

PUBLIC COMMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Virtual Council Work Session

September 15, 2020



LEXINGTON



Public Comment Opportunities:

- Public comment at regular meetings
 - Standing Committees
 - Council Work Session
 - Council Meetings

- Public comment at other “hearings”
 - Hearings required by law

- Public comment at Zone Change Hearings



Public Comment at Regular Meetings:

- Option 1:
 - Prohibit live comments
 - Require advanced submission of comments (written or video recordings)
 - Comments would be compiled and sent to council prior to the meeting for review
 - Comments would become part of the public record for the meeting

- Option 2:
 - Allow live comments with the following restrictions:
 - Require pre-registration (at least 24 hours in advance)
 - Required to supply name and address (clearly fake names not allowed)
 - Potential additional restrictions:
 - Limit number of people allowed to speak
 - Limit time for public comment (would also limit number of speakers)
 - Limit amount of time an individual may speak (currently limited to three minutes)
 - Cons:
 - No way to ensure disruptive individuals would not access the meeting and engage in inappropriate/offensive comments

- Option 3:
 - Allow unrestricted comments
 - Cons:
 - Technology does now allow for screening speakers in advance
 - No way to ensure disruptive individuals would not access the meeting and engage in inappropriate/offensive comments



Public Comment at other “hearings”:

- “Hearings” required by law, referred to as “hearings” but public participation is more similar to public comment
 - Examples:
 - Petitions to move tax districts
 - Mayor’s Proposed Budget Hearings
 - Urban Service Changes
- Due to the nature of these “hearings,” the same process outlined for public comment at regular meetings could be used.



Public Comment at Zone Change Hearings:

- Hearings at which the public has a right to speak
- Would not be appropriate to require advance submission of comments
- May require pre-registration
 - Requiring pre-registration would help ensure a smoother meeting
 - In the event that a zone change hearing is scheduled, it should allow adequate time to hold a couple of practice runs.
 - Planning has conducted zone change hearings and can offer insight
 - Cons:
 - No way to ensure disruptive individuals would not access the meeting and engage in inappropriate/offensive comments



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Questions?