



CHARTER RECOMMENDATIONS: CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD

DS-26-060

July 14, 2026

Background

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- ❑ The *Governing Standards and Expectations* serve as a single-source reference for the City Council's rules, protocols, procedures, policies, and expectations for itself, committee/board members, staff, and the public.
- ❑ First adopted by the City Council in 2018.
- ❑ Regularly reviewed, amended, and readopted around June of every year.

Background

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- ❑ The Texas Open Meetings Act requires that a governmental body allow members of the public to address the body “regarding an item on an agenda...during the body's consideration of the item.”
- ❑ The *Governing Standards & Expectations* expanded that right to allow the public to speak on non-agenda items.
- ❑ The section granting the ability to speak on non-agenda items was removed in January 2024.

Comparison

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- In reviewing the charters of the 22 other cities between 100k—300k population, none were found to have a provision requiring a citizen comment period on non-agenda items.
- A vast majority of those cities did have a provision stating something to the effect of “the city council shall determine its own rules and order of business.”
 - ▣ This is very similar to the provision contained in the City of Killeen’s City Charter.

Committee Recommendation

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- The Charter Review Committee recommended that the Charter should adopt procedures to allow citizens the opportunity to speak on City-related non-agenda items at all regular council meetings.
- All comments should be addressed to the Council as a whole and not at an individual council member.
- Based on the recommendation, amendments would need to be made to Section 36 of the Charter.

Section 36

RULES OF PROCEDURE: JOURNAL

Section 36. The council shall determine its own rules and order of business. It shall keep an indexed journal of its proceedings and the journal shall be open to the public inspection.

The above notwithstanding, during a regular council meeting, Council shall afford citizens the opportunity to speak on any topic that is related to city business, regardless if the topic of discussion is on the approved agenda for that meeting. All comments shall remain germane to city related business. An individual making such comments should address the City Council as a whole and shall refrain from personally addressing any individual members of the Council.

Direction

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- Staff requests direction as to whether City Council (i) accepts, (ii) modifies and accepts, or (iii) rejects the Charter Review Committee's recommendation regarding the citizen comment period during City Council meetings.