



City Council Meeting
Public Comments
February 7, 2024

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email emilykbakes@yahoo.com

Council Meeting Date feb 7th

Item # 11

Subject agenda items for city council

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Emily Knight

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

Hello council - I am concerned Mr. Morasko will make it harder to place items on future agendas. Please do not make it harder. I started watching council meetings as an assignment for one of my CSUSM classes. I noticed Mr. Morasko seems to speak for the majority and most of you just follow him. Looks like groupthink is happening in Escondido. Stop silencing the minority. Please work on items that help our city thrive. Young people hesitate to get involved because politicians seem out of touch and don't consider them. The city council should not be partisan. Also, as a woman, I am disgusted by how you treat your female colleague.

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email pborchmann9@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 02-07-24

Item # 11

Subject Process to Agendize items for City Council meetings

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name patricia borchmann

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

AGENDA #11

I submit comments today for your consideration, and urge the City Council to retain the current policy and practice in place, as-is.

The current policy is:

11. Content of Agenda. Under state law, the City Council is limited to consideration of items which are on a posted agenda. Items may be placed on an agenda by city staff, by the Mayor, or upon the request of an individual Council member in coordination with the City Manager. The City Manager shall be in charge of preparing the Council agenda and all items shall be coordinated with the City Manager

The current policy has been in place for a few years, and there is no need to change the process. It's been organized, efficient and orderly, and has not caused problems that I know of. It has not been abused, or misused, so the reason for having this Item placed on today's Agenda is a mystery to stakeholders.

Informed stakeholders value open government, fair systems, inclusiveness, diversity, and innovation. The current policy and practice works, and the only reason I think that Councilmember M. Morasco wants to change it is to require consent by 2 City Council members (instead of only one). It appears he (and other members of a Council majority) seek authority to exclude a single Council member (minority), to make it impossible for a topic of importance to one member to be discussed, or even debated in a public meeting. Filtering to limit Agenda items to Council majority's exclusive choice does not fit the democratic process, or the model that stakeholders are proud of. It would diminish the public interest, and would be a disservice to the public,

Please retain the current policy and practice, and live up to the motto, "City of Choice".

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email palbergo@sbcglobal.net

Council Meeting Date February 7, 2024

Item # 12

Subject

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Pamela Albergo

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

I do not know for what purpose Mayor White has for the agenda item #12, but I would like to make my opinion known on the County's proposal.

The County is proposing "Affordable Senior Housing" per the County's website:

https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/general_services/Real_Estate/Develp_Opp/RES_DO_AH_620EValleyPkwly.html

This is not listed as a homeless shelter on the County's website as the City's item #12 indicates and the land in question is County owned property.

I urge the Council to review all information as addressed on the County's website and make an informed decision. This proposal is much needed in all parts of the County and is urgently needed in Escondido.

Too many people are homeless or on the verge of homelessness based on the astronomical housing costs. We must do all that we can to reduce housing costs and I hope the City Council will fully support the County's proposal.

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email pborchmann9@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 02-07-24

Item # 12

Subject County of SD proposal to locate emergency homeless shelter in Escondido (620 E. Valley Pkwy)

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name patricia borchmann

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

Agenda #12, Opposition to County proposal to locate a temporary homeless shelter in Escondido (620 E, Valley Parkway)

I strongly support the Opposition letters with rational reasons, (one prepared by Mayor Dane White and Deputy Mayor Christian Garcia, and a separate Letter prepared by Escondido City Manager Sean McGlynn.).

I highlighted the relevant section from the Opposition letter that summarizes the primary reason for Opposition. In addition to the reasons identified, another important observation is that County's recommendation limits consideration to only a single site at one location proposed in Escondido to serve the entire North San Diego county coastal and inland areas to serve the growing homeless population is likely to draw homeless from other cities, and from the extremely large service areas to occupy the only proposed homeless shelter in Escondido. The proposed emergency homeless shelter to serve north SD County (at 620 W. Valley Parkway) was analyzed carefully by City staff, and was determined to become a serious new unsolved problem, instead of a practical solution. This short-sighted proposal is expected to place an overly large, and disproportionate burden on Escondido, instead of distributing the region's large homeless population among multiple shelter sites within the huge service area, which are realistically needed to serve the homeless who occupy the large region. When one examines the map carefully with locations of all proposed temporary homeless shelters in the entire San Diego county, it is obvious and easy to see the distribution in other areas far south of North SD county are far more numerous, dense, and more concentrated. In Escondido, public stakeholders consider it is only fair to apply the same logic, metrics, and methodology, so that communities near shelter locations are not negatively impacted.

The Opposition Letter from City Manager Sean McGlynn properly points out that the proposed shelter location at 620 E. Valley Parkway does not have sufficient infrastructure and resources that would be necessary to serve the anticipated influx of individuals seeking assistance. Without a comprehensive plan in place, the proposed shelter threatens to become overwhelmed, leading to unsanitary conditions, increased strain on emergency services, and an overall decline in quality of life for residents, businesses, and homeless population,

Excerpt from City of Escondido's Opposition Letters:

The site of your proposal is in the heart of our central business district where smallbusiness owners are

already struggling keeping their stores clean and safe. We receive concerns daily about the safety of both business owners and their customers in this district. Placing a shelter at this location will only exacerbate this problem, especially without a clear exit plan. Where will these individuals go when construction begins on the affordable housing? Will they be left to wander aimlessly through our downtown and the city? In addition to location, priority is another major area of concern. With one of the largest concentrations of homeless in the City of Escondido will those who are already here now be given priority? It would seem imprudent and counterproductive to bring individuals from another city into a city that is struggling to address the current situation. Despite your attempt to circumvent local city officials, we stand ready to partner with you. The City of Escondido has a surplus of property better suited for a shelter and services. Instead of a temporary shelter at 620 E. Valley Parkway, why not work with us on a more permanent solution at a different location? Placing a permanent shelter on city property that we will manage and maintain would be a more efficient, long-term plan that would serve both the City of Escondido and the homeless population already in this city. We would welcome you in joining the work that the subcommittee is already doing.

Recommendation:

Withdraw the proposed temporary emergency homeless shelter in Escondido (at 620 E. Valley Parkway), and instead prioritize and expedite an RFP for housing. It is essential to work collaboratively with residents, businesses, and other stakeholders to develop a considered and practical solution.