly to the City Manager. Members of the audience will have a future opportunity to speak on items pulled from the Consent Calendar for separate discussion, Public Hearings, and Municipal Matters when those items are heard.

~~14.~~ **13. CITY COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS**

~~14-a~~ **13.a UPDATES FROM CITY COUNCIL AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEES AND STANDING COMMITTEE DELEGATES/ALTERNATES**

~~15-14.~~ **CONSENT CALENDAR**

The following matters will be acted upon collectively with a single motion and vote to approve with the majority consent of the City Council. Councilmembers may orally register a negative vote on any Consent Calendar item without pulling the item for separate consideration before the vote on the Consent Calendar. There will be no separate discussion of these matters unless a Councilmember removes an item from the Consent Calendar, either under Approval of the Agenda or under this item before the vote on the Consent Calendar. Items removed for separate discussion will be provided a separate public comment period.

Recommended Action:

To approve the consent calendar.

~~16-15.~~ **PUBLIC HEARINGS—TO COMMENCE AT 6:30 P.M**

~~17-16.~~ **MUNICIPAL MATTERS**

~~18-17.~~ **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

This is the time for Councilmembers to schedule future agenda items and to ask questions about the status of previously approved future agenda items. No discussion, debate, or public comment will be taken. Councilmembers should consider the city's work plan when considering new items. The tentative future agenda items document is provided for information only.

~~18.~~ **CITY MANAGER REPORT**

19. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

This time is set aside for the public to address the Council on any item of interest within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Council that could not be heard under the first public comment opportunity because there were too many prior public speakers, and the thirty minute maximum time limit was exhausted.

~~20.~~ **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

~~20-21.~~ **ADJOURNMENT**

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends City Council:

1. Discuss time limits set for the general public comment period;
2. Discuss expanding the general public comment option to allow remote participation; and
3. *Approve the new order of the agenda.*

