

Dear Council,

It seems imperative that council meetings stay hybrid for the sake of our town. Our wonderful little town is not like any other in the county so it's not appropriate to compare. Basically, many people are unable to attend council meetings in person and would be cut out of the conversation.

It has been informative for me to attend zoom council meetings in the last year or so. While on zoom meetings, I have been able to listen to lawyers, accountants, and reports from consultants whose time must be costing the city significantly less because they are not having to drive to the meetings.

Most importantly, it is important to maintain democracy. It is important for anyone who has a comment to be able to speak to the council and give their opinion, whether they are able to physically be at the meeting or not.

With respect to the last meeting and the 3 zoom bombers, while some may say true democracy is listening to everyone's comment, what they said is no more repulsive than the woman at the previous meeting spouting her abhorrent comment "from the river to the sea" and no council member attempting to talk over her. She was allowed her full two minutes while advocating for erasing the State of Israel and its people.

There are plenty of measures that are easy to implement and effectively weed out troublemakers and headaches.

The bottom line for me is, anyone on the council voting to end hybrid meetings is attempting to limit our rights as citizens and the transparency our town needs, now more than ever, with the financial fiasco our last council got us into.