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Best Practices Revision Suggestions

1 message

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To: Angie Mettie <deputy@newmeadowsidaho.us>, Jacob Qualls <cityclerk@newmeadowsidaho.us>

Here's my revised version:

MAYOR/CITY COUNCIL BEST PRACTICES DRAFT

- Demonstrate honesty and integrity in every action and statement
- Inspire public confidence in the City's goals and plans
- Work for the common good, not personal agendas
- Respect the proper roles of elected officials and City staff
- Disagree agreeably and professionally, using appropriate language, tone and nonverbal gestures.
- Share information and avoid surprises
- Conduct City business in a respectful, professional manner.
- Remain aware of the City's financial position and policies
- Work together as a team, modeling teamwork and civility for the community
- Prepare in advance of council meetings. Be familiar with issues on the agenda
- Participate fully in city council meetings and other public forums with respect, consideration and courtesy to others
- Work for win-win scenarios –strive for consensus and seek common ground
- Remain loyal to the City's vision and mission in all interactions with the public

I removed two points. I think stating that council members should avoid distractions is obvious, but also seems a bit like a jab. In this unprecedented time, I believe all council members do their very best to give council affairs their full attention, even when dealing with the strain of meeting virtually, from home. I don't think we need to add it to our best practices.

I also fear that while "criticize in private, praise in public" sounds nice... It's not good for democracy. Criticism and disagreement is part of our democratic process. We should not be an echo chamber and we should be transparent with the public; only disagreeing and criticizing in private is not transparent and frankly, not honest. It sounds great in theory, but in practice, I'm not for it. I think criticism can be done in a respectful, honoring way... While still being a necessary, crucial part of our democratic processes.

I think this should be as simple and broad as possible.

This is all just my opinion.

-Shiloh