

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to support hybrid Council Meetings. As a frequent participant in public comment, I support zoom participation.

Without Zoom, I would not be able to participate in public comment. Without the Zoom option, many people will not be able to give public comment due to age, illness, disability, parenting obligations, work obligations and other everyday circumstance that prevents people from attending Council meetings in person.

While I understand that zoom bombing is disruptive, it does not undermine the integrity of the meetings. A few bad actors should not ruin the democratic experience for Sebastopol's citizens. The zoom bombers are most likely not even residents of Sebastopol; their bad behavior should not be limiting the public participation of actual residents.

I request that Council maintain the zoom option for public comment to allow many members of the community to participate in public comment, which is crucial for true democratic decision making.

Best,
Kate Haug