

In regards to public meetings held by a public body

For many years I have been attending council study sessions and council meetings. Frequently I have pointed out that council members are not using the microphones correctly as those of us in the audience cannot hear council remarks. Often my request for speaking into the mike is made after consulting others in the audience as to whether they can hear what is being said.

The Mayor repeatedly instructs citizens on how to use the mike so that the citizen can be heard-but many on the council and administration employees do not learn from these instructions.

Last evening I did not state a Point of Personal Privilege, but I did point out that the lack of persons around the council table correctly using their mikes was inhibiting concentration on council discussions.

I think that asking me to change my seat was not the correct way to solve the problem of members around the council table using their mikes incorrectly.

Now, in regards to meetings held in the community development building: tradition is for the heating/cooling system to be running - this is ambient noise. Council or committee members sit around the large table with their backs to the public. Often folks around the table talk to the table, to their computer, or in a low voice, making it difficult for the public to hear. This is another instance where one would invoke a Point of Personal Privilege.