

CITY COUNCIL PREVIEW #5: FEBRUARY 10, 2025

Some routine governmental matters are up for consideration

Council has a very light agenda this week. There are minutes to be approved and the Advisory Human Relations Council will give an update. That's the extent of the official agenda.

What would seem appropriate would be a discussion about Council meeting conduct. Last meeting, in response to questions being raised about his residence, Valparaiso School Board President Behrend showed up for public comment and lambasted all of the attendees: city council, city officials, and the general public alike. He was permitted to speak at great length despite breaching several of the established rules regarding public comment. The permissiveness shown to Dr. Behrend was particularly noteworthy considering that the mayor had earlier gaveled the crowd to silence for laughter.

It's not an apology that's required, but an acknowledgement that the rules regarding decorum during public comment should apply to all members of the public, regardless of position, affiliation, or station. It's a simple matter of fairness.