



## Hints for Speaking at the City Council Meeting

1. Tell your story. Tell the City Council specifically why you support this ordinance. It's okay if somebody else has already said something similar, but don't just repeat what somebody else has said.
2. Don't worry about countering what the opposition says and don't argue with them. Tell the City Council why you support the ordinance, not why you oppose the other side. We will never convince the opposition and we don't have to. We just have to convince the City Council and what we all have to say can do that.
3. You can correct factual inaccuracies if you have personal knowledge of the true facts, but don't let making corrections overshadow what you came to say. You only have a few minutes to speak.
4. Don't talk longer than your allotted time. Lots of people on both sides want to speak. It's okay if you don't use all your time.
5. Be respectful of both the City Council and the opposition. Remember that opposition is part of the democratic process but the process works best when everybody remains civil. We can't control how the other side presents their arguments, but we can make sure we remain civil and respectful.
6. Don't attack the opposition personally. Anger and personal attacks will take away from everything good we have to say.
7. Remain positive and civil even after the City Council meeting. We want to continue to educate Missoula about this issue. How we present ourselves is important to that effort.
8. It's important that we have lots of people at the meeting, but if you can't come to the meeting you can email the City Council instead at [council@ci.missoula.mt.gov](mailto:council@ci.missoula.mt.gov). Keep these same hints in mind.