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**Sent:** Friday, August 20, 2021 1:56 PM

**To:** Rick Landt [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Michael Black <[michael.black@ashland.or.us](mailto:michael.black@ashland.or.us)>; Rachel Dials <[rachel.dials@ashland.or.us](mailto:rachel.dials@ashland.or.us)>

**Subject:** Proposed statement: Please Read Before Today's Meeting If Possible

Dear Commissioners,

Below is a proposed opening statement that in its present or revised form could be read at the Joint Meeting Monday. It was developed by me with input from Michael Black. I submit for your review so you may be better prepared to discuss it at the meeting today at three. The question will be do we want to provide an opening statement, and if so, should it look like this draft or some other form?

I will be chairing the meeting today in order to give APRC B of C's Chairman Gardiner a break.

Sincerely,

Rick

**Proposed Opening Statement for August 23rd Joint Meeting**

Unless one subscribes to the adage that the end justifies the means, we can all probably agree that process matters. This meeting has been billed as a "joint meeting," but the run-up to the meeting has been one-sided, with APRC's leadership being to a large extent excluded from the agenda setting process. Typically the mayor and the chair of APRC would meet to discuss the agenda and process for a joint meeting. All requests for such a meeting were ignored or denied. This is an unfortunate obstacle to the necessary cooperation between our two elected bodies.

That being said, we are here now to actively listen and participate with the goal to discuss the steps necessary to implement the budget committee and city council approved budget that included reducing APRC property tax revenues from the general fund and replacing the reduced funds with money from Food and Beverage Tax that currently is allocated to other City projects.

For our part, the APRC's proposed "conditions" related to the funding changes should have been communicated as points to be discussed, not "conditions." We have corrected that in the written material you received and take responsibility for the miscommunication.

We view some of the questions on the agenda as distractions from our common goal. In response, we have attempted to fully respond to the questions in writing, and have distributed them beforehand, with the hope that that approach can free up more time for the primary issue before us.

Notwithstanding our initial disappointment related to preparations for this meeting, we want to put that behind us. We look forward to a productive meeting where all parties are heard and respected.