

Fri, Jan 22, 2021 at 8:55 PM

At the last council meeting the city clerk failed to read my public comments on multiple occasions . It is my hope this never happens again as failure to read a properly sent communication is a violation of our most basic of rights provided in the first amendment of the US Constitution and reaffirmed in the California Constitution.

The right to redress our grievances is our only means of correcting the abuses we sustain as electors. Make no mistake when my properly formatted and timely submitted emails were ignored by the city clerk because as she stated the council members all received them as well. The City clerk single handedly denied my right to be heard in the town square literally. Not only during public comment, but at public hearing on an agenda item. We are not able to always attend via zoom and this provision is required by law. I am owed a public apology at least. If no apology is offered perhaps its time to replace our city clerk with an elected officer as state law allows so the people of ceres can correct the injustices at the ballot box !

With that said and in the spirit of the unread public comments , I would like to request the city council address in public meeting the importance of returning to open city council meetings .

We know that the Stanislaus county board of supervisors has never suspended public attendance at their meetings . We are able to provide for social distancing and we can all utilize face masks , coverings and or medical exemptions as necessary to prevent illness . The state health and safety code requires localities to review local state of emergencies every 30 days. While the governor has the authority to issue states of emergencies he has no legislative power and without that no ability and or authorization to waive health and safety codes . We have a county public health director allowing the county meetings. Why should we be closing our public attendance option at the city level ?

Is it because our council members are motivated more by fear than they are by rule of law ? Are we as a city council not interested in the advice and allowance of our public health officials in Stanislaus county ? Do you all as city council members or our mayor and city staff understand the English language ? Governor Newsom's Executive orders clearly state "may " not "will " conduct meetings electronically. Please reopen our council meetings immediately and in the future lets read and apply text as written not as our person fear or illiterate interpretation dictates .

John R Osgood 111

District 4 the council chambers are in my district open them now