
Subject:

RE: ordinance No. 16-08-442

From: Gerard Ballanco <gballanco@bellsouth.net>

Date: August 22, 2016 at 9:08:50 AM AKDT

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To members of the assembly and staff,

Thank you again for your interest and action in allowing assembly response to public comment during early part of the assembly meetings.

Would it be possible to simplify the proposed ordinance to something like this?

"During the public comment period, if one or more members of the assembly wishes to respond to a comment made by a member of the public, he or she may do so. If no assembly member chooses to respond, the chair could offer 'Please take that issue up with an individual assembly member in private.'"

As drafted, the proposed ordinance seems unclear and cumbersome. For your consideration, I would like to make the following comments:

1. If the comments are deemed debatable, the chair may provide a point of clarification

1. "comments are deemed debatable" I don't know what that means. Furthermore, it seems to allow the comment to be interpreted in a specific manner before the assembly member could comment.

2. At the conclusion of the citizen's comments, they may solicit a response from a member of the assembly.

2. This suggests that the citizen comment could be directed to a specific assembly member rather than the assembly as a whole. No member should be singled out but each member should have the option to respond.

#3 When a member has been recognized by the chair, they have the floor for the stated allotted time.

3. What is the "stated allotted time"?

#4 The recognized member may yield the floor to another member if they so desire through consumption of the allotted time.

4. "consumption of the allotted time" to me implies that each member of the assembly does not have "allotted time" but, if each member of the assembly wished to respond, each would have only 1/6 of the time to speak. Each should have the "allotted time," whatever that is.

Please help me know if there is any action I can take that would allow consideration of alternate language before the ordinance is introduced. Again, I would like to thank you for your support of this change in the assembly agenda.

Gerard Ballanco