

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-51

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARINA AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO PLACE ON A FUTURE AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION THE ENACTMENT OF A POLICY PERMITTING MARINA RESIDENTS, WHO ARE REGISTERED VOTERS, TO OCCUPY AN ABSENT COUNCIL MEMBER'S SEAT FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF ASKING QUESTIONS AND MAKING COMMENTS ON OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEMS

WHEREAS, the last two elections for city council positions have been unopposed. Public attendance at commission and city council meetings has been, at best, minimal. There is a tremendous need for public involvement in local matters. Decisions are made at these meetings and very little input is received from the public, and;

WHEREAS, in an attempt to get more members of the public involved in their city's matters, an item is to be place on a future agenda an item that addresses the question of more public involvement in city discussions and decisions.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Marina does hereby:

1. Authorize the City Manager to place on a future agenda for discussion and decision the enactment of a policy permitting Marina residents, who are registered voters, to occupy an absent council member's seat for the sole purpose of asking questions and making comments on open session agenda items

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Marina at a regular meeting duly held on the 21st day of May 2019 by the following vote:

AYES, COUNCIL MEMBERS: Berkley, Urrutia, Morton, Delgado

NOES, COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

ABSENT, COUNCIL MEMBERS: O'Connell

ABSTAIN, COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

Bruce C. Delgado, Mayor

ATTEST:

Anita Sharp, Deputy City Clerk

May 14, 2019

Item No. **8f(1)**

Honorable Mayor and Members
of the Marina City Council

City Council Meeting
of May 21, 2019

**CITY COUNCIL CONSIDER ADOPTING RESOLUTION 2019-
AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO PLACE ON A FUTURE
AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION THE ENACTMENT OF A
POLICY PERMITTING MARINA RESIDENTS, WHO ARE REGISTERED
VOTERS, TO OCCUPY AN ABSENT COUNCIL MEMBER'S SEAT FOR
THE SOLE PURPOSE OF ASKING QUESTIONS AND MAKING
COMMENTS ON OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEMS. (O'Connell-first step)**

REQUEST: City Council consider:

1. adopting Resolution 2019- authorizing the City Manager to place on a future agenda for discussion and decision the enactment of a policy permitting Marina residents, who are registered voters, to occupy an absent council member's seat for the sole purpose of asking questions and making comments on open session agenda items.

BACKGROUND:

The last two elections for city council positions have been unopposed. Public attendance at commission and city council meetings has been, at best, minimal. There is a tremendous need for public involvement in local matters. Decisions are made at these meetings and very little input is received from the public.

ANALYSIS:

In an attempt to get more members of the public involved in their city's matters, I am asking the City Council to place on a future agenda an item that addresses the question of more public involvement in city discussions and decisions. I am suggesting the following criteria:

1. Must be a registered voter and resident of the City of Marina.
2. Will only participate in Open Session agenda items.
3. Permitted to ask questions and make comments on agenda items.
4. Will not be allowed to vote on any item.
5. The Council member who will be absent must designate the individual who will occupy his/her seat at least one week before the meeting. In the alternative, the city clerk may establish a voter list of persons who desire to participate in the policy/process.
6. If the Mayor is absent: the person chosen will sit in the council seat of the Mayor Pro tem who will preside over the meeting.
7. If the Mayor Pro tem is absent: the person designated by her shall sit as a guest "council member" and, if necessary, the City Council may appoint a temporary MPT for that meeting only.
8. If two council members are absent: the designated persons shall serve as guest "council members" and not as Mayor or MPT.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

CONCLUSION: This request is submitted for City Council consideration and possible action.

Frank O'Connell
City Council Member

Layne Long
City Manager
City of Marina