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**Public Comment for Thursday agenda items**

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From Leslie Nielsen <lpbeach21@gmail.com>

Date Wed 1/8/2025 10:04 AM

To City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>; Gautho, Julia <jGautho@ci.capitola.ca.us>

Capitola City Council,

Re: Agenda Item 8C - Process to Fill a Vacant Council Seat, and Agenda Item 8D - City Council Reorganization for 2025

As I will be attending the meeting remotely this week, I submit the following public comments for your consideration.

Item 8C. While an election is clearly the least controversial and most democratic approach to filling the seat, the time and budget trade-offs are not insignificant. I believe this task can be managed in a democratic way that continues the momentum of improving collaboration amongst the City Staff, City Council, and Community using a transparent process versus the swift appointment of a named person.

The time required to get this done using a process that includes the community by having them involved in a committee approach or being present for application reviews, interviews, etc. will go a long way towards building trust. It will also ensure the newly appointed member can hit the ground running having been properly vetted in a public and transparent manner.

I am confident you can define a community inclusive process that doesn't have to be a huge time sink, and that the extra effort over a mere appointment will have a great payback for all constituent groups.

8D. It struck me as odd that item 8C was to define the approach to be used to select a council member, and that item 8D was to take action and appoint Mayor and Vice Mayor seats before the new member was identified. Please consider allowing the Vice Mayor to act in the Pro Tempore capacity covering the duties of the Mayoral position until a full council is seated, and postpone this action. Given the new council member will be a vetted and deemed qualified candidate, they should be a participant in selecting governing positions.

This logic may also warrant a discussion on postponing Items 8E and 8F.

Best regards,  
Leslie Nielsen