



SAVANNA OAKS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
IMPORTANT SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

When: Tuesday, August 1, 2023 at 7 p.m.

Topic: SONA Resolution regarding proposed City Council Rule Changes

Join Zoom Meeting Online

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88094789799?pwd=Vno1bjJRMkpzSTdBNUxBZjU2WnNhUT09>

Meeting ID: 880 9478 9799

Passcode: 480181

Join Zoom Meeting by telephone (audio only):

- +1 669 444 9171
- +1 719 359 4580

Meeting ID: 880 9478 9799

Passcode: 480181

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1. Call to order
 2. Approval of Agenda
 3. New Business:
 - a) City Council proposed Council Rules Changes
 - b) Draft Resolution – See below
 4. Community Comment
 5. Next regular general meeting: Sept 5, 2023
 6. Adjourn

Savanna Oaks Neighborhood Association

August 1st, 2023

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the members of the Savanna Oaks Neighborhood Association (SONA) reviewed the West Linn City Council Agenda for the July 17, 2023, Special Meeting and Work Session and read the proposed Changes to Council Rules under item 9 (c) of the agenda; and

WHEREAS the members of SONA also reviewed the included Organizational Chart of the City of West Linn and found that the Citizens of West Linn are listed at the top of that chart above both the Mayor and City Council and the staff of this city; and

WHEREAS the Mayor and City Council candidates that have now become the Mayor and City Councilors all campaigned on transparency and citizen input being important to the proper functioning of the City of West Linn; and

WHEREAS the City Council Home Page on the City's Website has as its opening statement: "Council is always open to hearing from citizens on topics and issues of importance to them."; and

WHEREAS the above-referenced proposed changes to Council Rules do not further transparency and citizen input but instead lessen them in the following areas:

Section C #3 Agenda- Decreases from 10 days to only 6 days ahead of the City Council meetings for the staff "striving" to publish the agenda and packets for the next City Council Meeting and that items can be added after publishing the agenda, thus making it harder for citizens to know what will be heard at the City Council meetings and to get their testimony properly prepared.

Section C #19 General Public Comment- Decreases the number of minutes that members of the public can speak on an agenda item from 5 minutes down to 3 minutes thereby lessening the amount of public input.

Section C #21b Written Comments, Documents, and Testimony Forms- States that written testimony and documents must be submitted to the City Recorder by 4 pm two business days before the meeting. With the proposed 6-day instead of 10-day time frame for the publishing of the agenda discussed above, it means that the public will have only two days to submit a comment to be included in the agenda and packets. Most local cities do not have a deadline. Forest Grove's is 3 pm on the day of the meeting.

Section C #22 Neighborhood Association Advisory Group Comments- Decreases the number of minutes designated representatives of the Neighborhood Associations can speak from ten

minutes down to five minutes thereby lessening the amount of Neighborhood Association input.

Section H #4 Minutes of Community Advisory Group Meetings- Proposes that written minutes of citizen community advisory group meetings will be the official permanent record of CAGs and will be taken by the staff liaison and if not available, the Chair or their designated substitute. However, citizen community advisory groups shall also provide an audio recording of their meetings and that **will only be retained for 1 year** after approval of the written minutes thereby decreasing the historical record easily available to the public.

NOW, THEREFORE, SAVANNA OAKS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION RESOLVES:

Section 1. That SONA is opposed to the five specific sections of the proposed changes to the Council Rules that are listed above, and;

Section 2. That SONA respectfully requests that the Mayor and City Council do not approve the five sections described in detail above in order to not decrease the transparency and citizen participation afforded to the citizens of West Linn. The citizens have worked hard for decades with previous City Councils to demonstrate a high value for community involvement.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2023
AYE _____ NO _____ ABSTAIN _____

Rich Sakelik, President

Savanna Oaks Neighborhood Association

PERSONNEL

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

