



Council Process Session

Eugene City Council
January 13, 2020



Public Forum Themes

- Purpose of Forum
- Equity & Access
- Community Member Behavior
- Length of Meeting



Purpose of Forum

- Current Purpose Statement
 - “Members of the public may speak about any topic during the Public Forum, except as provided below...”
- Purpose Statement Themes
 - Important component of public involvement
 - Purpose seems unclear to community members
 - Testimony has varying degrees of utility for Council in informing decisions
 - Quantity versus quality



Equity & Access

- Wait times to testify are discouraging, particularly for newcomers
- People with luxury of time and mode of transportation can attend regularly and/or testify early
- First-come queuing process is problematic
- Desire to hear from new voices



Community Member Behavior

- Current environment is not welcoming for all community members
- Some do not feel comfortable and choose not to testify
- There are some safety (or perception of safety) issues that could be addressed
- Managing behavior can be challenging



Length of Meeting

- Length of Public Forum can impact the ability to address other Council business
- Positive response to 2 minute testimony
- Consistency for community members
- Suggestions about limiting:
 - Number of speakers/session length
 - Number of speakers per topic
 - Number of PF per month
 - Amount of testimony per year/per speaker



Public Forum in Other Cities

City	Frequency	Speaker Time	Forum Time Limit
Springfield	2x/mo.	3 min	20 min
Roseburg	2x/mo.	6 min	30 min
Salem	2x/mo.	3 min	--
Portland	2x/mo.	5 min	25 min
Gresham	2x/mo.	3 min	--
Hillsboro	2x/mo.	3 min	--
Berkeley	2x/mo.	1-2 min	10 min/no limit
Boulder	2x/mo.	2-3 min	45 min



Summary of Actions

- Administrative
 - Post new signage with behavior expectations
 - Revise Mayor's script at beginning of forum
 - Provide suggestions on effective testimony
 - Prohibit handouts to Council or audience (place in box at podium)
 - Increase outreach to community about public forum
 - Staff explore feasibility of convening public forum away from Harris Hall occasionally (cost/logistics)



Summary of Actions

- Suggested
 - Move to 2-minute time limit on testimony as a pilot to evaluate
- Needs More Discussion
 - Revise Public Forum purpose statement
 - Considering randomizing order of speakers
 - Consider grouping speakers by topic area
 - Consider having community members sign statement agreeing to expectations
 - Consider increased security



Questions & Comments