

February 6, 2024 CITY COUNCIL MEETING
POSITION STATEMENTS & WRITTEN COMMENTS

PUBLIC FORUM

WRITTEN COMMENT ONLY

Derek Miller (Naperville) - I have always been impressed with how well run Naperville city government is and that extends from city employees all the way up to city council. The city council has always been run professionally and council members have always treated each other and Naperville citizens with respect from the dais. That changed at the last city council meeting.

It started when one city council member accused another of impropriety during a discussion on donations to local charities. I won't go into too much detail on this since I already contacted both council members who were involved individually, but given it was over a mere \$500 out of a multi-million dollar budget, I think it is a conversation that could have been had in private to allay any concerns.

The other incident occurred during new business when a council member recommended keeping a listing of any local citizens who would like to house migrants in their own personal homes. While I saw this as a snarky political stunt, I didn't think too much of it at the time. Since then, however, the council member has been giving interviews on national media outlets talking about how he wanted to expose the hypocrisy of those who have signs in their yard such as "Hate Has No Home Here" and he even gave pictures of local resident homes to the news outlets for his interviews. He also shared an example form with a resident that I do not want to share here given many of the questions were outright racist. The latest election was the most partisan I have seen in my years living in Naperville, and I hope we haven't reached the point of no return and can have a city council that works in a non-partisan manner and does not bring petty gotcha politics to the dais. I hope the mayor and the city council can come together to make sure conversations from the dais and interactions with Naperville residents remain respectful. People will always have political differences, but I hope everyone can work together in a bipartisan manner and leave the political games to Springfield and Washington.

Robert Petersen (Naperville) - I really try to stay out of local politics and may have only voiced concern on one or two items since I've lived here. I just want the city to be well-run, with good schools, parks, and libraries without political nonsense. A friend shared a video and some relevant online commentary related to a recent city meeting that was hard to ignore, in which comments were made about citizens in Naperville and clearly intended in a derogatory manner toward them. As a reminder, here are the rules for city council members that I read on the city website. Please read below and follow them. Thank you

1-5-6-2: - CONDUCT OF MEMBERS:

1.No Council member shall use their office or any City employee to promote their private enterprises whether compensation is received or not.2.Council members shall comply with the provisions and requirements of Section 1-13-1, et seq. (Conflict of Interest), including Section 1-

13-9 (Compliance with the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act).3.At all times during performance of their official duties, Council members shall comply with the City's workplace safety policies, harassment prevention, and respectful workplace polices as set forth in the employee policy manual.4.Council members shall always demonstrate respect for the opinions of each other, members of staff and members of the audience.5.All members of the City Council shall perform their duties for the benefit of the citizens with integrity and impartiality, without allowing prejudice, favoritism or the opportunity for personal gain to influence their decisions or actions or to interfere with serving the public interest or to interfere with the professional operation of the City.6.City Council members should conduct themselves in a manner that will preserve public confidence in, and respect for, the government they represent and refrain from actions or words that compromise the integrity and reputation of the City.7.City Council members may choose to post and/or comment on various social media sites using their personal accounts. In these instances, it is recommended that the content and tenor of online comments and information posts should model the same decorum displayed during City Council meetings.8.City Council members shall maintain confidentiality of privileged information and not knowingly disclose confidential information.9.City Council members making statements about City business should clarify that they are speaking for themselves and not on behalf of the City Council.10.During any City Council meeting, no Council member shall speak until recognized by the Mayor. Council members shall utilize the electronic notice system to secure recognition of the Mayor.11.When two (2) or more Council members seek recognition at the same time, the Mayor shall name the Council member who shall speak first.12.A Council member called to order by the Mayor shall stop speaking.13.While business of the City Council is being transacted, no Council member shall leave the City Council meeting without first informing the Mayor.14.A Council member who acts in a disorderly manner at a City Council meeting or workshop, violates any provision of this section, or does not obey the order of the Mayor may be officially censured by a majority vote of the City Council by adoption of a resolution imposing a censure or through a verbal motion at a meeting.15.A Council member whose disorderly conduct is so extreme as to disrupt or interfere with the orderly process of a City Council meeting or workshop may be expelled from a City Council meeting or workshop upon an extraordinary vote of the City Council then holding office, but not a second time for the same incident.

