

Subject: FW: July 8th council meeting/Pledge discussion
Date: Thursday, June 27, 2019 at 9:46:35 PM Central Daylight Time
From: Tom Harmening
To: Jake Spano

fyi

From: Tom Harmening
Sent: Thursday, June 27, 2019 9:45 PM
To: Anne Mavity
Subject: RE: July 8th council meeting/Pledge discussion

Anne – you need to discuss this with Jake. I was not asked to be involved in the decision, to research the topic, nothing – So I simply facilitated what I was directed to do. I’ve received not less than 150 phone calls today and numerous emails that I now have to address. It’s become an all-consuming issue. Staff in the organization are asking me what the heck is going on with the council, some very upset with the decision made. My front counter staff have been abused by callers and fear someone could walk in and commit violence. I’ve had to bring the police chief in on this to take a look at some of the messaging and monitor potential protests and the like. It’s a mess

Jake reached out to the council and four agreed they wanted to discuss this again. You need to talk to Jake about how this was handled. I’ve got my hands full just keeping the lid on things at city hall and the contacts being made

Tom

From: Anne Mavity [[mailto:anne@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:anne@[REDACTED])]
Sent: Thursday, June 27, 2019 9:32 PM
To: Tom Harmening
Subject: Re: July 8th council meeting/Pledge discussion

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After getting it in a study packet 4 days earlier. And yes, the council unanimously decided it didn’t require a study session conversation because we all agreed on it - but I submitted the request as our protocol requires two weeks earlier.

Seriously, I didn’t even see the original email today until the conclusory email was sent...!!! A few hours notice on this????

Anne Mavity

St. Louis Park City Councilmember
[REDACTED]

On Jun 27, 2019, at 9:29 PM, Tom Harmening <[THARMENING@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:THARMENING@[REDACTED])> wrote:

Yes – and the protocol is that the decision to be made at that time is whether the council wanted to discuss the topic at a future meeting – not make a decision that evening. That night the council decided to move forward without taking about it at a future SS.

Tom

From: Anne Mavity [[mailto:anne@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:anne@[REDACTED])]
Sent: Thursday, June 27, 2019 9:24 PM
To: Tom Harmening
Subject: Re: July 8th council meeting/Pledge discussion

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Actually, I'm pretty sure I filled it out for the future study session meeting and it was in the packet that was emailed out...

Anne Mavity
St. Louis Park City Councilmember
[REDACTED]

On Jun 27, 2019, at 9:22 PM, Tom Harmening <[THARMENING@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:THARMENING@[REDACTED])> wrote:

Anne – if you are suggesting that I need to remind the Council of norms, when you filled out the form and proposed to the council that we delete the pledge the council decided that very evening to do so. The protocol set up was the question of whether the council wanted to talk about it at a future study session. It didn't happen that way.

From: Anne Mavity [[mailto:anne@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:anne@[REDACTED])]
Sent: Thursday, June 27, 2019 9:14 PM
To: Tom Harmening
Cc: Jake Spano
Subject: Re: July 8th council meeting/Pledge discussion

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Requests for Login Information***

I get that you're the messenger. But also you share and remind us of our norms and rules.

We spent a bit of time outlining a protocol for raising issues with the council.
Jake - you can fill out the form just like I did, to introduce this.

Anne Mavity

St. Louis Park City Councilmember
[Redacted]

On Jun 27, 2019, at 9:04 PM, Tom Harmening
<[THARMENING@\[Redacted\]](mailto:THARMENING@[Redacted])> wrote:

I'm the messenger.....

From: Anne Mavity [[mailto:anne@\[Redacted\]](mailto:anne@[Redacted])]
Sent: Thursday, June 27, 2019 8:48 PM
To: Tom Harmening
Cc: Jake Spano
Subject: Re: July 8th council meeting/Pledge discussion

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Links and Requests for Login Information***

I think it's premature to make that announcement. I haven't yet had time to talk to Rachel or Margaret. This feels like a power play - I just got home from work an hour ago and hadn't even seen this email yet.

I thought we had a protocol for introducing topics?

Anne Mavity

St. Louis Park City Councilmember
[Redacted]

On Jun 27, 2019, at 8:41 PM, Tom Harmening
<[THARMENING@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:THARMENING@[REDACTED])> wrote:

Mayor and Council - as a result of Jake's email question below, four members of the council agreed to revisiting the decision on the pledge at the July 8 study session.

For those of you who have been contacted by the media, local or national, a suggested message back would be:

After hearing many comments from the community, the St. Louis Park City Council is revisiting its decision to remove recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance from city council meetings. The council will discuss this topic at its July 8, 2019, 6:30 p.m. study session. I appreciate your interest in an interview; however in light of this development I will have to decline your request. Thank you.

Just let me know if you prefer staff to handle this for you.

Tom

-----Original Message-----

From: Jake Spano [[mailto:mayorjakespano@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:mayorjakespano@[REDACTED])]
Sent: Thursday, June 27, 2019 2:52 PM
To: Tom Harmening; Jacque Smith
Subject: July 8th council meeting/Pledge discussion

Colleagues-

Im sure the last 24 hours have been pretty eventful for all of you, as they have been for me.

I understand that I was not at the meeting where this was discussed/decided but I feel strongly that we need to revisit the decision on the pledge of allegiance at our next meeting on July 8th. I don't ask this lightly, in fact I've never asked my colleagues for something like this, but I think this decision deserves another look by all of us.

Please reply to Tom with if you agree that we should revisit this on July 8th.

Thank you,

Jake Spano
Mayor
St. Louis Park, Minnesota