

TO: Mayor and City Council  
FROM: David Chanski, City Administrator/Clerk  
RE: Request to Disable YouTube Comments  
DATE: March 4, 2024

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**Background**

Mayor Zierden has requested that the City Council have comments on the City's YouTube channel be disabled.

**Communications Policy**

Section V.C.2 of City's Communications Policy currently states:

*Comments and replies on City posts from the public are allowed and will be monitored by the aforementioned administrator or their designee for unacceptable content including defaming, harassing, threatening or otherwise violating the legal rights of others, including their privacy; misrepresenting one's person, background or character; posting any defamatory, infringing, obscene, false or unlawful material; selling, advertising or exchanging any goods or services unless expressly allowed; statements/threats or calls for violence or attacks of sexual assault or sexual exploitation, including derogatory terms related to sexual activity; calling for self-injury suicide or harm of a specific person or group of people; posting any copyrighted material; and/or spam or bot-generated content; and those listed in Section V.C.4.*

As such, the Communications Policy should be amended if the City Council desires to disable comments on any of the City's public forums (YouTube, Facebook, and Nextdoor).

While staff does not recommend disabling comments on any of the City's public forums, staff would advise that any policy to disable comments be evenly applied to all the City's public forums (not just YouTube) if the Council does so choose to disable comments.

**Council Action**

Staff is seeking direction from the City Council whether to amend the Communications Policy to disable comments on any of the City's public forums.