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Huntington mayor changes meeting form

The Register

D.C. Register 1-18-90
HUNTINGTON BEACH — Mayor Tom Mays will change the format of City Council meetings as of Jan. 22 and will hold public hearings before open public comment.

Currently, members of the public are able to speak at the beginning of meetings on any subject they wish — except public hearing items. So many people wish to speak some nights, however, that their comments push scheduled agenda items late into the night or to a future meeting.

"It just isn't fair," Mays said. "Sometimes people there for scheduled public hearings have an architect or an attorney with them who is being paid by the hour. They've often waited a long time just to get on the agenda."

Mays said members of the public will be able to speak their piece just as easily after the hearings are held.

As mayor, Mays has the option to set the format for council meetings.

"If someone needs to get some

information to the council before the public hearings are held, they can always write us a letter," he said.

Mays polled his six colleagues on the council by phone before making his decision to change the order of events at council meetings and said he got a consensus that the idea made sense.

"However, if council members prefer some other system, such as allowing a limited time for public comment earlier in the meeting, we'll discuss it," he said.

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