



City of Fredericksburg

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2021, ~ 6:00 P.M.

Charlie Kiehne, Mayor
Tom Musselman, Councilmember
Bobby Watson, Councilmember

Jerry Luckenbach, Councilmember
Kathy O'Neill, Councilmember
Kent Myers, City Manager

WRITTEN COMMENT

Comment Form #	Name	Address
1.	Timothy Ellis Riley	

Shelley Goodwin

From: Timothy Riley <rileyformayor@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 10:59 AM
To: Citizen Comments
Subject: Written Comments (9/20/21)

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Timothy Ellis Riley
City Citizen

1. The downloadable agenda: none of the links work, after downloading.
2. All City Council meetings should include the ability for citizens to contribute through live streaming. This option was forced upon the city, during the pandemic, proved to be successful and needs to be re-instated. After meeting with Kent Myers, he made clear this is not a priority. This is a mistake. Also at that meeting, Eric and Aaron of IT and Mr. Bailey. During that meeting, we reviewed the new website and discussed basic updates and improvements. For example, updating the pictures to better represent the town. This is a simple change, but the same pictures remain. I asked for the "Path to the Future Document" to remain, but who really benefits from this? Those who use the internet and information technologies. These people could be given better and better access to the city, but this is not a priority. Ultimately, the website update was not a major improvement, considering cost and formats. I like the calendar and that the homepage is more interactive, but the interface just barely reflects the full potential of our website and our ability to reach our citizens.
3. I have attended nearly every city council meeting and major workshop the last few years. These meetings are not dynamic, they lack structure and ideas to more accurately reflect the citizens point of view for change. We can include live voting and data in all meetings. When the HEB room at the University Center is filled to capacity, what a loss to only allow the 3 minute comments and not gather every data point the city can, using all the FREE information technologies that already exist. In the classrooms I teach, I utilize multiple formats and applications to be able to live poll and collect data. Our city does not seem to either be willing or have the creative ideas to be able to build a more interactive and welcoming environment for our citizens to express themselves for change or no change at all.
4. The STR workshop was a shock to the senses. In a lot of cases, we don't see all the work that goes into making changes and updates to ordinances. After the presentation by Mr. Lutz, it was clear that an ordinance overhaul had been attempted. There were many changes and updates and ways to create more regulations on our citizens. I don't believe this to be necessary. I know concerned citizens that have given the city research and language that is basic and makes specific changes to already existing ordinances. These simple word changes do not re-define, but make more clear our community expectations, without creating more regulations. Multiple citizens expressed needing more data, I agree. I have never been confident in who the city asks or how they collect information. I do not see an effort to be willing to take the small steps necessary to walk, before we decide to run. Simple word changes to existing ordinances and subsequently enforcing those ordinances needs to be priority. 'Possibly' passing new ordinances in December is another way of ignoring the problems. There is no reason that the changes our citizens are asking for should take so long, unless there are other agendas at play. Every city official I meet with says; "There are no agendas." "How ridiculous that would be.." Well, every official has been at these jobs for many years and I am inclined to no longer take them at their word, but challenge those answers by saying: "Bureaucracy is just an excuse for our/your/their inability to get the job done with the integrity our city professes to live by."
5. I will speak again at City Council meeting when I no longer feel like a punch line/think to be worthwhile. Quite nearly everyone person in the elected chairs, has had a clever word or fun joke about my presence or absence at that podium. Most of which I do try to experience with a bit of respect and goodness. I imagine I am not the only one that feels the coy passive aggressiveness that exits in the liminal space between the podium, that should be a table, and the council. You elected officials are responsible for the individuals in that room. Responsible for why they are there. Responsible

for their well-being. Responsible to create a space that helps the problem, doesn't just let the elephants remain. Be more bold. Be willing to make more mistakes. Teach us through your courage, not your toxic pragmatism.

6. Mr. Luckenbach, I am still waiting to meet.

Cheers,

Timothy Ellis Riley