

I was delighted to learn of the introduction of a bill like 2180, and would encourage you forward with a DO PASS recommendation. I have done a significant amount of research regarding public comment within the open meeting structure of how the open meeting law strives to meet the standards of transparency and efficient governance.

We have all seen how just relying on Roberts Rules of Order, with agenda-based leadership (at best) or shooting from the hip leadership (at worst) has either made our governance less representative, or chaotic and charged with negative energy that produces little by way of progress. It is also why I think what you all have signed on for sponsorship here is a great start. My requested suggestion would be to take it a bit further with the following justifications to back it up:

1. Line 10 on page two: set a limit of up to, but no less than 5 uninterrupted minutes allowed per speaker

>>>Reasoning: The reason why middle schoolers are recommended to write 1.5-page essays is that it is a ballpark of 600 words which has been studied to be the minimum number of words to either state a concept with reasonable understanding or as a base by which actions can be built. The average speaker does so with a proficiency of between 100 and 300 words per minute. To allow accommodation for individuals that may struggle with expressions, if a person were to speak at a rate of 120 words per minute for 5 minutes, they would reach the goal of 600 words.

2. Add a line 11 on page 2: For anyone not able to make it to a public comment opportunity, they should be allowed to submit an notice of public record that upon request via a link can be accessed by the public, whether it be through a letter, an email, video, recording, etc and as long as it is respectfully in good taste.

If you would like to talk to me, please, feel free to call me 701-400-1839 or email me at this email address.

Sincerely,

Mike Connelly

Bismarck Citizen

Bismarck City Commissioner (the above email is my own opinion and not a statement on behalf of Bismarck, an entity, or an organization)

