

Please include the below email as citizen input for the Council meeting tonight, July 13. Thank you.

Mayor Bosch & City Council Members -

I believe having a Zoom option available for the community to attend City Council meetings is important and that this option should be a permanent part of City Council meetings.

I appreciate that when the Zoom option initially began it was to help those who were displaced from the flood feel they could attend the meeting from afar - this was a wonderful service to the community. I believe having a Zoom option would be beneficial for many residents who cannot attend the meeting due to a variety of circumstances, including family constraints (young children or taking care of others), physical ability (including sickness or injury), being out of town, employment commitments, or just not being able to make the 7pm start time.

I personally have missed recent meetings (including tonight's) due to being out of town...both for a planned vacation and for an emergency. It is also difficult for me to get to the meeting by 7pm - and others in town probably feel the same. I planned to provide citizen input on this topic at the May 26th meeting but due to family requirements was unable to make it on time and therefore missed my opportunity.

Having a Zoom option available to Sumas residents and others who love this community facilitates community participation and demonstrates your commitment to transparency of information. Due to this and the fact that the equipment is already in place for a Zoom option, I do not understand the hesitation on the part of the City. I emailed Mayor Bosch on May 26 inquiring about the reason for getting rid of the Zoom option and asking how I can facilitate it's return. Unfortunately, I never received a response, nor have I seen any response publicly regarding the Zoom question.

I know there are many people in the community who would like to have Zoom. So I ask with curiosity and sincerity....what will it take for our community to have the Zoom option become a permanent part of City Council meetings? We are willing to work to make this happen.

I appreciate your time in not only considering making the Zoom option permanent, but in also providing the Sumas community verbal or written feedback regarding the Zoom option, and not just silence on the issue.

Thank you,

Cayla Samms