From: Patrick Conant <patrick@prcapps.com>
Sent: 2/12/2018 12:44:49 PM
To: ashevillenccouncil@ashevillenc.gov
Cc: Gary Jackson <gjackson@ashevillenc.gov>
Subject: Question about Public Comment for Council

Members of City Council and the City Manager,

I had a question regarding the Council rules for public comment ahead of the Blue Ribbon Committee presentation tomorrow.Â

From the Agenda, it states "Public comment will not be taken on items as to which no Council action will be taken at this meeting, including those items listed as reports or presentations or as discussion items" - I know this is standard for every Council meeting.Â

I remember when Ian Mance presented on traffic stops in Asheville, Council had to move to suspend their rules to allow the public to comment on his presentation, and I'm wondering if the public will be allowed to comment on the Blue Ribbon Committee's report or the vision for an HRC in Asheville.Â

I expect many members of the community to be present at tomorrow's meeting, and some will assume that they will be allowed to make public comment on the presentation, at the end of the meeting.Â

It seems natural and logical for the public to provide input after a presentation before Council, as it provides relevant context and allows the public to communicate with Council early in the process. Yet the rule seems to prohibit public comment until an action is proposed, and I do feel this causes confusion.Â

I would request that Council consider suspending their rules for public comment at the conclusion of tomorrow's council meeting, to allow the public to comment on the BRC's recommendations.Â

Thank you,

Patrick Conant