

Subject: Fwd: July 8th council meeting/Pledge discussion
Date: Thursday, June 27, 2019 at 9:49:33 PM Central Daylight Time
From: Thom Miller
To: Tom Harmening
CC: Anne Mavity, Jake Spano

I fully agree with Anne on this point. This would be an extraordinary power given to our mayor which is not within our norms or past practices. One council member, even the mayor, should not simply email the group and create a study session topic, least of all to reconsider an official vote. This is, in fact, a serial meeting on an important topic by proxy of progressive emails to the city manager.

In this case the mayor, or whomever, should fill out the proper form (or simply raise the topic at a meeting) and that topic should be considered, for a potential study session topic.

This is a serious precedent we would be setting and provides the mayor, in this case, with disproportionate power.

I suggest that Jake submit the topic on July 8th and we all deliberate if the topic should be placed on a future study session date and whether or not it is aligned with our priorities and to what degree this matter is urgent. This seems to be the only correct way to address this matter not just because of procedure but because doing otherwise will be rushed, messy, reactive, and not thoughtful.

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From: Anne Mavity <anne@[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, June 27, 2019 9:28 PM
To: slpcouncil@[redacted]
Cc: ndeno@[redacted]; Maria Carrillo-Perez; Jacque Smith; tharmening@[redacted]
Subject: Re: July 8th council meeting/Pledge discussion

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Colleagues,

We have protocols for raising issues with our council colleagues. Please do NOT use this language, until we follow our council protocols to consider this. Doesn't seem appropriate that I was required to "fill out the form" on May 13th for our study session on May 28th but in a few hours when I had no access to email to even see this conversation that this decision was made by the Mayor.

Anne

On Jun 27, 2019, at 8:41 PM, Tom Harmening <THARMENING@> 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@>]

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