

Roxanne Maher

From: Roxanne Maher
Sent: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 2:43 PM
To: Town Council Group; Fred Allyn, III
Cc: Roxanne Maher
Subject: FW: Town of Ledyard - Request Guidance "Strike Text from Meeting Comments"

Roxanne M. Maher



*Administrative Assistant to
the Ledyard Town Council
(860) 464-3203
council@ledyardct.org*

Town Hall Hours:
Monday – Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.
CLOSED FRIDAYS

From: Ritter, Matthew D. <MRitter@goodwin.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2024 6:04 PM
To: Roxanne Maher <council@ledyardct.org>
Subject: RE: Town of Ledyard - Request Guidance "Strike Text from Meeting Comments"

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Hi Roxanne – a couple of questions on my end:

1. Is the public portion of the meeting minutes always included as part of the meeting minutes? I assume the answer is “yes.”
2. Were the meeting minutes formally adopted yet from this meeting? I assume the answer is “no.”

If I am correct on my answers above, I would recommend that someone make a motion at the next meeting to amend the meeting minutes to include a statement from the Mayor (if he so chooses) responding to the comments.

Thanks, Matt

SHIPMAN

Matthew D. Ritter
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From: Roxanne Maher <council@ledyardct.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2024 4:42 PM
To: Ritter, Matthew D. <MRitter@goodwin.com>
Cc: Roxanne Maher <council@ledyardct.org>
Subject: Town of Ledyard - Request Guidance "Strike Text from Meeting Comments"

CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL: Please be cautious of links and attachments.

Good Afternoon Attorney Ritter:

I have been supporting the Ledyard Town Council since 1996 and have not come across this request/scenario.

I have reviewed Robers Rules, however, I have not found anything that provided help; and So I am looking for your guidance on how to handle the following: (request to strike text from the minutes):

This question is not regarding striking language from a Motion. It is pertaining to striking language that was said during comments.

Below is the draft text from the Minutes:

Chairman Rodriguez stated for transparency, that she met with the Mayor last week, noting that they discussed the Pride Flag. She noted that the Mayor stated there was an unwritten policy not to fly other flags except for the American Flag and the State Flag. She went on to note that the Mayor stated if he were to raise the Pride Flag that it would be on the flagpole behind the Bill Library by the War Memorial Monument. She stated that she thought that this was something the Mayor could bring up to the Town Council. She stated since their meeting, that yesterday the Mayor stated that he misspoke, and he would not fly the Pride Flag by the War Memorial Monument, but that if he had to, that he would fly the Flag on the Town Green. She stated at 3:51 p.m. this afternoon the Town Council received an email from the Mayor that she would read into the record:

"All:

I cannot attend tonight due to a conflicting personal matter. I have attached my report for the last two weeks. Please reach out with any questions or added detail you may need.

In regards to the so-called unofficial flag flying, I have continued a policy that has extended over many mayors which simply says:

"We fly the American flag and the State of CT flag and nothing else".

On a recent occasion, a unofficial flag was raised and when I saw it, I immediately had Public Works remove it. This policy is clear, avoids any perceived conflicts and unintended consequences and does not get the town into situations such as determining what is hateful, objectionable, offensive and otherwise- and in whose opinion is any flag any one of these things to name but a few. I do not support changing this policy that has guided us.

It is also noted that flags must be raised and lowered on a daily basis on an unlit flag pole. Per union contract, the work of raising and lowering the flags is by Public Works only. If the Town Council chooses to override the standing policy, there will be an added labor cost associated with the raising and lowering of said flag on a daily basis- and holidays is automatic 4 hours of overtime to complete said task, per union contract.

Please remember, everything has a cause and every cause has a flag. A policy change could very well be opening Pandora's box.

I have also attached the Office of Legislative Research white paper on unofficial flags. This report was issued May 7, 2024.”

Councilor Ryan stated ***Point of Order***, noting that the Mayor was not present this evening; and although he understood that Chairman Rodriguez stated that she had conversations with the Mayor, that because the Mayor was not present this evening to either confirm or deny, or talk about what conversations transpired between himself and Chairman Rodriguez, that it was not fair to have those comments in the record. Therefore, he asked that Chairman Rodriguez’s comments prior to reading the Mayor’s email dated June 12, 2024 be **struck from the record.**

Councilor Brunelle stated that it was not fair to have Chairman Rodriguez statements regarding her conversation with the Mayor struck from the record because, it would be insinuating that she was lying. She stated lying was not allowed per Roberts Rules. Councilor Ryan it doesn’t matter, stating that the Mayor was not present this evening to talk about what he said or did not say, noting that her statements were hearsay. He stated he would not like it if in his absence someone said he said something when he was not present to confirm or deny it, when it was going on public record. Chairman Rodriguez thanked Councilor Ryan for his comments, noting that she would take his request into consideration.

Your guidance in how should this be handled would be appreciated.

Thank you,
Roxanne

Roxanne M. Maher



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