

**From:** [Linda](#)  
**To:** [All Alders](#)  
**Subject:** Legistar 88129 modifying the start time of Common Council meetings  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 3, 2025 3:19:08 PM

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I do not support changing Council the Council meeting time to "no earlier than 5:30 p.m."

The proposed time has the risk of reducing public participation. At 5:30 residents are more likely to still be finishing up daytime activities, such as returning home from work or feeding the kids, than they are at 6:30. Public participation has already been affected by reducing speaking time from 5 minutes to 3 minutes. And the impact of public participation was reduced by having all testimony at the start of Council meetings – Alders have not heard staff presentations which can give better context to testimony, and testimony may well be forgotten by the time the issue comes up for discussion hours later.

In addition, "no earlier than" leaves a lot of room for changing meeting times. How far in advance will the Council meeting time be determined? The Council meeting formats (hybrid or virtual) are set months in advance. Will the Council be setting meeting times months in advance? Or will the public need to check each agenda to see what time the Council meeting starts?

Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda Lehnertz