Linda Hansen - Since the last city council meeting, Councilman McBroom's words regarding "migrants" have gone viral on social media and traditional media; landing him on local radio stations, cable networks and national news outlets. He has truly captured the attention of many across our town AND our country. This however, scares many of you sitting in this room. What are you all afraid of? Are you SO afraid that his comments will resonate with the people of this community? Are you SO afraid that you had to create parody social media accounts with the sole purpose of MOCKING and INSULTING him? Are you SO afraid that you turn to bullying his family in an effort to silence him? Are you SO afraid that you call the corporate office of his place of business to SLANDER him? Are you SO afraid, that you try to sabotage a local family run restaurant because his son works there and they might agree with his words too? YOU are the ones instilling fear to to gain power. You try to silence anyone who is brave enough to speak their mind. You are truly the intolerant ones -- your online and behind the scenes backstabbing are the definition of bullying. I have been a resident of Naperville for 25 years. We raised our family here and have trusted that our city was always in good hands. These sort of immature antics on behalf of some of our elected officials and others sitting in this room, makes me worry

for our future and lose trust in city leadership. You say “hate has no home here” and put signs in your yard, but behave in the opposite manner, that is not in the best interest of our city. If you want to welcome illegals into Naperville, I am asking you to put your virtue signaling signs and hateful rhetoric away in exchange for POLICY. I am asking you, what is your PLAN? Wait! You don’t have one! You would like for Naperville to be a sanctuary city, because it SOUNDS good. It makes you feel warm inside. But there is no plan in place. You don’t want them in your neighborhood or your home. It’s time you take responsibility for your words. You are all talk, and no action. Let’s see a plan, with cost and tax impact on our residents. Wrap it all up in a referendum and let the good people of Naperville decide. You in fact, work for US. Thank you.

Tim Messer (Naperville) - My name is Tim Messer. I’m a 23-year member of the Naperville community. My comments are my own, not those of any board or group of which I am a member. I recently tested positive for COVID, so my health as well as basic courtesy will unfortunately prevent me from making these remarks in person at tonight’s meeting.

In my years observing local government, I have seen a lot occur in the public sphere, both on the dais in Council chambers and elsewhere. I sat on that dais for years as an appointed member of a City commission, and I took that role very seriously. It’s not your dais, or mine—it belongs to the people of this community. So I become particularly frustrated when I see a member or members of elected or appointed bodies use the people’s dais as part of what I perceive to be a political stunt.

It doesn’t take much to see through what occurred during the new business portion of the January 16 City Council meeting. It is particularly obvious given the subsequent interviews provided to local and national media, and the follow-up comments made on social media in the days afterward, as many of those statements had to be clarified or walked back.

I expect better than this from my elected leaders. I expect transparency. I expect those sitting on the dais to be informed about ongoing efforts in the community before they submit a measure that’s duplicative. Lastly, I expect our leaders to not attempt to involve our local government in national matters for the purposes of political expediency. It’s exhausting to watch. It’s unnecessary. It’s not what I have come to expect in my 23 years in this community. It’s what I expect from Chicago, but it’s not what I want to see as a Naperville resident.

In an attempt to end this statement on a somewhat positive note, I would like to commend Mayor Wehrli for properly chairing the last meeting and keeping discussion on the final matter from getting further out of hand. I also want to commend former Mayor Chirico and City staff for their efforts on developing an emergency management plan more than a year ago for handling potential unexpected arrivals of migrants, as reported by the Naperville Sun in November. This is what true leadership looks like.

Thanks for your time.

I22 Prairie Nature Garden improvement to the Naperville Riverwalk

POSITION STATEMENT

SUPPORT

1. Marilyn L Schweitzer (Naperville)